



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

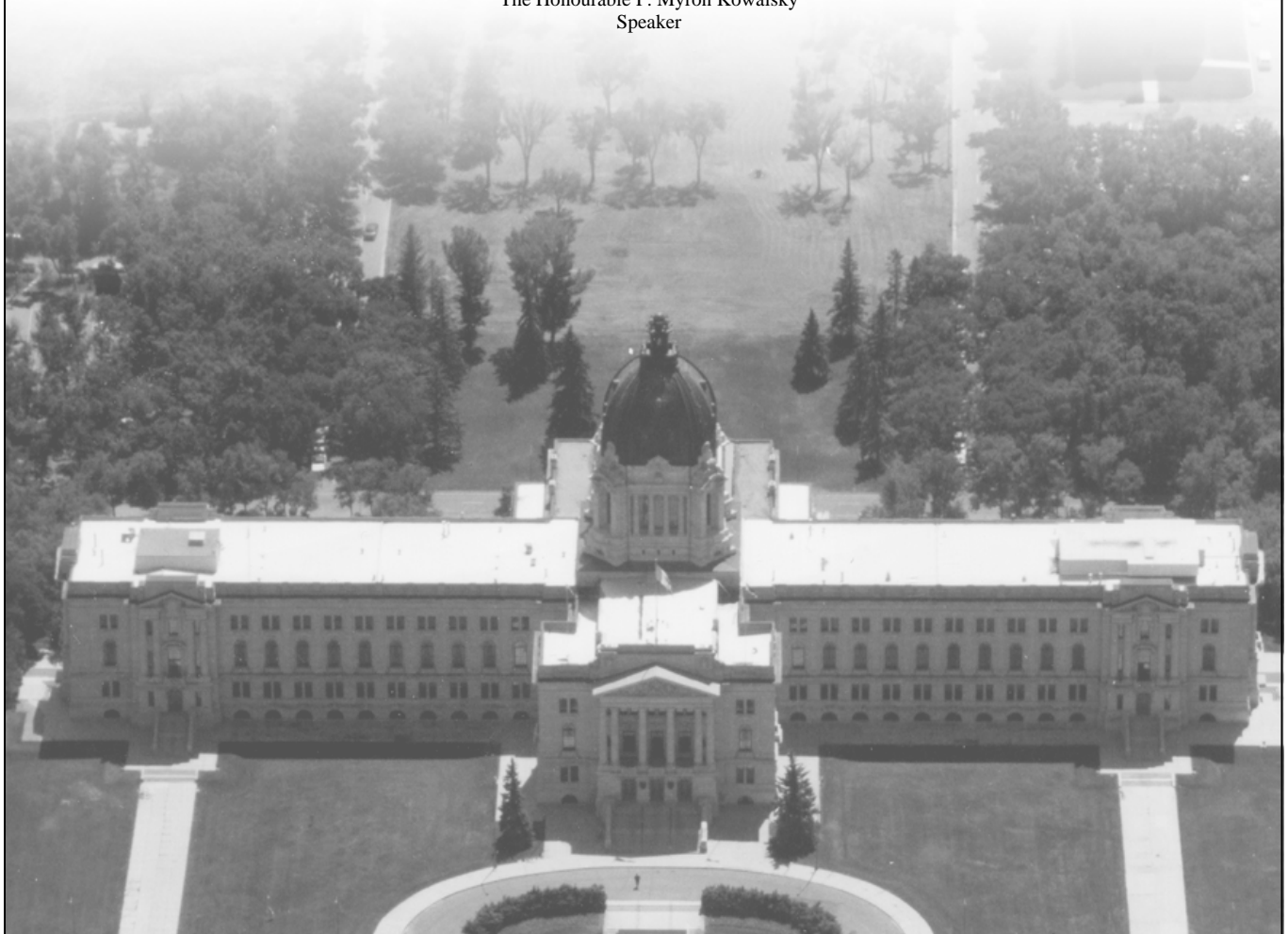
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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

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Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
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Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
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Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
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Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Hon. Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Weyburn-Big Muddy

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to present a petition on behalf of constituents, especially those living along Highway 32 from the community of Cabri through to Leader. The prayer of this petition 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 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these two pages of petitions are signed by individuals from the communities of Mendham, Leader, Prelate, Sceptre, and Eatonia. I so present.

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

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the 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 Middle Lake, St. Gregor, Humboldt, Annaheim, Bruno, Lake Lenore, and Pilger. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present another petition from constituents opposed to possible reduction of health care services in Biggar. 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 Biggar Hospital, long-term care home, and ambulance services maintain at the very least their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Kinley and Perdue. 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 from parents in the Saskatoon Silver Springs constituency regarding a much needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek area of Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

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

The petitioners today live on Brunst Crescent, Peters Cove, and Adaskin 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 with citizens concerned about the huge surplus that this government's sitting on.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure a portion of the province's windfall oil revenue be used to reduce the provincial gas tax.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the conditions of Highway No. 5 and would like to present a petition regarding Highway No. 5. I'll read the prayer for relief, Mr. Speaker:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed the citizens from Humboldt, Muenster, Lanigan, and Prud'homme. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hereby present a petition for a private Bill on behalf of the petitioners from the Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan in the province of Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hereby present a petition for a private Bill on behalf of petitioners from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Inc. in the province of Saskatchewan.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional papers nos. 5, 7, 8, 27, 64, and 67.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is International Francophone Day, a time to celebrate French culture, history, and language.

In recognition of this day there are several guests who are attending the session today and they are seated in the west gallery. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly the following individuals. And I would ask them to stand as their names are called out, and after which I would hope that the members would join me in recognizing their presence.

First from the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise: Hélène Bourget, Geneviève Lapierre, Isabelle Boucher, Jérémy Kenzle, Brinda Ramlochun, Bassel Abouchakra, Siriki Diabagaté. From the language institute at the University of Regina: Michel Laviolette, Lorraine Laliberté, Abdoulaye Yoh. From the Direction de l'éducation française et des langues: Simone Gareau, Monsieur Mario Rainville, Monsieur Paul Heppelle. From the Éditions de la nouvelle plume, Françoise Sigur Cloutier. From the Conseil de la Coopération de la Saskatchewan: Robert Revet, Sylvian Lejeune. From the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Saskatchewan depot, Marie Paterson. From the Division scolaire francophone no. 310, Gilles Groleau. And from the Office of French Language Co-ordination, France Roussel.

I'd ask all members to help me in welcoming these guests and in recognizing International Francophone Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with our colleague on the other side of the House we would like to welcome the people from Francophonie ici aujourd'hui. It's our pleasure to welcome them to the Assembly on behalf of the official opposition. And please join me in welcoming them again.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Moose

Jaw Wakamow.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pleasure that I introduce two people that are sitting in your gallery that probably don't need too much of an introduction to most members of the House.

I would like members to give a welcome to Lyle Vinish, who is the general secretary of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and also to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh God. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I forgot my switch of portfolio. Can we start again, please and thank you? Lyle Vinish, general secretary of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. Is that better?

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — I don't know who's redder, Mr. Speaker, myself or Mr. Vinish. Also, also please . . . Okay, I'll try and . . . A bit of decorum, please. And also welcome Heather Vermeersch, who is the president of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and has been since July 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I had a meeting earlier with these two representatives of the Teachers' Federation and they are going to hopefully be able to stay with us this afternoon for a second reading of the Bill, The Teachers' Federation Act, which is of great interest to them. They have put a great deal of work into it and I truly do appreciate them being here this afternoon. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the minister with at least some of her remarks and welcome the two guests from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation to their gallery this afternoon.

I as well had the pleasure of meeting with them briefly this morning to discuss some of the issues and challenges facing the teaching profession. It's always good to meet outstanding leaders of the profession. So welcome here this afternoon.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly four beautiful young women sitting in your gallery in the front row. And perhaps they can stand as I call their names.

We have Kristen Schneider, who is with the O'Neill junior girls' curling team, O'Neill High School, Archbishop O'Neill. The high school is located here in Regina. And we have Melanie Kuzyk and Tiffany Morin, unfortunately no relation, and Lynea Davidowich. They are accompanied by their parents, Sheila Schneider — perhaps Sheila could stand as well — Karen Kuzyk, Sherry Morin and her daughter Sheridan Morin, as well as her friend, Morgan Morin, who happens to be my daughter.

So I'd like to welcome them to the Assembly today and thank them for their wonderful efforts in representing their high school, their city, as well as their province.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just prior to my introduction, I want to join with the hon. member in welcoming the young curlers and their parents to their Legislative Assembly as well.

In your gallery we are joined by a distinguished group of visitors today, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you to members, it's a pleasure for me to introduce three grandchildren of the former premier, Jimmy Gardiner, who have come here today. And I'll maybe get them to stand or wave as I read their names. Mike Gardiner, grandson of former Premier Jimmy Gardiner, is here as well as granddaughter, Mary Morley, and another grandson, Earl Gardiner. We're also joined by cousins of the late former premier. Vic and Peggy Cole are here as well as Gordon Gardiner, all cousins to the former premier and the former national minister of Agriculture.

I wonder if all members of the Assembly will join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is the Journée internationale de la Francophonie [International Day of the Francophonie]. It is a day to celebrate French language worldwide. Of course as members know, it is also Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, a 16-day national celebration of French culture. This has been marked here in the legislature with the Fransaskois flag that hangs in front of our building.

French culture and language have helped shape Saskatchewan into what it is now. There are over 18,000 French-speaking Saskatchewan citizens, and Saskatchewan's francophones, les Fransaskois, have played an active role in Saskatchewan's economy and social development even before we were officially a province. The French place names that dot Saskatchewan bear witness to the contribution of French Canadians who were among the very first pioneers to arrive in Saskatchewan.

Over the years, Fransaskois have worked hard to ensure the vitality of their language and heritage. All across Saskatchewan and Canada, there will be celebrations of the French language and culture including art displays, theatre, and dance.

Members on this side of the House would like to join with

Saskatchewan's francophones in celebrating their language and culture.

Vive la langue et culture françaises. [Long live the French language and culture.] Merci, Monsieur le Président. [Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[13:45]

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very, Mr. Speaker. March 10 to 26 has officially been proclaimed Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie in Saskatchewan by the Minister of Government Relations. La Francophonie brings together over 54 countries and governments who share and prize the French language. Today, March 20, is the International Day of the Francophonie, a day which is at the heart of Les Rendez-vous festivities to celebrate French language and francophone culture and to recognize the many achievements of our country's francophones and francophone communities.

Monsieur le Président, les semaines du dix au vingt-six mars ont été proclamées officiellement Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie en Saskatchewan par le ministre des Relations gouvernementales. La Francophonie regroupe plus de cinquante-quatre pays et gouvernements qui ont le français en commun. C'est un honneur pour moi de souligner cette occasion en français dans notre Assemblée législative provinciale.

Nous apprécions beaucoup, beaucoup la contribution de nos concitoyens et de nos communautés francophones au développement social, culturel, et économique de notre province durant toute l'année. J'encourage tous mes collègues à soutenir les francophones tout au long de l'année et les fêter dans leur circonscription.

Merci, Monsieur le Président, et vive la Francophonie.

[Translation: Mr. Speaker, the weeks of March 10 to 26 have been officially proclaimed Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie in Saskatchewan by the Minister of Government Relations. La Francophonie brings together over 54 countries and governments who share the French language. It's an honour for me to observe this occasion in French in our provincial Legislative Assembly.

We greatly appreciate the contribution of our francophone citizens and communities to the social, cultural, and economic development of our province during the whole year. I encourage all my colleagues to support francophones year-round and to celebrate them in their constituencies.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and long live the Francophonie.]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Holy Cross Crusaders Provincial 6A Basketball Champions

Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I stood in this legislature and congratulated the Saskatoon Holy Cross High School senior boys' basketball team for capturing the Saskatoon league and city titles. It gives me great pleasure to rise again today, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate these same Holy Cross Crusaders.

This past weekend the Crusaders competed in the Hoopla provincial basketball championship in Moose Jaw. The team had a great weekend and was successful in defeating Regina Balfour 87 to 64 and Regina Campbell 88 to 75. On Saturday evening the Crusaders defeated Regina Sheldon Williams in the gold medal final 90 to 83 and were crowned the 6A boys' provincial basketball champions.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate coaches Barry Rawlyk and Brett Czarnota. It is my understanding that under their leadership the team had a 32-win, 2-loss record over the entire season. To the Holy Cross Crusader players, congratulations on their hard work over the past five months culminating in this gold medal victory. As MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Southeast and many of the Saskatoon Holy Cross team, I would like to say how proud I am of their accomplishments.

I ask the rest of the Assembly to join me in congratulating and recognizing the Saskatoon Holy Cross senior boys' basketball team as provincial 6A high school champions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Team Wins Silver at World Junior Curling Championships

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend congratulations to skip Mandy Selzer, third Erin Selzer, second Kristen Mitchell, lead Megan Selzer, and coach Ken Bakken of Balgonie, Saskatchewan — silver medallists at the 2006 world junior championships in Jeonju, South Korea.

Dubbed the extra-end kids in this tournament for their suspense-filled wins, the Balgonie curling rink made a heroic stand against team Russia in the gold medal match on Sunday, with the championship decided by a single point in the final end. Said skip Mandy Selzer, and I quote:

We played well and I am proud of my team as they worked so hard. It was a close game and that was the way I wanted it.

Spoken like a true competitor, Mr. Speaker.

The Selzer rink won the right to represent Canada at the world junior championships when they claimed the Canadian junior women's curling championship in January of this year in Thunder Bay, Ontario, becoming the 10th Saskatchewan team

to win the title since the tournament began in 1971, a total unmatched by any other province.

We all know, Mr. Speaker, curling is much more than a sport in Saskatchewan. It's part of our culture and part of our way of life. And the Selzer rink of Balgonie is now part of a pantheon of curling champions who have made our province very proud. So once again, congratulations Mandy, Erin, Kristen, and Megan — 2006 world junior silver medallists.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Congratulations to Brier Participants and Volunteers

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes and congratulate and commend Bernadette McIntyre and the many, many volunteers from Regina and area that hosted and put on a tremendous Brier in the province of Saskatchewan. They did a great job and every time they host something like that in the Queen City and other cities here, they do a tremendous job and I know it's appreciated by the people that come to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I think I'd be remiss though if I also didn't acknowledge the knowledgeable curling fans in Saskatchewan. I noticed naturally they were cheering for our Pat Simmons rink earlier in the week until the rink got knocked out just before the playoffs. But they would commend good shots and I know the curlers that come in when you talk to them really appreciate the knowledgeable fans in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I along with every other person I believe from Saskatchewan were pulling for Pat Simmons. And when the week started they knew he was in tough right off the bat because he hit rinks right off the bat like Kevin Martin, Jeff Stoughton, Mark Dacey, and Glenn Howard who evidently got right to the final — I think had a 10 and 1 record. What they forgot to mention the other one in the first five rinks was Jean-Michel Ménard who actually ended up winning it all yesterday. So what a tough way to start. They got off to a slow start and recovered very well but just missed the playoff. So congratulations to the Pat Simmons rink. I know they'll be back.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to acknowledge the rest of the Jean-Michel Ménard rink, François Roberge, Eric Sylvain, and Maxime Elmaleh. And one thing I'd like to talk about a little bit, Mr. Speaker, is the third for Quebec. The day that we saw the first game going on out there — and I'd seen them curl before but my partner hadn't — I said well can you believe this? My son is subbing for Quebec, Mr. Speaker. And for a whole half an end she believed that . . . My son is identical to the third for Quebec, Mr. Speaker. And I actually had to pull for them for that reason afterwards. I congratulate a very classy rink from Quebec, Mr. Speaker.

But there's a little political tie to it, Mr. Speaker. One of the quotes from . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I think the member's time has slightly

elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Walsh Acres.

O'Neill High School Senior Girls' Curling Team

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I too want to continue singing the praises of Saskatchewan curlers. Mr. Speaker, supporting our constituents can take place well outside of our constituency boundaries as well. That was certainly the case earlier this month when I took the opportunity to visit Tisdale to cheer on the Archbishop M.C. O'Neill High School senior girls' curling team at the provincial championships.

Mr. Speaker, this very successful rink is coached by Kevin Anderson and is made up of lead Lynea Davidowich, second Tiffany Morin, third Melanie Kuzyk, and skip Kristen Schneider.

Last year this rink won the city championship for junior high school girls and this year played their way to the city senior girls' title on their way to the provincials. I regret to say that although the girls curled very well in Tisdale, they didn't take home the provincial championship. Having said that, considering the fact that Melanie is only in grade 11 and Lynea, Tiffany, and Kristen are only in grade 10, their high school curling future looks very, very bright.

I want to congratulate them on their past success and wish them every success in the future as well as thank them for being such good role models to others in their participation of curling as well as other activities.

And one more thing, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity because I was storm-stayed in Watson on my way home from Tisdale that afternoon, and I just want to take this opportunity to thank the mayor of Watson, Ted Reifferscheid, for the splendid Prairie hospitality he showed to me and the other storm-stayed travellers. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Comments by Government Members

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, on Friday we heard some incredulous comments from the NDP [New Democratic Party] members. First the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow said that losing millions of dollars is the normal course of business for SaskTel. She also said that she considered illegal cellphone towers in Trinidad part of SaskTel's core operations.

Mr. Speaker, the member's comments may reflect this government's lack of standards, but make no mistake — they do not reflect the accountability that Saskatchewan people want, expect, and deserve from this government.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also compelled to remark on comments made by the member from Regina Walsh Acres that triggered a

number of phone calls to my office. The member said that the cost of covering the cancer drug Avastin is too much because it would only prolong life for six months. It's clear that this government chooses to put money before people. The member inferred that the money would be better spent elsewhere — perhaps \$600,000 on a movie about Tommy Douglas or maybe yet another money-losing, out-of-country Crown investment by this government.

Mr. Speaker, Tommy Douglas would be rolling over in his grave if he knew the way that this government is administering health care in Saskatchewan. Avastin is the first drug in this province's history that was recommended by the cancer agency for coverage, and yet coverage has been denied by this government. According to Barry Stein, the president of the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada, Avastin, when combined with other treatments, is a standard of care for this horrible disease. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people want to know how this NDP government let its priorities go wrong.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Recruiting and Retaining Nurses

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the NDP Health minister talked an awful lot about credibility. Well for such a new Health minister, let's review his credibility on a number of issues. On Friday he said that a 66 per cent nursing retention rate was a positive thing, kind of like a success story for Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Speaker, the worst retention rate of any province in Canada is no success story. It's far below the standard across Canada, Mr. Speaker. It's unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, why does this minister think that a 66 per cent nurse retention rate — according to CIHI [Canadian Institute of Health Information] numbers, the worst in Canada — is good enough for Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It does bother me. Members take words that are spoken in this Chamber and make their own interpretation about those words. The member can read *Hansard*, and it's very clear I said that, in response to the member's question about 66 per cent, that it was clear the majority of nurses were remaining in Saskatchewan. Sixty-six per cent is majority, Mr. Speaker. I said nothing about success. I said nothing about celebrating.

Mr. Speaker, 66 per cent is not good enough. My answers to questions all last week indicate that this government is very committed to increasing the number of nurses practising in this province, and we have a plan to do so.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the minister made other comments that makes one question his credibility. He told the Assembly and the media that the majority of the nursing vacancies were in rural Saskatchewan and in remote areas. It was kind of a location issue more than anything else.

Well figures from both registered nurses and licensed practical nurses tell a different story. According to the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses there are 65 RN [registered nurse] vacancies in Regina, 37 in Saskatoon, and 42 in Prairie North. According to the department's own numbers in 2003, there were a total of 116 LPN, licensed practical nurses vacancies in Regina, 46 in Saskatoon, and 42 in Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, what he said, that it was only in rural Saskatchewan or northern regions, is a distortion of the truth. It's a misleading statement, Mr. Speaker, because a large majority of the vacancies are in our urban centres. Why won't he come clean so we can start building a human resources plan by dealing with the real numbers that people are facing in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated last week, both in this Chamber and to members of the media, the government is committed to increasing the numbers of nurses practising in Saskatchewan. We have last year increased the number of seats available in the nursing education program. I have committed to meet with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses — I will be doing so this week — to discuss the specifics of their numbers and the needs in the province. I have at this point met with both the association representing the licensed practical nurses and the psychiatric nurses practising in the province.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to consulting. We are committed to improving the numbers. We are committed to improving the standard of care for the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the minister outright refused to set a target for the number of RNs that were needed in this province. He went on to say that the NDP doesn't set targets because we probably won't meet them. That's quite the reason, Mr. Speaker.

We've obtained a document from 2003 from the minister's own department, a document called, *A Joint Report on the Education and Employment of Licensed Practical Nurses in Saskatchewan*. This document had the nerve to outline target numbers. For the number of licensed practical nurses in

Saskatchewan, the document projected a target of 555 LPNs would be needed by 2005. Can the minister tell this Assembly then was he able to meet that target?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The one thing this government is targeting, Mr. Speaker, is the number of nurses practising in this province must increase.

We are targeting the issue. We have put together, Mr. Speaker, a plan in conjunction with the professionals practising in the province. We have met with them considerably. We have reached some agreement on making progress, Mr. Speaker.

There is no question that recruitment and retention is a significant issue in this province. It is a significant issue in almost every jurisdiction in Canada; in fact in central United States as well. And, Mr. Speaker, we are seriously addressing the issue of recruitment and retention. And, Mr. Speaker, the number of nurses practising in Saskatchewan next year and the year after that will be greater than the number practising this year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, that's appalling to stand there and say that the number of nurses practising next year in Saskatchewan will be greater. By one? By two? By three? What is greater than? By three or four? Come up with a number that you can target, Mr. Speaker, because, you know, Mr. Speaker, he had no problem in 2003 setting a target for LPNs. But in 2006 he refuses to set a target for registered nurses.

Will the minister commit today that he will work with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses when he meets with them on Wednesday to, number one — and this is what they're asking for; guess what? — set targets on filling vacancies and develop a target for RNs in this next budget year and, number two, to increase the workforce so that it will, as SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] said, meet the professional standard of care that clients need in this province. Will he commit to doing that when he meets with SUN on Wednesday?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very much looking forward to the meeting with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. I think the discussion that I have with them will in fact be much clearer and much more direct than my conversation with the member opposite has been last week and this week.

I do not expect to be misquoted after a meeting with the

Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, Mr. Speaker. I expect that we will emerge from that meeting with an understanding and an agreement as to how to proceed on the action plan presented by the department in December, an action plan that will increase the number of nurses practising in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Commitment to Policing

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Justice inform this Assembly on the progress made so far in living up to his government's 1999 promise to hire 200 new police officers and what effect that has had on the total number of police officers serving in our province?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I can advise the House that, as of this budget year and the 29 officers that will be added and have been previously announced, what we added in this budget, we will be exceeding, well exceeding the 200 officers by October 2006.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, that's an interesting answer. According to Statistics Canada, there were 2,011 police officers serving in Saskatchewan in 2005. In 2004 there were 2,010. That's an increase of one officer over the entire calendar year.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Justice explain why his government's plan to put an additional 200 police officers on the streets is in fact failing so miserably?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, from Statistics Canada, for the fifth year in a row Saskatchewan had the highest rate for police strength in Canada at 202 police officers per 100,000 people. During the past decade, Saskatchewan is one of only three provinces to have recorded notable increase in police strength. All other provinces have remained relatively stable. Saskatchewan reported the largest increase in police strength during the last decade. The increase was plus 8 per cent from Statistics Canada. Among census metropolitan areas, Regina for example reported the highest rates of police officers per 100,000 population at 207.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, when you have the highest crime rate, you need the highest level of police force. In 1999 the NDP promised to put 200 new police officers on the street in four years. By my math, that's 50 officers a year.

According to Statistics Canada, there were in fact only 81 more officers on the streets in Saskatchewan from 1999 to 2005. Mr. Speaker, 81 is not 200. Mr. Speaker, this minister has failed to live up to the government's commitment. Will he admit that and tell us what he is going to do to live up to that promise, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, since 1999 when the commitment was made to this budget year of 2006, this government will have added in excess of 200 police officers, funding for in excess of 200 police officers, Mr. Speaker.

Statistics Canada has said that Saskatchewan reported the largest increase in police strength during the period that they recorded — an increase of 8 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And there's no province close to that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Future of Weyerhaeuser Mill in Prince Albert

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister Responsible for the Forestry Secretariat. On Friday the minister was heard on a local Prince Albert radio station as saying an investor or investors are in serious talks on the purchase of the Weyerhaeuser pulp mill. This is something big, the minister said. Later that same day the minister appeared on CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] saying a sale prior to the announced closure date was difficult because this was such a large asset. The story went on to say that there are no takers for the Prince Albert mill.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister: there either will be a sale prior to the closure date or there won't be; which one is it?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for the Forestry Secretariat.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, again half quotes from members of the opposition . . . I've read, by the way, the transcript from CTV and I know what I said. I've also read the reporter's comments. I know what I said when I was interviewed with CKBI radio. Now I'm going to tell that member again what I said.

I said that yes, there had been a visit to the Prince Albert mill. I

said that it was a positive initiative although we were a long way away from a sale closure. I said, Mr. Speaker, that I am encouraged by the work that officials of this government have done because the people who have entered Weyerhaeuser's process for the most part have come from the work that's been done by officials within this government.

I've said, Mr. Speaker, that I am encouraged by the fact that a site visit had taken place and it was part of the due diligence process that companies will do. Mr. Speaker, that's what I said yesterday. That's what I say today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the minister has to clarify the confusion he's creating. He's telling one media outlet something big is happening. He's telling another media outlet there's little chance of preventing next month's closure.

And while he's busy sowing the seeds of confusion, this minister is telling me I better not say anything; otherwise I would jeopardize the deal. In a recent letter from the minister, he asked me to keep the families and workers in mind during question period. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: is he keeping the workers in mind with his seemingly contradictory comments?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for the Forestry Secretariat.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Well, Mr. Speaker, now it's a seemingly contradictory comment. I've got to table a copy of a letter that I sent to that member. On March 6, Mr. Speaker, I asked that member to join me in my office so that I could brief him in terms of what had taken place from the government's perspective, from the task force, the discussions that we had had with Weyerhaeuser.

I indicated to him that there were some companies who were looking at the assets, and it was very much their intention that their names should not be made public in this legislature because it could have the impact of jeopardizing the sale. And that's what I told that member. Mr. Speaker, I stand by that. I'm going to table this letter so that there's no confusion.

I asked the member to continue to work with us. We have hundreds of jobs who are at risk, based on Weyerhaeuser's decision. There is some optimism, but we're not close to a deal yet, Mr. Speaker. A timeline of April 13 is very difficult to reach. I indicated that and it may be that the mill is closed for a while.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, the minister tells one group one

thing and another group something else. Then he tells me I'd better not say anything for fear of jeopardizing negotiations. Mr. Speaker, that's probably good advice; why didn't he take it?

Mr. Speaker, will the minister stop sowing seeds of confusion? And what can you tell the workers and their families about the current state of negotiations concerning the sale of the Prince Albert mill?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for the Forestry Secretariat.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I will tell the people of Prince Albert and the people who work in the industry what I have been telling them consistently, that this is a difficult arrangement to put together. It's a large, large initiative, that the times frame that's been put together by Weyerhaeuser makes it very, very difficult for a potential investor to make a decision to purchase.

What I said, when I was asked by the media about a visit to the mill site, was that it's part of the due diligence process that a company will take, that I'm encouraged, and of course all of us in the community and other communities are encouraged that someone would have moved their sale process, their investigation process to the point where they're taking a physical look at the assets. I said that that was encouraging, but I also said that there's a long way to go.

So I say to the members opposite: get on board with us; attempt to support this process, to work to condense the process that Weyerhaeuser has imposed upon this initiative. I think that we've got the right things to make a deal work, but the timelines are going to be very difficult.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Film's Portrayal of Former Premier Gardiner

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] recently has broadcast the two-part miniseries telling the story of Tommy Douglas. The Government of Saskatchewan, the taxpayers of Saskatchewan have contributed some \$600,000-plus for the centennial project. And while most people agree that this is a story that should be told, there are a growing number of people in the province who are taking exception, Mr. Speaker, to some grossly inaccurate portrayals of history, of fact, and of individuals, especially of former Premier Jimmy Gardiner, Mr. Speaker.

He was shown in the movie giving a province-wide radio address rallying the province against Estevan coal miners. We know that that couldn't have happened. It did not happen. He wasn't even premier at the time. He was shown and portrayed as a drinker when in reality, Mr. Speaker, he was an abstainer. In short I think any fair assessment of the movie would agree that he was vilified, former Premier Jimmy Gardiner was

vilified by this movie. One columnist called his character “mean, arrogant and selfish.” The character — “A blacker figure could scarcely be imagined.”

The problem of course, Mr. Speaker, is none of this is true. My question to the Premier, my first question is, how does he view the portrayal of former Premier Jimmy Gardiner from this movie?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to respond to that question. First of all I would want to acknowledge the important role in the history of Saskatchewan that Mr. Gardiner has played. We will all know that he served twice as premier in the first part of our first century and then went on to a distinguished career for an extended period of time with the ministry of Agriculture, and we understand the importance of that to our province in the course of our first half century when he was serving in that capacity.

Mr. Speaker, the content, the creative content of a production is the responsibility of the producer. And, Mr. Speaker, I would say very clearly, it is not the place for the government to exercise editorialization of creative content, Mr. Speaker. And I would simply ask, is it the position of the Leader of the Opposition that it is the role for the Government of Saskatchewan to exercise editorial of the creative content of films produced in Saskatchewan? Mr. Speaker, I say no. What is the position of the Saskatchewan Party?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The U of S [University of Saskatchewan] political studies professor, David Smith wrote the only biography of Jimmy Gardiner. He called the movie’s portrayal of former Premier Gardiner scandalous and a travesty. Former Premier Allan Blakeney described the movie as “seriously flawed” and said Gardiner was “not a simple-minded demon as he was portrayed.” And historian Bill Waiser called it bizarre. He said that Gardiner was in fact “. . . more of a Boy Scout than [Tommy] Douglas.”

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, the Gardiner family is here today in their Legislative Assembly, and I believe, the Saskatchewan Party believes they’re at the very least owed an apology. Mr. Speaker, after question period I’ll introduce a motion saying that the legislature regrets the inaccurate portrayal — we’ve sent a copy over to the government — of a respected former member of this Assembly.

We call on the government; we call on members of this Assembly to apologize to the Gardiner family for this unfair attack on a former premier. Will the Premier support that motion, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, it would be my preference that, whenever there is a representation of historical characters in this province, political or otherwise, that those would be both accurate and positive. Mr. Speaker, having said that, it is very important that if I acknowledge that when films are being made, movies are being made, dramas are being made in the province of Saskatchewan that it is not the role for the government of Saskatchewan to exercise editorializing of the content of that film.

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition seems to be saying that if public funds go into a film production, that the government should assume responsibility of the creative content.

Mr. Speaker, I am firmly of the view that that is not the case. That is inappropriate. And I ask once again, will the Leader of the Opposition make clear the position of the Saskatchewan Party? Is it appropriate for government to exercise editorial of the creative content or not, yes or no? I say no.

The Speaker: — Member’s time has lapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, that minister and that government, they don’t say no when it comes to putting conditions on taxpayers’ money for funding the arts, for funding a movie.

And here are the conditions set about for this very movie. They wanted, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the centennial logo — this now as a condition of funding from this government — was placed in certain parts. They wanted to make sure the logo for the centennial was placed on teachers’ guides for the movie.

Mr. Speaker, there was a condition they put on this movie’s funding that said before there was any public announcement, a cabinet minister had to be there for some political benefit, Mr. Speaker. Why wouldn’t there be a condition that said if this is a funded movie about the history of the province, that we would ask an independent third party like a professor or a historian to make sure that someone’s not vilified in the movie to build up the legacy of Tommy Douglas, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — So I’ll ask the Premier this question: will he permit, will his government permit this movie to be allowed as educational curriculum in the schools? Will he allow this movie with its inaccuracies to be put into schools in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, it would appear from the words of the Leader of the Opposition that censorship is squarely on the political agenda of the Saskatchewan Party. It is impossible to interpret nothing other than that from what he has said.

Mr. Speaker, there were unquestionably public funds that were committed to the film. And the film, as it was presented to the province by CBC, Telefilm Canada, with their endorsement, was to represent a historical experience in the province of Saskatchewan as the home of medicare, home to our province, and home to our nation. Mr. Speaker, that content and the actual delivery of the film is the creative right of the producer.

And once again, I say it is not the role of the Saskatchewan government to exercise editorial content in the creation of the film. And I ask once again, is it the position of the Leader of the Opposition that the government . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's the position of the Saskatchewan Party that educational tools used in our schools should tell the truth, Mr. Speaker. That's the position of the Saskatchewan Party.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years from now, there might be a movie made about politics today. The Premier himself might be portrayed in the movie. I would want — we, in this Assembly would want — that portrayal to be accurate. We would want the portrayal of the Premier, Mr. Speaker, to be accurate.

We know that this particular movie is not an accurate portrayal of someone who contributed mightily to the province, notwithstanding the fact he doesn't share the Premier's political ideology or that he didn't share it. Mr. Speaker, though there are two young people in this city, the great-grandchildren of former Premier Jimmy Gardiner, Michael and Jessica, who will one day potentially be in a classroom that's subjected to this film and the portrayal of their great-grandfather in this inaccurate way.

Mr. Speaker, to the government, to the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, will he ensure, can he tell this House if he's going to allow this film to be used as an instruction tool in the classrooms of the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I have already acknowledged my position as to my preference as to how historical figures in Saskatchewan history are represented. It would be my wish that

they would be represented in a positive and accurate way. Mr. Speaker, the question that is before the . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order please. I would ask the members on both sides of the House to allow the debate to come to its logical conclusion. Order. The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the teachers' guides will be crafted responsibly. It is a very important signal however, Mr. Speaker, to send to the creative personnel in our province and beyond, including the film industry, that when you come to Saskatchewan . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order please. I would ask the member for Canora-Pelly and the member for Saskatoon Nutana to maintain order please and to respond positively to a Speaker's request. The Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, it is an important signal to the film industry which is growing in this province — and significantly, having produced \$64 million worth of film in the last year — that they ought to know that when they come to Saskatchewan to produce a film that their government will not, that the Saskatchewan government will not interfere with the creative content. It will not editorialize. That is clearly the position of this government. And one last time I ask, what is the position of the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the Leader of the Opposition on his feet?

Mr. Wall: — Before orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, I am on my feet to request leave to move to a motion under rule 49.

The Speaker: — Would the member please state the nature of the motion he wishes to present.

MOTION UNDER RULE 49

Film's Portrayal of Former Premier Gardiner

Mr. Wall: — I'd be happy to. Mr. Speaker, it relates to questions we were asking at the end of question period today. And certainly we have sent the motion over to the government. If you will, Mr. Speaker, I'll just read the motion because it pretty much describes and explains exactly the purpose of my request for leave of the Assembly. The motion says as follows:

That this Assembly recognize the historical inaccuracies in the *Prairie Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story* produced by Minds Eye Pictures, specifically the inaccurate portrayal of former Premier Jimmy Gardiner, and urges the government to issue a formal apology to the Gardiner family since this film was funded through the Centennial office as a centennial project using taxpayers' money.

There are other attendant questions around this that deserve some discussion including the education element and the funding of the film itself, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition, is requesting leave to proceed with the motion. Unanimous consent is required. Is consent granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave has not been granted. Order please. Order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 31 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, over the last several years significant strides have been made to ensure that legislative . . .

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, over the last several years significant strides have been made to ensure that legislative references to duties to be performed by accountants include certified general accountants and certified management accountants in addition to chartered accountants. Mr. Speaker, this omnibus Bill will complete the task by amending six Acts and four regulations that contain unnecessary restrictions.

The six Acts that are being amended, Mr. Speaker, are: The Automobile Accident Insurance Act, The Builders' Lien Act, The Legal Profession Act, 1990, The Municipal Hail Insurance Act, The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Association Act, and The Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation Act.

The four regulations that are being amended are: The Helium and Associated Gases Regulations, 1964, The Oil Shale Regulations, 1964, The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulations, 1969, and The Subsurface Mineral Regulations, 1960.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments reflect the fact that members of the three recognized accounting professions may perform the duties imposed by the legislation. Mr. Speaker, during the preparation of this amendment Act, the Certified General Accountants Association, the Society of Management Accountants of Saskatchewan, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan were consulted. These agencies are supportive of the omnibus legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 31, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise to speak briefly today on Bill No. 31, An Act to amend certain Statutes and regulations with respect to Accounting Professions. Mr. Speaker, the minister mentions in his comments about the legislation that this is rather routine, and it applies to various categories of accountants in the province. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that insofar as this has been done with the approval of these various organizations and with their proper consideration, that that's positive.

Mr. Speaker, in addition it should be pointed out that accountants in our province of the various different categories also have responsibilities not only in this province but interprovincially and indeed internationally. I know specifically that there are requirements in order for transitions to be audited on international companies and things of this nature, that it's very important that the standards and the regulations that apply to the accountants that practise in our province also meet the national and international criteria.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has been brought forward on I believe Friday last, and we certainly have not had an opportunity to consult with the various groups that are being affected, clearly, by this legislation. And we have noticed some changes in the legislation about trusteeships and arbiters and the designation or requirement of chartered accountants being changed. We very much want to consult with these various organizations to see specifically how this legislation is going to impact on their mandate and their profession. And in order to facilitate that, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill 31 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

[14:30]

Bill No. 35 — The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi d'interprétation de 1995

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, section 16 of The Interpretation Act, 1995 establishes the corporate rights and powers for any corporation created or continued by enactment other than The Business Corporations Act, The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995, The Co-operatives Act, 1996, The New Generation Co-operatives

Act, The Credit Union Act, 1998, or The Crown Corporations Act, 1993.

That section also sets out the duty of care for officers and directors of such corporations and establishes the authority by which the corporation may identify such officers and directors and buy liability insurance with respect to their actions.

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Business Corporations Act, CBCA, was amended by a 2001 Bill to include certain modifications and improvements in its statement of corporate rights and powers that are desirable to include in The Interpretation Act, 1995. These changes broaden the basis for indemnification and insurance which should assist in the recruitment and retention of officers and directors for such corporations.

Members of the bar had raised the concern that the existing provisions are out of date when compared to the federal legislation and that this is creating additional risk for officers and directors serving with a statutory corporation. We are responding now to that concern to ensure that Saskatchewan's business legislation remains current and effective in this important area.

Mr. Speaker, I would stress that the changes that were made to the CBCA and the changes before this Assembly today do not reduce the individual or corporate liability to third parties for such directors, officers, or corporate bodies.

Instead The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006 includes changes to: authorized indemnification to any individual who serves at the request of the corporation as a director or officer of another entity in which the corporation has no shares or debt; include costs incurred in an investigative proceeding to the list of proceedings for which indemnity may be provided; authorize the advancement of cost for indemnification prior to completion of final settlement or a final decision; mandate indemnification if there is a finding of no fault by the court rather than only where the court actually directs indemnification; remove the restriction on the corporate purchasing liability insurance for actions taken other than in good faith by officers and directors; and provide that an officer or a director is not only free from liability but has also met his or her duty of care by relying in good faith on financial statements or reports of professionals.

By separate Bills to be introduced this session, one English and one bilingual, The Business Corporations Act, The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995, The Co-operatives Act, 1996, The New Generation Co-operatives Act, The Credit Union Act, 1998, and The Crown Corporations Act, 1993 will also be amended to include these provisions.

In addition to these changes regarding officers and directors, this Bill also makes certain housekeeping amendments that will correct a previous error made by a consequential amendment to the French version of this Act, update the definition of Governor General under the Act, add the ability to use regulations to define terms that are used in an Act but not otherwise defined if that Act is a general regulation-making authority, and update the definition of will under the Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is intended to respond to the need for Saskatchewan's business legislation to remain current with

changes on the national level. This will ensure that our corporations are operating on an equal footing in the recruitment, retention, and protection of officers and directors who act in good faith and meet the legislative duty of care.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend The Interpretation Act, 1996.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 35, The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

The Chair recognizes the member from Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure for me to rise and speak briefly on An Act to amend The Interpretation Act, 1995, Bill No. 35.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister outlined, it is extremely important that corporations that are based in Saskatchewan and have their head offices and their directors and officials based in Saskatchewan, that our corporations are indeed very much kept competitive and their structures are similar to corporations in Canada and internationally. I think it's very important that these structures are appropriate to a very competitive world and very appropriate to making sure that our officials and directors are not disadvantaged in respect to other corporations in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister outlined, these changes in this legislation impact on a large number of other pieces of legislation, and it is important that this is all done very thoroughly and practically.

Mr. Speaker, I think that one of the things that stands out in this legislation is the fact that it expands the protection for officers and directors of companies where they are indeed relying on proper financial statements and financial information that's reported to them by their auditors and their accountants. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that this is done properly.

It's also worthy of note that the French version corrects some inaccuracies that exist in the present legislation and that is important.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's pretty obvious that this Bill has fairly large, wide-ranging consequences. And it's important for the official opposition to consult with some of the senior leaders in the business community in our province to see if everything and every concern that they raised, that precipitated the drafting of this Bill, are being met, and we certainly want to take the opportunity to have those discussions. And therefore in order for that to be facilitated, I would move that we adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill 35 be adjourned.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Bill No. 36 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)/Loi corrective (indemnisation et assurance au profit des administrateurs et dirigeants) de 2006 (n°2)

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2).

Mr. Speaker, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) seeks to make the same changes regarding directors and officers as The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006 and The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006. This bilingual Bill updates the indemnity and insurance positions contained in The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995 and The Co-operatives Act, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Business Corporations Act, CBCA, was amended by a 2001 Bill to include certain modifications and improvements in its statement of corporate rights and powers that are desirable to include in these Saskatchewan Acts. These changes broaden the basis for indemnification and insurance which would assist in the recruitment and the retention of officers and directors for such corporations. Members of the bar have raised a concern that the existing provisions are out of date when compared to the federal legislation and that this is creating an additional risk for officers and directors serving with the corporation. We are responding now to that concern to ensure that Saskatchewan's business legislation remains current and effective in this important area.

Mr. Speaker, I would stress that the changes that were made to the CBCA and the changes before this Assembly today do not reduce the individual or corporate liability to third parties for such directors, officers, or corporate bodies. Instead this Bill includes amendments that will authorize indemnification to any individual who serves at the request of the corporation as a director or officer of another entity in which the corporation has no shares or debt; add costs incurred in an investigative proceeding to the list of proceedings for which indemnity may be provided; authorize the advancement of costs for indemnification prior to completion of final settlement or a final decision; mandate indemnification if there is a finding of no fault by the court rather than only where the court actually directs indemnification; remove the restriction on a corporation purchasing liability insurance for actions taken other than in good faith by officers and directors; and provide that an officer or director is not only free from liability but has also met his or her duty of care by relying in good faith on financial statements or reports of professionals.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is intended to respond to the need for Saskatchewan's business legislation to remain current with changes on the national level. This will ensure that our corporations are operating on an equal footing in the recruitment, retention, and protection of officers and directors who act in good faith and meet their legislated duty of care.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend certain Statutes with respect to Indemnification of and Insurance for Directors, Officers and certain Other Individuals (No. 2).

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 36, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again it's a pleasure for me to rise and speak briefly on Bill No. 36. Mr. Speaker, a comment that the minister made that I think is very important is that this legislation is intended to make sure that Saskatchewan corporations — and co-operatives, I guess, more specifically in this case — have legislation that indeed is appropriate not only for our province but appropriate on the national and international stage.

Certainly in the business world there is a keen competition for quality officers and employees and directors of these organizations. And I think it is important that our legislation that governs the responsibility and conduct of these individuals is appropriate and fair and balanced with the situation in other jurisdictions around the world, in fact.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important as well that the legislation that governs these organizations and the officers and directors of them be brought up to contemporary wording and contemporary language from time to time, and I believe that that is the intent of this legislation, both in the English and the French version.

Mr. Speaker, that seems to make eminent sense and we look forward to hearing comments from the business community about this legislation as well as the previous Bill that was outlined. And in order for that to be facilitated, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 36 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Bill No. 37 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will update the indemnity and insurance provisions contained in The Business Corporations Act, The New Generation Co-operatives Act, The Credit Union Act, 1998, and The Crown Corporations Act, 1993.

The same changes regarding directors and officers are concurrently being addressed in The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006 and The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2).

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Business Corporations Act, CBCA, was amended by a 2001 Bill to include certain modifications and improvements in its statement of corporate rights and powers that are desirable to include in these Saskatchewan Acts.

These changes broaden the basis for indemnification and insurance which should assist in the recruitment and retention of officers and directors for such corporations. Members of the bar had raised the concern that the existing provisions are out of date when compared to the federal legislation and that this is creating additional risk for officers and directors serving with a corporation. We are now responding to that concern to ensure that Saskatchewan's business legislation remains current and effective in this important area.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize the changes that were made to the CBCA and the changes before this Assembly do not reduce the individual or corporate liability to third parties for such directors, officers, or corporate bodies.

Instead, this Bill includes amendments that will authorize indemnification to any individual who serves at the request of the corporation as a director or officer of another entity in which the corporation has no shares or debt; add costs incurred in an investigative proceeding to the list of proceedings for which indemnity may be provided; authorize the advancement of costs for indemnification prior to completion of final settlement or a final decision; mandate indemnification if there is a finding of no fault by the court rather than only where the court actually directs indemnification; remove the restriction on a corporation purchasing liability insurance for actions taken other than in good faith by officers and directors; and provide that an officer or director is not only free from liability but has also met his or her duty of care by relying in good faith on financial statements or reports of professionals.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is intended to respond to the need for Saskatchewan's business legislation to remain current with changes on the national level. This will ensure that our corporations are operating on an equal footing in the recruitment, retention, and protection of officers and directors who act in good faith and meet their legislative duty of care.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend certain Statutes with respect to Indemnification of and Insurance for Directors, Officers and certain Other Individuals.

[14:45]

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 37, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors and Officers Identification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again as well

to speak on Bill No. 37. Mr. Speaker, it seems as if this last series of Bills have all similar intent of updating and modernizing the legislation and the appropriate regulations in respect to companies and credit unions and co-operatives and other organizations in our province, and I think that this is important work. I know it's probably very scintillating for people watching this discussion and unless you're a director of a corporation or an officer of a corporation it probably is not the kind of thing that's top of mind for most citizens at any given time.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister of Justice has been working on this for a good part of his career and he's very motivated to make sure that this passes in a timely fashion, but I certainly apologize to guests in the gallery who are watching this and are not sure exactly what the purpose is.

However I would like to commend the government on the thoroughness of looking through this information. I expect that the comments from the corporate community is going to be positive. I certainly take the minister's word when he said in his remarks on previous Bills that this has been thoroughly discussed and consultations have been very comprehensive with the respective parties and individuals who are affected by this legislation.

I look forward for our critic in this regard to have those same conversations with the official opposition and I trust that everything indeed will be in order and that these officers and employees will indeed ask us to support this legislation. In order for that discussion to occur, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that the debate on second reading of Bill No. 37 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. 38 — The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act/Loi sur le règlement des différends internationaux relatifs aux investissements

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this House are well aware that Saskatchewan businesses are increasingly involved in international investment activities. The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act implements the 1965 World Bank Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States also known as ICSID [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes].

By implementing this Act in Saskatchewan we facilitate the subsequent extension of the convention to Canada and the

important voluntary dispute, conciliation, and arbitration mechanisms offered under the convention. The implementing Bill before you today is based on the Uniform Law Conference of Canada Act that was prepared following consultations with the Canadian international business community. Mr. Speaker, the ICSID convention is designed to facilitate the settlement of investment disputes between governments and foreign investors, thereby improving conditions for international investment.

The adoption of this convention by Canada would assist Canadian investment internationally by providing a dependable, voluntary, and uniform set of rules and procedures for dispute settlement. Conversely, Mr. Speaker, foreign investors in Canada would enjoy similar advantages.

The conciliation and arbitration mechanisms established under the convention are entirely voluntary and are only applicable where they were chosen by the parties at the time they entered into the initial relationship.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, there are no surprises for businesses or states under the convention, and indeed one of the central goals of the convention is to provide greater certainty for businesses involved in international business disputes.

In addition to establishing this important dispute resolution process, the 1965 World Bank Convention also established the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes. Based in Washington, DC [District of Columbia], this facility provides on a user-paid basis ready expertise in conducting the conciliations and arbitrations required under the convention. Any parties to an agreement may however instead designate any other location they prefer to conduct their proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very popular international convention. We are advised that there are currently 142 state parties to the ICSID Convention, including the United States, Germany, United Kingdom, France, and Australia. When it was passed in 1965, the ICSID Convention did not include a federal state clause.

Accordingly, implementation of the convention in Canada requires every jurisdiction in Canada to pass implementing legislation. The Government of Canada has now asked all provinces to make this a priority, and Saskatchewan is pleased to be among the first provinces to take this step towards providing greater certainty for businesses involved with international business disputes.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act respecting The Settlement of International Investment Disputes.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 38, The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak on Bill No. 38 as well. Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation, which is fairly substantive in terms of the detail that's in the Bill, is very important. As I had indicated in my comments earlier that our corporations, our organizations need

to be competitive not only on the national, but clearly this legislation indicates the importance of us being competitive and that our regulations and rules are appropriate on an international basis. And it's important that we streamline our mechanisms and our processes in line with national and international standards.

Mr. Speaker, there's a significant number of issues that are in this piece of legislation. It is fairly substantive in nature with a good number of clauses — 15 sections — and I think it's important that this information is reviewed thoroughly and completely. While we're going through the exercise of updating the regulations and the rules under which our corporations function on the international scene, I think it is particularly important that we do not overlook anything to make sure that we're not back here a year from now making further amendments that we could have considered at this stage.

Mr. Speaker, I think clearly in the international theatre, particularly since the Enron debacle in the United States, that there is a greater need for transparency and a greater need for appropriate rules and regulations as to how our corporations conduct their affairs, and that we make sure that we're competitive and appropriate to neighbouring jurisdictions. Saskatchewan is our home but it's also very much a player on the international stage, and many of our corporations function very comfortably in this international world trade milieu.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is really extremely important that our rules and our regulations that govern our corporations' relationships with other corporations in the international stage are appropriate and timely and effective. And in order to make sure that this legislation meets its intended challenges and purposes, we certainly would like to have the time to consult with people that are involved intimately with this. And in order to facilitate that discussion at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 38 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. 40 — The Income Trust Liability Act

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Income Trust Liability Act. Mr. Speaker, The Income Trust Liability Act will provide important protection from liability for investors in Saskatchewan income trusts. Income trusts are becoming an increasingly popular investment vehicle since the mid-1990s. Income trusts are publicly traded investment entities that utilize a tax-efficient distribution of cash flow generated from underlying business operations or assets. They have become popular with investors because of their ability to produce cash flow in a manner which reduces tax liability.

Income trusts come in a variety of guises. Income trusts may be

royalty trusts, real estate investment trusts, or business trusts. The trust holds property consisting of real property or interest in an operating entity or an active business that typically produces a predictable revenue stream. If the cash flow from the business is retained in the trust, the trust must pay income tax on those funds. However the income trust is able to reduce its taxable income by the amount of the distributions to its unitholders — only the unitholders pay tax on the amount distributed.

The popularity of income trusts lies in the fact that, unlike corporate dividends which are taxed at the corporate level and again in the hands of the shareholders, funds distributed to the unitholders of a trust are taxed only once in the hands of the unitholder. As a result, income trusts generally provide an opportunity for unitholders to plan for and receive a real reduction in the taxes that would normally be assessed and payable.

Publicly traded income trusts raise capital by way of a prospectus. Typically the trust units are listed on the Canadian stock exchanges, permitting investors to buy them and sell them much as they would shares in a publicly traded corporation.

Recent statistics indicate that there are more than 150 income trusts on Canadian stock exchanges with a total market capitalization of more than \$90 billion. Monthly net sales in Canada recently averaged \$200 million.

Mr. Speaker, liability of unitholders has admittedly not been a huge problem in the past. Historically unitholders of trusts, like the beneficiaries of other trusts, have not been held liable to third parties for debts and obligations of the trust. The trustee is the legal owner of the trust property and is at first instance the party legally responsible for the obligations and liabilities of the trust.

However there is a concern that in situations where the trust property is insufficient to cover liabilities, beneficiaries may be called upon to indemnify the trustee. For example concern has been expressed that under circumstances such as an environmental disaster for which a trustee is held responsible, a unitholder of an income trust may become liable for amounts in excess of the investor's initial investment. Although a potential for such a scenario may be quite remote, it has discouraged some individual investors as well as institutional investors, such as pension funds, from investing in income trusts.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill follows legislation which has been recently introduced in other Canadian jurisdictions. The Alberta Income Trusts Liability Act came into force on July 1, 2004. Ontario enacted The Trust Beneficiaries' Liability Act, 2004 in December 2004. Manitoba passed The Investment Trust Unitholders' Protection Act in June 2005.

Mr. Speaker, the intended effect of this legislation is that unitholders of a Saskatchewan income trust — i.e., a trust governed by the laws of Saskatchewan that is a reporting issuer within the meaning of The Securities Act — will receive limited liability protection similar to shareholders of a corporation.

Although there are currently no Saskatchewan income trusts that are reporting issuers, many Saskatchewan investors have

invested in income trusts created in other jurisdictions and enjoy the protection of similar legislation in those jurisdictions. In addition some Saskatchewan businesses form part of the operating entity for income trusts created in other jurisdictions.

The Saskatchewan legislation will provide the level playing field necessary to facilitate the creation of such entities in this province. I believe that the new statutory limited liability protection will serve to increase investor confidence in income trusts and facilitate institutional investor and pension fund involvement in income trusts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Income Trust Liability Act.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 40, The Income Trust Liability Act be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise to speak briefly on Bill No. 40, An Act respecting Income Trusts. Mr. Speaker, as the minister outlined, income trusts have become an increasingly popular vehicle for investors to balance out their income streams. And certainly it is a relatively new phenomenon and is indeed, as the minister outlined, a very popular vehicle right across Canada and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister outlined, the official opposition is aware that other jurisdictions in Canada have passed legislation that creates limited liability protection for income trusts similar to what exists for other corporations. And I think similarly with my comments on these other groups of legislation that are affecting our corporations and organizations, it's important that our province creates a level playing field and a competitive environment for these financial vehicles in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite confident — this is very clear and fairly simple legislation in this Act — that it indeed will meet the requirements of the income trusts as similarly defined in other provinces. The minister outlined recent passage of similar Bills in other jurisdictions in the country, and I am quite confident that when the official opposition has the opportunity to investigate this completely, we will see that this legislation indeed meets the requirements that we have in this province. In order for this discussion to occur and for us to look into this information, at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 40 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. 41 — The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move

second reading of The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006. Mr. Speaker, The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006 will amend The Partnership Act by including a new definition of person which will include Indian bands and limited partnerships. In addition a new provision is added to require that individuals must be the age of majority in order to be eligible for partnership in a general or limited partnership.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, the scope of The Partnership Act is not currently broad enough to accommodate all those who reasonably wish to become partners or limited partners within the meaning of the Act. The Act provides that partnership is the relationship between persons carrying on business in common with a view for profit. However the term person is not currently defined in the Act. The result has been that entities such as Indian bands or other limited partnerships cannot become general partners or limited partners within the meaning of the Act. This has unduly restricted the business model options for Indian bands and limited partnerships and those who would like to enter into partnerships with such entities.

The proposed amendments will make it clear that individuals, corporations, limited partnerships, and Indian bands can be general partners under part I of the Act. In addition, individuals, corporations, other limited partnerships, and Indian bands will now be eligible to be partners in a limited partnership as well.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill includes a further amendment that will require that individuals must have attained the age of majority in order to be eligible for partnership. This amendment reflects the fact that certain legal obligations flow from partnership that are often unenforceable as against minors. It also removes the potential for any of these to attempt to escape liability for the business operations by carrying on business under the name of a partnership that has children as partners.

These amendments respond to concerns raised by the business community in Saskatchewan. Lawyers for business clients have indicated that options for business models are unduly restricted by the current provisions which do not allow Indian bands to become partners in general or limited partnerships. In addition the inability of a limited partnership itself to become a partner in either a general or another limited partnership unnecessarily limits business structure options. This Bill responds to those concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that these amendments provide a timely and meaningful response to concerns raised by the Saskatchewan business community. The amendments will assist Saskatchewan businesses by providing additional business model options. This is particularly important in the context of the growing contribution to the provincial economy of business conducted by First Nations in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 41, The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006 be now

read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, strange as it may seem, it's a pleasure to rise and speak to Bill No. 41, An Act to amend The Partnership Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice I think did a pretty comprehensive updating on the legislation governing our firms, our corporations, our co-operatives, and indeed is updating the requirements to enter into legal partnerships under this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as in the comments on the other Bills that are brought forward this afternoon, I think it really is important that our legislation is reviewed and updated to make sure it's appropriate for our present reality and the competitiveness that our firms and organizations find themselves in in the national and international stage. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, this also would extend not only to the corporate world or the co-operative world but also to legal partnerships. And I'm pleased to see that the minister has not omitted to update this legislation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I notice in the minister's comments under section 3(f) it includes under the Act an Indian band, which I think is important because increasingly First Nations financial initiatives are very important to our province and it's important that they be properly recognized and the legislative tools be there to facilitate their participation in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we again will need to consult and meet with individuals who are particularly affected by this legislation to solicit their comments and potentially to hear any concerns that may exist. And in order for us to facilitate that, Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on Bill No. 42, second reading, 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. 44 — The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 44, The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, in 1935 The Teachers' Federation Act established the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, STF, as the professional organization for Saskatchewan teachers. The STF has taken on a number of responsibilities since that time that go well beyond its original mandate and the Act has been amended accordingly from time to time.

The purpose of the amending Bill I introduce today is to repeal the current Act and replace it with a revised version. This Bill

updates terminology, reorganizes sections of the current Act, and adds some new provisions to more accurately describe the management, governance, professional and business practices of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by stating I value the important role teachers and the STF play in providing the best possible educational experience and opportunities for Saskatchewan students. Their work is an investment in the future and it's an investment that will ensure for our generation and those that follow that Saskatchewan truly is the best place to live, work, and raise a family in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the changes to the Bill confirm the current role of the STF. There is no expansion nor any restriction of the authorities and responsibilities or practices that the STF has under the current Act. The intent, Mr. Speaker, is to bring clarity to The Teachers' Federation Act by defining the authorities and responsibilities of the STF in more contemporary and specific language than the current Act.

Mr. Speaker, let me elaborate on certain provisions that have been clarified in the Bill: the definitions of terminology used throughout the Act; the legislative authority for the STF to govern the federation and to manage the business responsibilities of the organization; the federation's authority to develop bylaws; the regulatory requirements of membership; the regulatory provisions for the federation to administer the pension plan for members; the composition, duties, responsibilities, and procedures of the ethics and competency committees; and the parameters for the collective interests of teachers relative to collective bargaining. Finally, Mr. Speaker, there is a regulation that structures set under the authority of the existing Act continue.

Mr. Speaker, there is agreement between the Department of Learning, Department of Justice, and the STF about the appropriateness of the provisions in the Bill. And I would also like to add, Mr. Speaker, the federation has undertaken consultations with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents, and the Saskatchewan association of school-based officials, none of whom have expressed concern with the content of the proposed Bill.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the STF for their dedication to the education of our children and their passion for teaching. I look forward to our continued work together in support of the high-quality and responsive education system for our province. Mr. Speaker, education is the springboard for the social, economic, and personal well-being of the people in our province, from our youngest citizens and on throughout the ages of lifelong learning. Without teachers, there is no learning.

Mr. Speaker, accordingly I'm very pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 44, The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 44, The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006 be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member

for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to respond to the second reading of Bill No. 44, an Act respecting The Teachers' Federation Act. I think it's kind of fitting when we're talking about the teaching profession because I can honestly tell you I've learned a couple of things today in about the last half hour or hour.

I wasn't aware than when a Bill is presented, if it's just amending the Act there are explanatory notes so that we can follow along with the changes in the Act. But if it's a repeal of an Act and a whole new Act put in place, there aren't explanatory notes. I didn't know that before. I thought each Bill had explanatory notes so that we could follow along. But this Bill, because it's repealing the old Act and a whole new Act going into place, that's why there are no explanatory notes. So I have learned something today, Mr. Speaker, regarding that aspect.

But I think it's significant because this is quite a lengthy Act. There are 20 pages in the Act and so the only way that we can compare other than take the minister's words is to compare the old Act with the new Act and look at the changes all the way along which will take a little bit of time.

The other thing that I learned today is that I don't know personally myself that if I was to be speaking eventually, I hope, on the other side of the House and introducing a Bill and I'd invited people to come and listen to the Bill being introduced, I would move it up on the order paper so they didn't have to sit through about an hour and a half of Bills on miscellaneous statutes and everything else. I think if I was inviting people here I'd move it ahead on the order paper so that they could hear what the minister had to say, listen to the response by the opposition, and then carry on with their very busy lives which I know they have. So that's the other thing I learned today, Mr. Speaker.

The other issue that I want to talk without getting into specifics on the Bill so much are the whole issues around the teaching profession. I do want to say, and I know the minister talked a little bit about the absolutely excellent job that our teachers do around the province, and I just want to talk a little bit about that — the teaching profession and the good job that they do.

I can look back and tell you that as I went through school — that was quite a few years ago — some of the teachers that I had were absolute role models. Some of the commercials that the STF have on TV right now talking about the teaching profession, I can honestly 100 per cent relate to. Some of the testimonials by people talking about the teachers that they had and what role models they were and how it helped them along in whatever career they chose were exactly right. And I can honestly say that I don't know if too many of the teachers that I had were saying, you should go into politics, mind you, but they did certainly instill, you know, maybe a bit of a work ethic and some confidence and those type of things that we all need as we go through the school system. That's all part of it.

It's not maybe the tangible part of the curriculum but it's the intangibles that they help you with to succeed and hopefully be successful once we get out of the high school system. Because I

was absolutely blessed with some excellent teachers that I still keep in touch with today. I know one of them happens to live in the constituency that I represent, Indian Head-Milestone. She lives in Indian Head and she was an English teacher for me in grade 11 and 12.

And I can tell you, and you'll know probably from many of my speeches, that my English at times isn't always the best. I'm glad that I can speak it, not have to write it because my writing is atrocious at times. But I can tell you that it was that teacher that helped me get through the high school system, get through grade 12 — especially English, because it wasn't one of my stronger subjects.

The other thing I want to just quickly mention too is regarding teachers. And I guess you have a little bit of a different perspective when you're at school compared to when you're out of school, and now you have kids going through school. And you look at the teaching profession from a different light. And that's kind of where we're at right now with two boys in grades 6 and 8. And I certainly don't ever remember my parents being at the school nearly as much as we are. We tend to be able to be at the school a lot more and involved with the activities. From what I remember, the only time my parents came to the school it usually wasn't a good thing.

But we're certainly involved a lot more with our kids' education. And it is absolutely wonderful you know when people . . . And I've heard people talk about teachers and it's, you know, a 9 to 3:30 job. Well I can tell you where — I think in every school across the province — but I can certainly talk to you about the school that our kids go to here in Regina, the teachers are far more than 9 to 5.

And you see it, because if your kids are at all involved in extracurricular activities . . . And what I've been amazed at in the school that our boys go to who've both been involved in volleyball in the city — they won the city championship in volleyball, they won the city championship in basketball in the separate school system — the teachers . . . it didn't seem like any sort of a job. In fact I think they have a bit of a, I don't know whether it's a contest or how they decide who's going to go on and coach the team after school, because there doesn't seem to be any lack of interest whatsoever. They're all very, very interested in that. And I just think it's an absolute credit to the teaching profession. So that's what I wanted to say before I get to the Bill itself, is the excellent job that our teachers do around the province.

The Act is certainly as I said a major Act — 20 pages repealing the old Act and replacing it with a new one. For the most part, from what I've seen it covers off everything that was in the old Act and changes a few things. But those few things we're not exactly sure of; we're going to have to look at and see the changes.

[15:15]

I've been glad to hear that that the minister talked about consulting with the different organizations because that's extremely important. I can tell you from experience speaking on Bills that that isn't always the case. It hasn't always been the case. And sometimes we go to organizations after a Bill has

been introduced and gone through second reading, and we say, did you know this was going to be changing and how that's going to impact your profession? And quite often they weren't consulted with.

So I am glad that the minister, and if I take her for her word, that they have consulted with all the organizations that they need to . . . But I would also say that any good opposition is going to take the Bill, compare it with the old Bill, and make sure — because it's the only time check in the system — that the Bill is actually going to do what the minister says. And that's the job of the opposition.

So we'll be working with this Bill along with the professional organizations to make sure it does meet the needs, and the changes that are from the old Bill to the new Bill are what is needed going forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 44.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Indian Head-Milestone that the debate on second reading of Bill No. 44 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to Bill No. 4, a Bill to amend The Assessment Management Agency Act.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about The Assessment Management Agency Act, we're talking about SAMA [Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency]. And that's an acronym that most Saskatchewan people are quite familiar with. And I'd like to take just a couple of minutes in regards to this Act, looking first backwards and then looking forwards, Mr. Speaker.

We know when it comes to the whole issue of property assessment that we've had less than a distinguished past in dealing with this very, very important issue that affects every property owner in the province of Saskatchewan. In the past we have seen discrepancies. We've seen a lot of confusion. There has been a lot of unfairness. And that has generated a lack of confidence in our assessment process.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen radical shifts in property assessment, catching various sectors of the property owner segments of our province off guard. I think of some of the areas that have received unpleasant surprises include the hotel industry. Also resort properties have just been astonished at some of the property assessments that they have received.

We've seen the division of communities. I know of one community in west central Saskatchewan where for some reason SAMA took and drew a line right through the middle of the town and increased the assessments on one side of the line and decreased the assessment on the other side of the line without proper reasoning for those changes.

In the agriculture sector of course we've seen assessments again that were seen to be unfair. Sometimes the assessment for pasture land would rise and cultivated land would fall. That's the current scenario that we seem to be seeing at least in the west side of the province. Other times it's been reversed, and we've seen perhaps a lowering of assessment on pasture land, agriculture land, and an increased assessment on cultivated land.

Of course the whole commercial sector has seen some of these ups and downs as well. I remember talking to a commercial property owner in the city of Saskatoon a few years back who just saw a horrendous increase in the taxable assessment on his property. It became an unmanageable situation.

And I have a constituent in the Rosetown-Elrose constituency that lives in a very small community and has a small home. It's not worth a lot of money. And suddenly he saw in one fell swoop of a pen last year his assessment more than double. And of course there was no sensible or justifiable reason for this happening.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, obviously any legislation that comes forward that will address some of these problems would be welcome. And we have to be assured that Bill No. 4 does address some of these problems. And you can be assured, Mr. Speaker, that the official opposition is scrutinizing this legislation very closely to make sure that the outcome will correct some of these imbalances and injustices of the past.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, that I want to mention — and this is now not looking backwards at the problems of the past but looking forward, looking into the future — according to the details of Bill No. 4, it will move the assessment process to a market-based one rather than a fair-value basis for assessing property. And that's been called for by a lot of people in the province of Saskatchewan for years and years. It's been the modus operandi of property assessment in other jurisdictions for quite some time.

And it strikes me as being particularly odd that it's taken the NDP government so long to get on board and start to bring forward legislation that would in fact move us to a market-based system. But what really surprises me, Mr. Speaker, is that this legislation, although it's moving us toward a more market-based system, will not take effect until the year 2009. And of course this Bill was introduced back in 2005. It seems like if it's not on the front page of the NDP's agenda, it just gets delayed and it's a low priority, and things that are

important to a lot of people in Saskatchewan aren't going forward very quickly.

It's pretty interesting to see what the NDP's agenda is, what they put on the fast track and what they put on the slow track. I'm thinking of some of the things that they were in a big hurry to implement, Mr. Speaker. They were certainly in a hurry to bring forward their most available hours legislation. They didn't consult at all on that one, and of course they got into a real wreck, and they actually had to back away from that legislation, Mr. Speaker. It was on their agenda, but it certainly wasn't on the agenda of the people of Saskatchewan. And here we have an Act that is on the agenda of the people of Saskatchewan and it's not going to be introduced or take effect until the year 2009.

I think of the RM [rural municipality] amalgamation plan a few years ago under the leadership of the current Deputy Premier. They couldn't wait to implement that forced amalgamation, and again because they hadn't consulted they got into trouble. They could have been implementing the market-value assessment agenda contained in this Bill, but they had other priorities, Mr. Speaker.

I think of the school board amalgamation, which also they rushed into place and wouldn't have had to. And of course I guess the king of them all, Mr. Speaker, was the long-term care fees which there was no consultation whatsoever, but somehow the Premier got it in his mind that this was important and he had to rush this thing through. He forgot all about fixing property assessment issues. And so you know if it's on the NDP's agenda it goes quickly, but if it's on the people's agenda it can wait till 2009.

You look at other areas where the NDP has dragged its feet. They have dragged their feet when it comes to lowering the PST [provincial sales tax]. Of course that was in the Vicq . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I would like to bring to the member's attention that the adjourned debate is on Bill No. 4, The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005. I would ask the member to relate what he is saying to this Bill.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and of course I accept your ruling. And what I was trying to relate, Mr. Speaker, is that the portion of this Bill that brings into effect market-value base for assessment does not come into place until the year 2009. And I'm trying to determine whether or not that's a fair timetable. And I'm looking at what they've done in other issues to see whether or not it looks like this is a proper timetable.

And quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it seems like they're really dragging their feet on this, as they've been dragging their feet on lowering the PST. And it's important, Mr. Speaker, to relate what the people's agenda is and what the priorities of people are versus what the priority is of this NDP government. And quite frankly, lowering the PST is not on the first page of the NDP government's agenda, just like implementing a market-based assessment in Bill No. 4 is not on their agenda either.

Neither is fully contributing to farm programs. They drag their feet on that, and of course that has a relationship to the assessment that farmers have to pay on land too because they

are not receiving the full benefit in a timely way from farms program, and yet they are still under the old assessment system, Mr. Speaker, so they have the worst of both worlds. It's very important, Mr. Speaker, that when we debate these issues we look at the larger context of what the government's priorities are.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the Saskatchewan Party is looking at this Bill very closely. We are pointing out where the government's priorities are — right and wrong. If the amendments could be made that would speed this process up, we would encourage the government to look at it. We want to do things that help the people of Saskatchewan. That is the responsibility of the Saskatchewan Party. And so while the NDP are contemplating on whether they might be able to do something to correct this slowness, this tardiness on their part, I would suggest that we adjourn debate on this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Rosetown-Elrose that debate on Bill No. 4 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. 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 Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise to participate in the debate on this Bill.

This Bill actually encompasses two different areas. One is in response to the enforcement of parking tickets, especially in our larger cities of Saskatoon and Regina. As the members will be aware, during the last year there was an individual in each of Saskatoon and Regina, they were incarcerated. It was in both cases single mothers that were trying to attend school or places of employment. Both cases they had accumulated a large number of parking tickets and generated several thousand dollars worth of expenditure.

Under the existing provisions of law at that time, these people were required to serve a sentence because the fines were in default. I think it became clear to the public, Mr. Speaker, that this was an inappropriate use of the judicial system and probably not the best method to ensure compliance with our parking laws. There was a large amount of public scrutiny and discussion on open-line programs at that time. The net effect of that was that people felt that the cities were trying to collect a debt for rent of parking spaces. The cities took the position — and probably quite fairly — that they were trying to enforce their parking bylaws, and it was a matter of respect for the law and respect for the judicial process.

This legislation is intended to strike a balance to allow a

security interest to be registered against the vehicles that are used in those offences and to allow for the seizure and ultimate sale of those vehicles. Mr. Speaker, the effect of that appears to be well-received so far by the public. We have questions and concerns about some aspects of it, in particular the priorities and how the priorities would be on the sale or disposition of those vehicles.

The registration would be done by the municipality under our personal property registry. There would be a first priority granted to a personal property filer that had registered to protect the purchase price money granted for that vehicle. But if the individual had granted a personal property interest by way of a chattel mortgage to a bank to secure another loan or existing loan, the city would have priority of that. So we've got a question of values as to should the city rank ahead of the municipality or somebody else or ahead of a chartered bank. So we have issues and we have questions with regard to that, and we will certainly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, want to have consultation with lenders that may be adversely affected by that.

The other half of this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, deals with amendments to the assessment process and the assessment procedure. We're all aware, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that by 2009 we want to have all properties in the province — especially ones in the cities, commercial and residential properties — moved to a market-value assessment model. Right now we're going through the periodic changes in what amounts to, at present time, very wild escalations in assessment values. Cities are going through phase-in processes, and there's problems.

I have had constituents come to me with commercial properties that have had variations in their assessment by way of an increase in 80 per cent from one assessment to another, so that a year later you'll see a commercial property that has had their property tax almost doubled. The effect of that has a marked effect on the market value of the property because it affects the income ability, and it also has very substantial effects on the ability of those business owners to conduct their business affairs and plan their finances. And in some cases where the increase is large enough, it could very easily impact the viability of that business to go on. So it's something that's troubling.

[15:30]

And the ones that we hear about as MLAs are the ones where there has been a very marked increase or a dramatic increase. The ones that we don't hear about are the other end of the spectrum — because this is supposed to be revenue neutral — where there has been a substantial drop. Those people that have received a large drop smile and go to the bank and are quite content to take their drop in property tax. So the ones we hear about are the increased ones; nobody complains on the other end. So there's appeals going on on the increase, and there's all the issues of people lobbying their MLAs, lobbying the city, dealing with assessment appeals. And it's troubling when you've got that kind of a variation.

One thing the business community likes is certainty and consistency for the long term. And right now, between now and 2009, we're not going to enjoy that kind of consistency. And it's my hope that the net effect of this legislation and the

changes to the assessment management Act is that we will have some form of consistency — long-term consistency — so that businesses know where they're at, homeowners know where they're at, so that values start to retain some kind of consistency and values aren't affected one way or the other by changes to assessed value.

Yesterday, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I attended a meeting of ratepayers in the town of Dundurn. And it was attended by people that had been farmers that had received the benefit of the recent announcement that the government made of \$52 million which is going to go to change their tax structure. We also heard from acreage owners and commercial property owners that don't share in that. And the effect of what had happened with that particular announcement is we are now pitting owners of property in one class against owners of another, which is troubling.

We know that property tax in a general sense is too high because of the large education component in our property tax. And I think that's something that's related to this, and it's something that we as a province have to work towards. And I want to encourage the government members to try and do something as they work together to prepare a budget because that's something that we are going to be looking for in that budget, is some significant relief for the education component in property tax. With that we will want to have some more ongoing consultation with our constituents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move adjournment of debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — It's been moved by the hon. member for Saskatoon Southeast that debate on Bill No. 5 be adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — That's carried.

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 Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — I recognize the hon. member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to get up today to talk about this particular Bill, The Municipalities Act. I believe with this particular Bill it was introduced and then pulled because there was basically from what I understand lack of consultation; a lot of the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] weren't entirely happy with it. It speaks basically to what this government always does. It doesn't seem to consult with the people out there in Saskatchewan, and just basically out of touch with what's happening out there — especially in rural Saskatchewan on various things — especially when it comes to this Bill talking about assessment and assessment of education

tax which this Bill probably deals a bit with when you go through it there.

On education tax, the Premier's always talked about that here in Saskatchewan we have more farm land than the rest of Canada, so the rest of Canada should pay a little better proportionate towards rather than a 60/40 split. But yet when it comes to education tax and farm land, there's only about 18 per cent of the farmers out there that are paying education tax, yet they're paying about 80 per cent. So if he thought that it was unfair to federal, then why does he think it's fair at this end for people in rural Saskatchewan to be picking up the majority of education tax?

And they've been doing that for years. They haven't addressed this problem for a number of years. The members over there right now are raising and saying, well they finally did something. Well we'll wait and see in the fall if it's actually going to drop. And that's what the people out there are asking, if they're actually going to see a drop. Because he says it's going to drop by 20 per cent. Well I will be surprised if I'm paying \$2,000 less on my farm land next year. Because I've got a very, very sneaking suspicion that I won't be, that somehow that I won't be paying . . . my bill won't be cut by 20 per cent as the farmers out there. Why? Because basically when they raise that issue, they don't trust this government. You look at the past issues for the number of years that go on here. This government is basically running on a lack of credibility for a number of years when it comes to that and when it comes to assessment.

The member before talked about property tax on acreages out there in rural Saskatchewan right now. There's people out there that are paying quite a bit on assessment on acreages that are basically out — unfortunately due to this government — out almost in the middle of nowhere now.

There's highways — No. 15 Highway and No. 19 Highway — they're like goat trails out there now. There is no business and no people out there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that their property is actually worth almost unfortunately nothing. And yet they're still paying assessed tax, especially on acreages, as much as they're paying just outside Saskatoon and Regina.

You take on No. 19 Highway, because businesses just can't move there any more, because they just can't transport their stuff out there . . . Businesses want to come out there for various reasons — it's not only the highway; it's SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy.

I had a business that wanted to put in a business in a town. SaskTel wanted \$5,000 for an extra line and the lines are running right beside the house — \$5,000 to run, put just one, extra. And if they wanted a fax line, it was another 5,000. They wanted a third line, it was another \$5,000. That business was looking at \$15,000 just in phone lines, never mind they had to bring the power in. And if they wanted natural gas at that . . . which there wasn't even a natural gas line, so they couldn't even have it even if they wanted to, at that end of it.

So when they look at assessed property, you know, people are . . . they're upset out there in Saskatchewan. They feel that they're not getting a fair shake from this government at that end when it comes to assessment, at that end. They've been paying

taxes for a number of years. For a number of years they've been paying taxes out here in rural Saskatchewan and getting no services out of it. This government has been taking money, putting it in general revenue, spending it on things like Tommy Douglas movies, on propaganda stuff, and basically not passing it back to out there in rural Saskatchewan. And then you wonder why when they talk about assessment, people just see it going up. And when they talk about lowering it, the education tax, I wonder if they ever will.

Another proponent of this Bill talks about putting a youth representative out there on councils. That's all right, except in rural Saskatchewan, there's no youth left out there — they've all had to go to Alberta to work. Right now my town has 60 people. I can count 10 of the kids that are right now out there working in Alberta. Why? Because that's where the jobs are; that's where the money is. And they go there. The taxes are lower. They work there for six months. They can claim income tax there, and they'll pay half as much in Alberta as they do in Saskatchewan.

You wonder why they want to stay here. What are these guys doing to address that problem? They're doing nothing on it. Yet they think they really did something by youth by putting a piece of legislation in and saying, you can sit on council. Well I talked to youth in my area. You know what they want? They want jobs. They want to stay here in Saskatchewan. That's what they want. Address that problem. You want to do something for youth? Address that problem at that end of it.

I mean putting youth on in there, that's a nice little platitude for them. But it doesn't address the basic fundamental problems that is wrong with this province. And they don't recognize that over there. This province is in trouble. This province is dying. We're losing jobs. We're losing population. And it keeps declining every year at that. How long do you think they can keep handing that and being able to retain youth on these particular Bills at this end of it?

Another thing this Bill talks about is moving to market value, but it doesn't say on all property. From what I understand — and I'm going through the Bill — it says some properties will be assessed on fair market value, some will be assessed still on the other, on the old system. So which properties go which way? Which ones are assessed this way?

When you get to hotels out there in rural Saskatchewan right now, they have no business thanks to the smoking legislation, the taxes they take off liquor. You know, them hotels yet are assessed very high. They're paying very next . . . They're getting nothing for their services, and yet they're being taxed. And they wonder why . . . I think I had one or two hotels close in my constituency. I think everybody's had one or two close in rural Saskatchewan out there at that end of it.

And it's not only that. It's every business that's being assessed out there. And one of the things is, is we're being taxed here. Give us a break on our tax. And one of them is the education tax whether it is on rural Saskatchewan or in towns. The member from southeast had mentioned, yes, acreages and people in towns and cities are concerned about . . . Because yes, right here in Regina they pay a proportion, a huge proportion of education tax on their properties. In rural Saskatchewan on farm

land, it's a lot higher. But still it's high across the board at that end of it for education tax of that. That's your biggest part of your bill at that end of it, and it's going to be going up at that end of it.

But dealing with the municipality Act here, going into . . . they've already made some amendments to it that I've looked at, at the Bill here, and I doubt if they're even going to be . . . if SUMA and SARM are even going to be happy with some of them. But with that, I would like to adjourn debate on this particular piece of legislation because I think we'll need some more consulting at that end of it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — It's been moved by the hon. member for Arm River-Watrous that debate on Bill No. 6 be adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — That is 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 Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — I recognize the hon. member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up today to talk about Bill No. 21, the Act to amend the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act. And it's kind of appropriate that this Bill came up on the order paper after the debate by the member from Arm River-Watrous because he's obviously quite steamed today so . . .

When the minister spoke to this Bill in the second reading last fall, he admitted that the Act was originally developed and passed in 1999 but proclamation was delayed in order to develop and finalize the supporting regulations.

Well seven years have now passed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the NDP have said that they have taken all this time to share and discuss the regulations with the key stakeholders to ensure that they are practical and effective. Now after seven years I would hope that they've had enough time to do consultation to clean up the Act and the problems within the Act. However as the member from Rosetown-Elrose mentioned, and I believe one of the members from Saskatoon mentioned, consultation is not necessarily the NDP government's strong point so we can't be totally guaranteed that the proper consultation has been done and indeed this Act has been cleaned up so that it serves the purpose that it was meant to.

So in light of the fact that it's taken them seven years to do the consultation, the official opposition would like to take a little while longer to complete their consultations although we assure the members opposite that we won't take seven years in order to go through the consultation process and ensure that this serves the needs.

The last member of the official opposition to speak to this Bill was the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood and he described a number of concerns that have been expressed to different members on our side of the House with . . . in the inspection of boilers and so we will be checking that out and ensuring that the Bill addresses those concerns. And with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — It's been moved by the hon. member for Humboldt that debate on Bill No. 21 be adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — That's carried.

Bill No. 22

[The Assembly resumed debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 22 — The Forestry Professions Act** be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — I recognize the hon. member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to rise today to speak on the forestry professionals of Saskatchewan Act. And I had the opportunity to read the former minister's notes and comments regarding this Act. And some of the things that concern me in that were that we instituted a policy here which incorporated mostly new conditions into this Act instead of looking at what other jurisdictions had and to copy those. And one of things that bothered me in the minister's comments were that, and I quote:

. . . [a] commitment to build a green and prosperous economy by further protecting the environment while enhancing sustainable forest industry opportunities.

[15:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish we spent as much time looking on the marketing side of these products and how Saskatchewan can be competitive in world markets. The concern I have is that we continually look to regulations and not to marketing. You know, we built a forestry centre, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Prince Albert and that forestry centre was to achieve some of these objectives that are contained in this Bill. And I would wonder and question why we wouldn't do this quasi in reverse and have had this Act prior to the forestry centre.

You know, we always seem to be following the lead of other governments. We don't seem to be able to take initiative and get in front of these processes. We are, as I understand, the eighth province in Canada to look at this. You know, Mr. Speaker, why is it that we always have to be the eighth. Well you know, it's obvious that we're not last on this, but it would be nice to be proactive instead of reactive.

There are many members within the forestry sector who provide great work and opportunities who should have their skills and their skill sets recognized, not only locally in the province of

Saskatchewan but across this great country and have the opportunity to move laterally within provinces.

You know, one of the concerns I had in reading it too was that it said that the majority of the members were in support of this legislation. I haven't had the personal opportunity to find out how many that is, but with 150 members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have to question how far was the consultation and how widespread was it.

You know, it's one thing to bring in legislation to assist, and I believe this legislation will assist. The question comes as who do we speak to and when do we speak to them. And as always, we speak to them after the horse is out of the barn. We look at legislation that comes. And BC [British Columbia] has a forestry's Act that is there to protect sustainability. You know, why is it that ours can't just mirror some of these best practices of other jurisdictions and get this legislation in and get it in in order to meet the requirements of these professionals so they can be recognized across Canada.

You know, it's one thing that this government does and it's one thing that it does bad. It is always implementation before consultation. It doesn't matter what the subject matter is, Mr. Speaker, it is always implementation before consultation. And in this Act, we're concerned that the consultation: (a) has not been widespread enough; and (b) has not been long enough. We've had the opportunity to speak to this legislation here in the House and we will continue to do that. But we want to know why this government cannot be proactive instead of reactive.

Mr. Speaker, we will be adjourning debate on this Bill.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Northwest that debate on second reading on Bill No. 2 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 24 — The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just make a few comments regarding Bill No. 24, The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act. When the minister gave his second reading speech he indicated that the purpose of the Bill was to address a number of issues arising from the movement of The Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, 2002, and the fact that the government has not implemented that Act because of a number of circumstances they've run into in regards to regulatory changes that took place at the federal level that really conflict with the Act.

The minister had indicated that there had been discussion with a number of provinces in trying to bring the cost of credit disclosure forward and working together to ensure that as people went from one province to the other that they would face the same rules, the same guidelines, and the same regulations and that there wouldn't be such a conflict from one jurisdiction to the other. He indicated that this Bill is intended to protect consumers against unfair credit practices and will give consumers comparable information to make credit decisions. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree on the fact that consumers need all the information they can get.

One of the problems when you're dealing with credit agencies is you see advertisements of if you work with us, we'll ensure that you have a credit . . . or a cost of borrowing which is much better than any other financial institution. But Mr. Speaker, I think we've all learned just through past experience that you best go to the fine print and indeed read exactly what is meant by the interest rate that may be offered and what requirements might be needed . . . you might need to meet in order to achieve that low rate of interest.

And so I think it's important that we take a very close look and that this piece of legislation be brought forward because of the fact, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the problems we do face, that while the 2002 Bill tried to address a number of inequities in the legislation that we had in the past and as has already been indicated, the federal regulatory changes that have been made created a problem for that 2002 Bill.

We also are aware in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that there isn't that level playing field. And certainly as the credit unions across this province have brought to our attention, some of the challenges they face as they deal with other lending institutions, multinational lending institutions, and when it comes to working with consumers and trying to help consumers meet their financial needs and meet their financial goals.

So I want to commend the government first of all, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing that there are some changes that need to be implemented, also the fact that they didn't implement the 2002 Bill simply because of the conflicts that arose. However, I have to . . . And my colleague mentioned earlier when he spoke to this piece of legislation, we need to make inquiries of the government exactly what type of consultation process they entered into with the federal government in bringing forward a number of the concerns they had, concerns going back to 2002 and the piece of legislation that was introduced at that time.

It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that we would trust the provincial government actually was at the table and raising those concerns. And maybe, Mr. Speaker, we need to know, it would be good to know whether or not they were at the table with the other provinces that were dealing the same type of legislation. And so as we indicated in the past, there are issues that we believe we need to look at a little more closely. We need to identify whether or not the piece of legislation will indeed provide the protections that the government is indicating and that it will meet the needs in the financial community out there and that there will not be further problems arising as a result of the changes, the regulatory changes at the federal level.

The minister also indicated that while it's a small Bill, that there are a couple new sections, one dealing with unsolicited credit cards and another dealing with credit card liability. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, the consuming public are certainly interested in that part of the legislation.

And I think it's important that we take the time and converse with stakeholders or people that would be more directly affected with the changes that are being brought forward by the credit disclosure amendment Act, Bill No. 24, that we have before us today. And while it's largely a housekeeping Bill, we need to certainly maintain that and may ensure that the consumers' rights are protected, that lending agencies are protected in how they offer credit to their customers, and they are not impeded in their abilities to function as a lending agency in the province of Saskatchewan. Therefore at this time, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Moosomin that debate on second reading of Bill No. 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. 19

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 19 — The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at first glance this is a fairly simple and straightforward Bill. And one would think it would be the type of Bill that you may be able to introduce into the Assembly and just move forward fairly rapidly and fairly quickly. The amendments that are brought forward in The Trustee Amendment Act, Bill No. 19, codify the law relating to trustee liability and the responsibility of the trust fund and trustees in the event that a trustee is sued. And I guess when we look at the legislation and look at it a little more carefully, there's a little more to this legislation that needs to be scrutinized and looked at very carefully.

I believe however that the Bill has a . . . there's a firm purpose in moving forward with the Bill. And, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the number of trustee liabilities or the number of trust-related funds and the trustees involved in managing these funds, the purpose and the intent of the Bill I think is certainly straightforward and is worthwhile, and it needs to be pursued in view of the fact that many of the people that are involved in managing trusts and trust funds in the province of Saskatchewan are actually giving of their time, volunteering their time to manage these trust funds. And certainly it doesn't speak well for a fund and a trustee who has given of their time and somebody becomes dissatisfied with how the fund is operating and decides that they feel they have the right to sue any trustee in view of the fact that that person may have been doing, and in all likelihood were doing, their best to manage

that trust and trust fund well.

And so I feel that there are some sound provisions in this piece of legislation that are being brought forward, especially in view of the fact that we don't want to interfere and take away from the volunteerism that we have in the province of Saskatchewan and the way people continue to volunteer their time and efforts to assist and help people, whether it's in managing trust funds, whether it's being parts of pension boards, or whatever the circumstance is.

Mr. Speaker, we're well aware of the fact that the province of Saskatchewan does have a good record for volunteerism and the volunteer hours that men and women across this province put into giving of their time and efforts to support community events and local organizations.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, we just witnessed again this past week as the city of Regina hosted the Tim Hortons Brier. And this event, Mr. Speaker, would not have happened if it wouldn't have been for the hundreds of volunteers who gave of their time and their efforts so that an event like this could come to the city of Regina.

And while this piece of legislation doesn't necessarily deal with that type of volunteerism, it points to the fact that in Saskatchewan there are issues where people do volunteer their time for specific purposes of running trust funds. And it's important that we ensure that their livelihood, their well-being is protected while they're giving of their time and effort to ensure that an individual or community trust fund is appropriately handled, and that a trustee is not held accountable for actions that are beyond their abilities or what the intent of their volunteer effort for that trust fund is and how it's complied with.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we have a number of questions. While the Bill itself may not be that large, I think we need to raise a few issues in regards to The Trustee Amendment Act and therefore at this time I move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Moosomin that debate on second reading of Bill No. 19 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Bill No. 18

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 18 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise to speak to Bill No. 18, The Securities Amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very lengthy Bill, lengthy and complex, dealing with amending the provincial securities legislation. And much of the Bill appears to be of a housekeeping nature, Mr. Speaker. Many of the amendments contained in this Bill are intended to harmonize Saskatchewan securities legislation with that of other provinces and to make that legislation compatible with national instruments. Many of the proposed amendments in the Bill are required changes to the legislation because of agreed-upon national instruments.

[16:00]

Mr. Speaker, many of these amendments bring Saskatchewan's securities legislation more in line with other jurisdictions, including Alberta. These provisions should give the Securities Commission the legal basis to put in place a regulatory system called for in the memorandum of understanding based on one law and one regulatory regime. Mr. Speaker, it's a major concern of ours in the opposition that the playing field not be levelled to such an extent that the status quo be necessarily maintained between the provinces in such a way that Saskatchewan can progress to take our rightful place as an economic leader in this country. So accordingly, Mr. Speaker, and since there are many parties to this Act that need to be consulted with, I move to adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Thunder Creek that debate on Bill No. 18, second reading, be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Bill No. 15

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Lautermilch that **Bill No. 15 — The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to get up to talk about today to make some comments about Bill 15, some of the amendments on it. I see one of them is getting rid of the revolving fund into the General Revenue Fund. I wish that they would just maybe spend that money on the highways out there. I'm not sure what they wanted to put it in the General Revenue Fund for unless they're going to be making another Tommy Douglas movie. Maybe they're going to make one on Shirley Douglas there as an actress or ranks right up with Anna Nicole Smith as an actress.

But anyways getting into some of the highways out there in rural Saskatchewan, I just had a phone call. I've got a piece of highway that's being shut down right now on Highway No. 15 from the Junction 20 east to Semans. And it was just rebuilt. There was 6 kilometres that was just built there last fall. They spent money on it. I don't know how much money they spent on it, rebuilt it, and now it's closed down. They don't say why.

We'll be asking some questions maybe in committee on that end of it, but there is barricades out there. I just got a call saying they're using it for local traffic. And one of the local people said that highway is so beat up, and that they had to shut it down. And they just did work on it last fall — last summer is when they did the work on it.

Now I don't know what kind of material they got. Maybe they were trying to use some more experimental material, which is fine to try that. But I mean when you spend how much money to Highway, you should have some idea when you're going to use that, not to be doing that much of . . . [inaudible] . . . on it. And I'll be curious to see what they're going to say in committee at that end of it. Do you know how much of an inconvenience this is out there in rural Saskatchewan right now? And to have a chunk of highway basically just shut down . . . so it's putting stress on the grids right now. And the RM councillor . . . and he phoned me and he says, now our grid road is being beat up now by trucks and semis and getting no, basically no compensation for it at that end of it.

So it's the grids now paying for the highways. Before, they voluntarily were getting off the highways on No. 19 and No. 15 highway. Now they're being forced because they've basically just shut the highways down, so now they're forcing them onto the grids. So imagine eventually the next plan will be maybe they'll just . . . going to get rid of the highways out there and put it to the RMs at that end of it.

But dealing with this particular Bill on the revolving fund at that . . . why drop in general revenue? Why isn't that money being used on highways there? I've got 19 Highway basically that there was a 4 inch drop on a curve out by a gravel pit. I had calls on it, you know, from the mayors out there saying, you know somebody's going to get killed there. Somebody's going to fall off that edge and roll a vehicle. And I mean nobody wants to see that. But when are . . . They say we're going to do that.

I made calls on that particular curve since December, and I was out there in February there at a hockey game, provincial hockey game, and the guy says it still hasn't been fixed yet. It hasn't been addressed. There's potholes the size of 2, 3 inches deep in it and this is already winter time. What's it going to be like in spring when this highway starts getting . . . when the frost starts coming out? What kind of trouble is it going to be at that particular end?

This Bill also deals with civil disobedience on highways. I think it increases the fines out there. Well basically nobody can travel anywhere to be disobedient out there in rural Saskatchewan, and if you did you'd wreck your vehicle out there.

You know some of the . . . You know this is getting to be a problem out there in rural Saskatchewan. These highways are beat. There literally just . . . there's nothing left of them in a lot of areas. I've had businesses move out. Drake industries, or Bergen Industries at Drake makes trailers. You know when I was out, you know what he told me a couple years ago? He says, I got to load these trailers, or horse trailers. He says I got to load them on a trailer and haul them to Saskatoon to sell them because I can't drive them down the highway because by the time I get to Saskatoon I got to repaint them. He says, do

you know how much extra cost that is to him at that end of it? So he says right now they were loading them up and taking them to Saskatoon on trailers — an extra cost — and you want businesses to go out there in rural Saskatchewan?

Even the Third World countries out there know when you want to start your infrastructure, you start with your basic infrastructure, and they're working on their railways and their highways. And what are we doing? We're ignoring them out there in Saskatchewan. You wonder why we've got no businesses out here and nobody coming to anywhere in Saskatchewan.

Even No. 11 is getting beat up past Chamberlain there. On the older section there is starting to be red flags appearing on that. So I wonder how long it's going to be before maybe they shut down. And when I come up to the legislature, I'm going to have to go around by Pense before I can come into Moose Jaw at that end of it. But you know we've talked about how we've . . . since in '99, and when I ran in '99 that was one of the main issues when I used to go around. And it hasn't changed. You haven't fixed any of them highways out there. You haven't spent a nickel out there fixing them right and doing things. And yet you pass legislation just dealing with moving one fund to the other fund.

So this particular Bill, on Bill 15, you know that's what it does, transferring some money from one end into general revenue and basically not doing anything out there in rural Saskatchewan. When are you guys going to take responsibility for out there in the province? You want to run this province. Do something out there. Run it.

You go to other provinces. Even Manitoba, which is NDP government, has better infrastructure than we've got out there. Alberta, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia — we're ranked about worst when it comes to highways out there for infrastructure at that end of it. And you wonder why nobody comes to this province. They talk about other provinces. They talk about, you know, how jealous they are of Alberta. Well they spend money. That's how you fix your infrastructure. You fix your tax system, and you bring people out there. Then maybe you've got some money, some tax money to try to fix these highways and draw businesses out there in rural Saskatchewan.

You know I think of the bus drivers that phone me. He says you know, we've got to drive up and down these highways. And he says, you know, we're hauling kids, and he says there's a safety issue that's coming out here at that end of it.

And we've talked about numerous you know . . . just calling about . . . Last week there we had some calls calling about departments. I just had a meeting with the mayor from Watrous calling about closing the section shops, six of them here in rural Saskatchewan. Now the minister gets up and says no; we're probably not going to close them, or we hope not. But I mean that's going to get us by maybe this year. How about next year at that particular end? That document came out so actually you know that they're studying it and you know that they're going to cut.

I can remember when they said they wouldn't cut any hospitals in rural Saskatchewan. They cut 52. I can remember when they

cut a SaskPower office just two years in Davidson. Now they cut a SaskTel office in Watrous. They cut the rural service centres across in rural Saskatchewan. So why would I think that they're not going to close these section shops? What would the people out there, what would make them actually think they're not going to close these because you've closed just about every government thing out there in rural Saskatchewan, and that's one of the things you've got left out there is some of these section shops.

On Bill 13 this does deal with that because that is part of the revolving fund that's in there. That can help maybe keep them section shops open, this particular fund. But where it moved into . . . general revenue, are they going to spend any more money in general revenue out there at that end of it?

But anyways, Mr. Speaker, dealing with this particular Bill and some of the amendments on it . . . But yes I'm not that happy with just . . . All it is, is actually deal with the highways out there instead of just dealing with some fluff legislation moving some money around from one end to the other, from one fund to the next, increasing a fine for civil disobedience if you put a roadblock out. Well there is nobody left in rural Saskatchewan out there to put a roadblock anywhere, so I don't even know why you're even increasing the fine on that. Maybe you should be looking at how we can get some more people out there in rural Saskatchewan. Anyways I'd like to adjourn debate on this particular Bill.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Arm River-Watrous that debate on second reading of Bill No. 15 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Why is the member for Regina Dewdney on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy 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: — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:10.]

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