



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

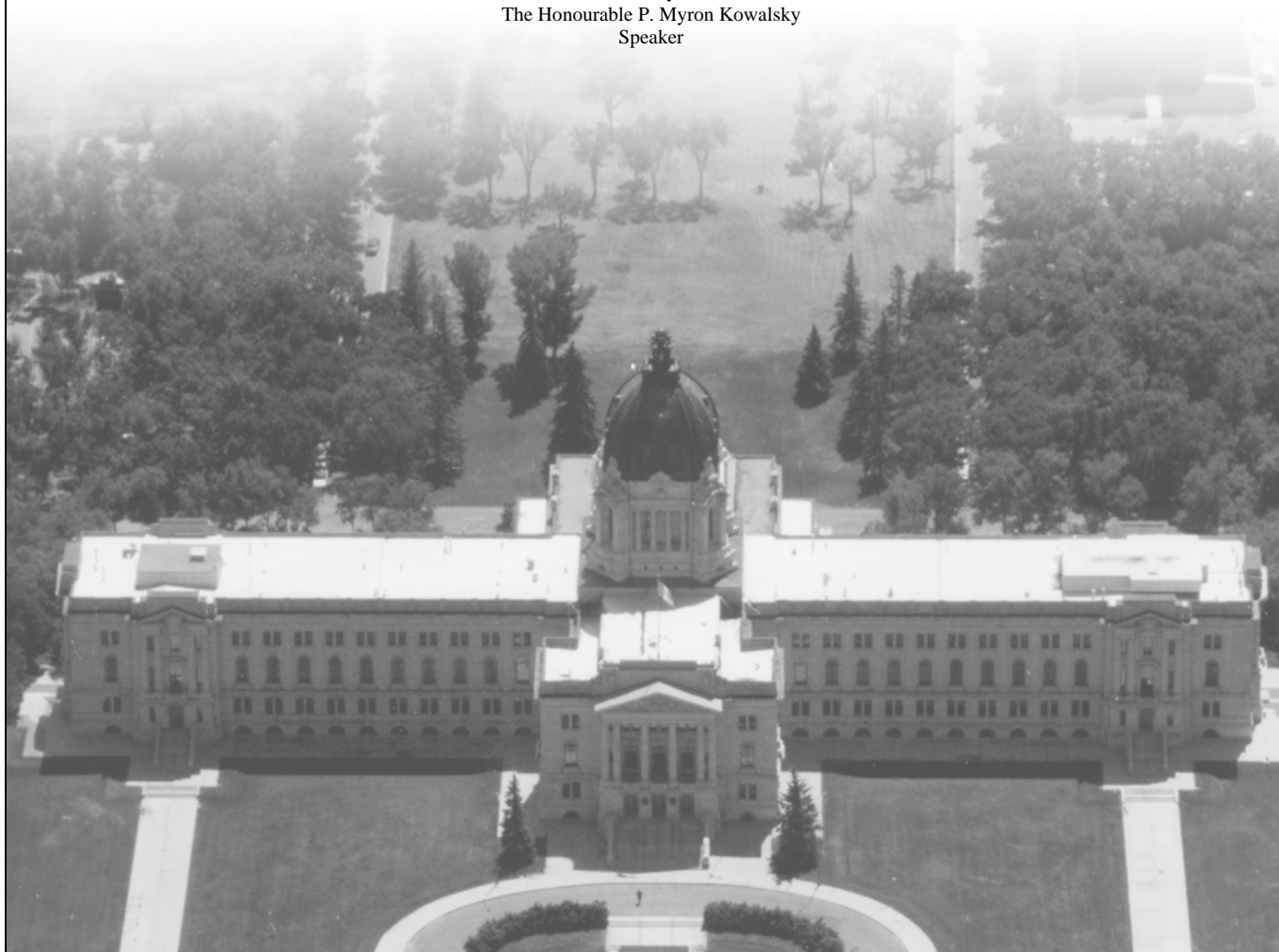
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction of Page

The Speaker: — Members, before routine proceedings I wish to inform the Assembly that Mandy Selzer has returned from Korea victorious and will be joining us as a Page for the session.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — I also wish to advise members that I have received from the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner a report on The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act dated March 22, 2006, which I now table.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One more time I stand to present a petition on behalf of constituents that live along Highway 32 between the communities of Leader and Cabri. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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, the three pages of petitions I have today are signed by individuals from the communities of Mendham and Leader. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about Highway No. 310. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to repair Highway No. 310 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth and tourism in Foam Lake, Fishing Lake, Kuroki, and surrounding areas.

The people who have signed this petition are from Wadena, Wynyard, Yorkton, Bjorkdale, Margo, Kuroki, Ottman Beach, Wadena, and Invermay. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

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

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Humboldt, Fulda, LeRoy, Bruno, Lake Lenore, Saskatoon, and Swift Current. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again rise today to present a petition from constituents who are opposed to possible health care service cuts in Wilkie. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Wilkie health care centre and special care home 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 Landis. I so present.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of concerned parents in the constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs 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 Wright Crescent, Peters Cove, and Kenderdine Road. 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 calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to maintain the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Department of

Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Saskatchewan Highways employees who would be affected by such possible closure.

As in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present another petition regarding the widening of Highway 5. As indicated earlier, this is a highway which travels right through my constituency. I will read the prayer for relief.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Humboldt, Lake Lenore, LeRoy, Lanigan, and St. Gregor. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Clerk Assistant: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as addendums to sessional papers 5, 7, 8, 64, and 65.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 30 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: please indicate the total expenses incurred and revenues generated by the tour of Scotty, Saskatchewan's T.rex, to the cities of Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan; and also indicate to which department, agency, or institution any revenues generated by the tour were allocated.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 25 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Sask Property Management: what is the sale price of the Echo Valley Conference Centre in the option to purchase that Sask Property Management has awarded to the town of Fort Qu'Appelle?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well today I have a group of good-looking young people from grade 6 to 8 from Ranch Ehrlo in Regina, and they're accompanied by Hope Hamerston, Tina Deis, and Tara Hack.

And you'll be interested to know, Mr. Speaker, that we were in the lobby taking pictures of that Speaker's model there that has your hat and your ears but no face in the middle.

And I want to say that there were some pretty good-looking young people there. And I convinced them that there is opportunities in politics both on First Nations communities as well as in the province and hopefully they'll be thinking that over while they're on their tour today. We had a good visit.

I want the Assembly to join me in welcoming them here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — What a perfect segue, Mr. Speaker. I certainly agree with the hon. member that there are opportunities for young people in politics. And that's why it's a pleasure for me to introduce to you and all members of the Assembly a future MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], the Saskatchewan Party nominated candidate for the constituency of Lloydminster. Tim McMillan and his wife Allie have joined us here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Tim and his wife are ranchers, they're producers, and they also have a small business. Most importantly, they have a one-year-old daughter, Rielly, who enjoyed the nomination meeting last Monday in Lloydminster.

And you'll notice this, Mr. Speaker. You'll notice the similarities between the future MLA for Lloyd and the current excellent MLA for Lloydminster. They're both tall gentlemen. They're both dedicated and energetic. And in fact if they stood side by side it would be hard to tell which one was the former and which one would be the new member here, Mr. Speaker.

But we do want to welcome them here to this Legislative Assembly. And we look forward to the day when he's actually on the floor of the House and, more specifically, on that side of the floor of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some of the members of

the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative Steering Committee that were here this morning for the release of the 2005 report, stayed to do a lot of work over the lunch hour, and now are here. And I'd like to recognize them for their strong commitment to the voluntary sector this afternoon.

If they could stand and wave as I introduce them, I would start with the Co-Chair of the Voluntary Sector Initiative, Tracy Mann from United Way Regina; Dastageer Sakhizai from the Saskatoon voluntary sector; Sheri Benson from United Way Saskatoon; Sonja Jahn from the P.A. [Prince Albert] Parkland Health Authority; and Nancy Gardner, a representative from the Department of Agriculture and Food to the steering committee.

I'd ask all members to give them a warm welcome and in that, I believe, also recognize the work that they do to improve the quality of life and strengthen the social fabric of all communities in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member in welcoming all of these volunteers here today. It's people like you that make our province a very special place, and the kinds of effort and volunteerism that you exhibit are the kind of role models that all of our citizens would do well to copy and emulate. Thank you very much for being here today and we hope you enjoy the proceedings in your legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Students of Holy Cross High School in my Saskatoon Eastview constituency have launched a Lent fundraising effort to raise money for the reconstruction of a secondary school destroyed by civil war . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. We're still on introduction of guests. I'm afraid I gave the member the wrong signal.

The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly a couple of guests seated up in your gallery: Mr. Garth Macfarlane from Glen Ewen — and Garth is close enough to the US [United States] border he can almost throw a rock from his house to it — and his grandson, Jordan Brians, who attends Winston Knoll here in Regina and have come to see the proceedings today of the legislature. And I ask everyone to welcome them in here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Access to Water and Sanitation

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since 1993 World Water Day has been observed each March 22. 2006 marks the second year of the decade of action, 2005 to 2015.

According to the IRC, International Water and Sanitation Centre, the first decade from 1981 to 1990 brought water to over 1 billion people and sanitation to almost 77 million. But the job is only half done. There are still almost 1.1 billion people without adequate access to water and 2.4 billion without adequate sanitation.

Even in our own province we have witnessed first-hand the vital importance of access to clean drinking water and sanitation services. There is no higher priority than safe drinking water. Unfortunately as we saw in North Battleford, this NDP [New Democratic Party] government failed to take the steps necessary to deliver on that promise to the people of Saskatchewan. Next month marks the fifth anniversary of the North Battleford water contamination which left 7,000 people ill after consuming water from the community.

Today according to the government's own website, there are currently 66 precautionary drinking water advisories and 14 emergency boil-water advisories. Many of these advisories go back several years, four to five years in some cases.

While the people of urban Saskatchewan are fortunate to have access to clean, safe water on a daily basis, too many people in the province, in rural Saskatchewan and amongst our First Nations, have been left behind by this government. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[13:45]

Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Chair of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, I would like to report to this Assembly that the voluntary sector initiatives 2005 update report was released this morning.

Mr. Speaker, this province has the nation's highest rate of volunteerism. Our voluntary sector is an incredibly important and vibrant part of the Saskatchewan way of life. There are 12,000 volunteer groups and 5,000 incorporated charities across the province contributing to the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of Saskatchewan people. The voluntary sector also contributes over \$1 billion annually to the provincial economy and has spinoff benefits that touch nearly every economic and social sector in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative is in its third year. The result has been a strengthened relationship, a better understanding, and greater collaboration between the province and the voluntary sector. The Premier this morning has challenged us to look to develop a structural legacy to the initiative while adopting the consultant's recommendations and

improving the go-forward work plan contained within the updated report.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge all those who have contributed to the success of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, in particular the members of the steering committee, the volunteers, and the government employees who worked so tirelessly and co-operatively and collaboratively to achieve their goals. And I want to thank them for setting a positive direction for the future of our great province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Principal Appreciation Award Winner

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The principal of Melfort's Broadway School recently received the Saskatchewan Association of School Councils' Principal Appreciation Award.

Dr. Stephen Kemp, during two years as principal of Broadway School, forged a co-operative education team. Together they accomplished many improvements for the students. They implemented programs discouraging bullying, started student after-school activities, worked closely with human service agencies, and created a bridging generations project. This project created an opportunity for the students to share celebrations at the senior citizen centres and brought the seniors to the school to share their knowledge and experience.

Mr. Kemp's response to his students upon learning about the award was that he was privileged to be a part of their lives. He said, and I quote, "Nothing I have ever achieved or been recognized for comes anywhere close [to this]."

The only achievement Stephen rates higher than the privilege to influence the students' lives is being a good dad to his own children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to ask the members of the legislature to join me in recognizing a very deserving recipient of this award, Dr. Stephen Kemp.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatoon Students Raise Money for Sudan School

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try this again. Students of Holy Cross High School in my Saskatoon Eastview constituency have launched a Lent fundraising effort to raise money for the reconstruction of a secondary school destroyed by civil war in the town of Loa, Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, the Holy Cross fundraiser has been largely initiated and organized by students and will involve six other elementary schools in the division. Their goal during the Lenten season is to raise \$4,000 to build a classroom at the school, but the students also plan on continuing the initiative later into the

year in the hopes of exceeding that goal.

Mr. Speaker, Loa is a Sudanese town that was once known as school town because children travelled from across the region to attend classes there. The plight of Loa has recently come to light because of the work of a couple originally from Sudan who now live in Saskatoon. Vicky Angua and her husband, Anthony Angu, fled Sudan and eventually their native Africa because of civil unrest. Both are now students at the University of Saskatchewan, and they have founded the Friends of Loa, a humanitarian agency based in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I have recently been to Africa and have seen first-hand the challenges that many African people face. I sincerely want to commend Vicky and Anthony for their desire to help the people of their homeland, and I want to congratulate the students of Holy Cross High School and the other schools in their division for their efforts to assist their fellow students in the town of Loa. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Centennial Grant

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great disappointment in the NDP government that I rise to address the House today.

In a letter from Tourism Saskatchewan dated March 7 to the Davidson homecoming committee who did such a great job hosting their centennial event last summer, was informed that they must pay back over \$1,300 of the \$1,875 centennial grant they rightfully received for their event.

The letter goes on to mention or states that: "The majority of the mail costs you provided occurred before the program date and accordingly are not eligible for reimbursement." So it appears that those communities who want to plan ahead are now being penalized for doing just that. These expenses are legitimate and documented and should be paid for in the spirit that the centennial is all about. But this government takes every opportunity to remove anything that might help a rural community, even removing their ability to celebrate our centennial in 2005.

In my constituency alone, in Davidson I've lost a SaskPower office, a wing of my hospital has been closed, the agrologist, the rural service centre has been removed, SaskTel service depot has been removed, and now they've shut down Highway 20. They also want to shut down a highway section shop in Watrous. They've also tried unsuccessfully to shut down my office in Davidson but failed miserably twice.

Mr. Speaker, if they want to claw back centennial grants from events, they should claw back the event they gave to sponsor the phony-baloney Tommy Douglas movie.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Saskatchewan Rivers.

World Day for Water

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 1993 the United Nations General Assembly declared today, March 22, as World Day for Water. Each year a different UN [United Nations] agency is selected to coordinate events surrounding World Water Day and this year UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization] chose Water and Culture for their theme.

Mr. Speaker, water is vital to human life, but the Water and Culture theme illustrates how various cultural traditions around the world have different ways of using, viewing, and celebrating water. Water is sacred in many religions and is used in various rites and ceremonies. It is essential to many scientific endeavours, and water has also been represented in art for centuries in music, painting, writing, and cinema.

Mr. Speaker, cultural traditions, indigenous practices, and societal values all determine how people perceive and value water around the world. Unfortunately, social and industrial change is driving an increase in water usage worldwide. Globally, water usage doubled between 1940 and 1980 and doubled again between 1980 and 2000, and is predicted to double yet again by 2010.

Mr. Speaker, water is not just precious, but priceless, and our government will continue to work to ensure that Saskatchewan people continue to enjoy the benefits of having good supplies of quality water throughout the province, as well as strategies to manage water in times of flood or drought.

Mr. Speaker, we can all make a difference in protecting and conserving our water resources. Taking an active and conscious role every day is truly the best way to celebrate World Water Day. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Financial Accountability

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was not a good day for that NDP government. After years of covering up dozens of instances of fraud within their government, pressure from the Saskatchewan Party forced the NDP to admit publicly something they've been keeping to themselves for a long time: that more than \$2 million which belongs to the public has gone missing under their watch.

Mr. Speaker, talk is cheap with that NDP government. They talk about transparency and accountability, but when it comes down to it, they have to be backed into a corner or have one of their cover-ups exposed by the opposition before they will act. In one of the province's newspapers today, a columnist sums up the government's reluctance to come clean on the fraud scandal by saying, and I quote, "The problem appears to be an NDP government that, until now, was more interested in avoiding political embarrassment than in being transparent."

Mr. Speaker, after Channel Lake, after SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], fraud case after fraud case, the public has lost trust in this NDP government. Forget about spin, forget about excuses — why won't that NDP government for once do the right thing and come clean with the people of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Financial Accountability

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, we now know what transparent and accountable means in NDP-speak: don't tell until you get caught. As one columnist put it this morning:

The problem appears to be an NDP government that, until now, was more interested in avoiding political embarrassment than in being transparent.

The fact that it took 500 written questions from the official opposition Saskatchewan Party before the government came clean about 42 fraud cases in government is a perfect example of that.

So was SPUDCO, where the NDP government misled the people of Saskatchewan for six years until they got caught. After SPUDCO, the Premier promised a new era of accountability and transparency. If he is committed to that promise today, as he was when he made it, will he commit today to a full accounting of all incidents of fraud in his government since he took over as Premier in 2001?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that when it comes to this issue, it is very clear that the members opposite have no credibility. I want to read into the record from Provincial Auditor's report. The auditor says:

The Liquor Board . . .

I'm quoting from page 20 of a report from 1992:

The Liquor Board did not have adequate systems and procedures to safeguard its assets. The Liquor Board reported approximately \$19,285 of liquor was supplied to ministers' offices. The Liquor Board had no written requests from the ministers or their assistants for this liquor . . . The Liquor Board does not have policies that authorize ministers and officials to take liquor for their own use. Accordingly, there was a loss to the Crown . . . of \$19,285.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that one of the ministerial assistants at that time was in fact the Leader of the Opposition. I

would like to know, in the 15 years that he's had to come clean, when is he going to come clean about what it is he knew about this \$19,000 loss?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, despite the NDP's go-forward commitment to transparency and financial accountability, the NDP is still refusing to release information about fraud instances going back to when the Premier took office.

Yesterday's announcement about a case of fraud at SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] in 2003 totalling \$100,000, that was never made public, causes us great concern. If the NDP didn't tell us about something that significant in 2003, what are we to think about the times since the Premier took office up until 2003?

Mr. Speaker, from a Throne Speech of the NDP government, and I quote:

Citizens have the right to know more of what their government is trying to accomplish.

To that end my government will begin to implement a **comprehensive government accountability project**.

Mr. Speaker, that Throne Speech is dated December 6, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, in light of that, will the Premier commit today to deliver a full accounting of all fraud incidents in government since he took over as Premier in 2001?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, this government since it was elected in 1991 has been improving the financial management and transparency processes of this government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I ask again, to the Leader of the Opposition who has had some 15 years to think about what happened in the office of John Gerich that he worked in . . . I want to read into the record a memo from December 18, 1990, when that member, the Leader of the Sask Party, was working for John Gerich. This memo says:

Please arrange to have delivered by 1:30 p.m. tomorrow the following to . . . Hon. John Gerich . . . 1 Beer Tub, 150 Beer Cups, 100 Wine Cups . . .

Sixty pounds of ice, a number of bottles of liquor, 12 bottles of wine . . . My question is, at what point did that member go to the press with this clearly not authorized expenditure? When did he put out the press release? When did he go to the press? Did he put out a press release? Did he at least put out

invitations to invite others to this party? What was it that he knew? When did he come clean?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the years 2003 to 2005, we asked each department and Crown corporation if they were aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within that department or Crown corporation. The answer we received from SGI was rather disturbing. And I quote, "There is no central department which tracks each and every allegation of this nature." "Therefore this information is not available."

Mr. Speaker, you would think that a Crown corporation would want to keep track of these types of allegations and incidents.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of SGI: why doesn't the Crown corporation keep track of these events, and why isn't there any information available?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — When we took office in 1991, the Crown corporations didn't even provide regular financial statements to this Assembly. That was an improvement that this government has made, and we will continue to improve the accountability.

One of the Crown corporations that I thought was very interesting when we came into office that was not very accountable was the Liquor Board. Now my question is to the senior assistant to the former minister, John Gerich . . .

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — In the 15 years that the Leader of the Sask Party has had to think about this, that he's had an opportunity to come clean and to apologize for his role of that \$19,285 that went missing, I'd like to know when did he make people aware? Was it after he got the beer tub delivered to his office? Was it after the 60 pounds of ice showed up? Was it after the full case of those decorative . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Members will come to order. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Well the members opposite are laughing quite a bit. I mean there's no doubt by what I read, it must have been quite a party. There is no doubt about that.

Well if it wasn't on that date, my question is, was it on April 8? They have a memo here — April 8, 1991. It seems to me the Leader of the Sask Party was still . . .

The Speaker: — The member's time has elapsed. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Timing of Prosecutions

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, as we learned yesterday, this government doesn't come clean unless they're forced to. Many of the 42 instances of fraud would not have come to light but for our persistent questioning.

And the pattern continues, Mr. Speaker. This morning I learned from the media that an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] commercial crime investigation regarding Community Resources into losses in excess of \$1 million is all but completed. The file has been with the Department of Justice since December.

Mr. Speaker, why are the police being forced to wait for a decision on whether charges will be laid in this matter?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, it is not appropriate — as a matter of fact is exceedingly wrong — for the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of the province of Saskatchewan to decide who will be prosecuted and when they will be prosecuted. I appreciate, I appreciate the members opposite do not understand that, Mr. Speaker.

In the past the member from Saskatoon Southeast has demanded that certain members of the public be removed, have their causes of action taken from them. He had a list, Mr. Speaker; he had a list.

Now first we have, Mr. Speaker, when the opposition abandons their questions about the economy two days in, Mr. Speaker, and we move on to demands for government censorship, Mr. Speaker. And now, Mr. Speaker, we have demands for political prosecutions, Mr. Speaker. And this is not the first time. The member for Martensville called out for the prosecution of David Karwacki, the Leader of the Liberal Party. Prosecutions cannot be based upon when the members want to make a headline, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, that is not an acceptable answer. That is not an answer at all. The police are waiting for a decision. They've all but completed a lengthy and complex investigation in record time. Now they sit and wait; the public sits and waits. This fraud went on for more than a decade. It involved the theft of money earmarked for the poorest of the poor. Will the government commit to a timely decision on this matter, or is this just another example of them not coming clean until they are absolutely forced to do so?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Is the opposition asking us to direct public prosecution, who to prosecute and when to prosecute? That's my question, Mr. Speaker. If the member, if the member has any evidence that the police asked my office or the prosecutors for a decision, I have not received it. He should table that evidence. That's what he said, Mr. Speaker. They're waiting. Well I don't know if they are waiting, Mr. Speaker. I haven't heard from the police. I've heard the member call, I've heard the member call for prosecutions on their time schedule when they want them, who they want them, Mr. Speaker.

You know when the member for Kindersley counselled shooting the Premier, Mr. Speaker, I don't remember the member opposite getting up and saying, when's he going to be prosecuted, Mr. Speaker? Who's on their list, Mr. Speaker? I know David Karwacki is and I know civil servants are. Who else is, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, that member knows full well that there is a difference between prosecutorial discretion and operating his department in a timely and competent fashion. There appears to be no rhyme or reason when it comes to laying charges. Sometime these matters go to municipal police forces, sometimes the RCMP, sometimes nowhere at all. There's no logic; there's no protocol.

In Northern Affairs all we get are sketchy details about the inappropriate use of a vehicle. The matter is not referred to the police. Some . . . [inaudible] . . . uses a debit card to drain the bank account of a Casino Regina customer to the tune of over \$3,000. The matter is not referred to the police.

Mr. Speaker, who is making the decision about when matters are referred to the police and what criteria are being used?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, under this government, the police decide what they investigate. Under this government, professional Crown prosecutors decide who to prosecute, how to prosecute, and when to prosecute, Mr. Speaker. The position of the opposition clearly is, it clearly is that politicians should decide. Not only are they not credible on this issue, but the prospect of the members opposite filling the Attorney General's position is scary, Mr. Minister.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, basic competence indicates that you run your department in a timely and competent fashion. Mr. Speaker, let me read from today's *StarPhoenix* editorial:

. . . the consequences for criminal level dishonesty don't

involve a criminal record . . .

In some cases, the lack of punishment beyond dismissal is puzzling and sets a dangerous precedence . . .

. . . [the] lack of prosecution suggests that the government doesn't put a high value on integrity . . .

Mr. Speaker, when will this government begin establishing a plan to assure criminal activity results in a police investigation? When will this minister take control of his department and assure that things happen when they are supposed to, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the position of the government now is that every theft over \$200 will be reported to the police, Mr. Speaker.

The question as to how decisions are made about prosecutions, Mr. Speaker . . . is it the position, is it the position of the opposition that our Crown prosecutors in this province are acting inappropriately? Is it the position of the opposition that our Crown prosecutors are not professionals? Is it the position of the opposition that our Crown prosecutors are making political decisions — decisions based upon politics about when and who should be prosecuted, Mr. Speaker? Because it's clearly the position of the opposition that politicians should be making those decisions, Mr. Speaker, a position this government does not agree with.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Minister of Health's Meeting with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning the highly anticipated meeting took place between the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses and this health care minister. And after the meeting SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] put out a news release, and the title on the news release says, "Meeting with health minister 'extremely disappointing.'" They're no further ahead today than they were yesterday before this meeting, Mr. Speaker.

Last week the minister stood in this House, and he said that he would provide SUN with answers to the questions that they've asked this government on five previous occasions about vacancies, about retirements, and about retention issues, Mr. Speaker. According to SUN, none of this information was provided in their meeting today.

Can the minister tell this House why he misled this House and told us that he'd provide that information in this upcoming meeting?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously I can't speak for SUN — they speak for themselves — or about what the expectations were going into the meeting this morning. The members opposite will know this is the first time I've had the opportunity as Minister of Health to meet with Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. And, Mr. Speaker, from my perspective I can indicate I thought it was a very productive meeting. I felt that the information that was provided on both sides of the table, Mr. Speaker, are taking us forward.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have agreed to sit down on a regular basis with SUN to discuss not only this information but other information, Mr. Speaker, that at the end of the day, at the end of the year, this government will work on common goals with SUN to ensure the workplace is a better workplace, and the numbers of nurses in this province, Mr. Speaker, are increased.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here's what SUN's vice-president, Marlene Brown, had to say about the meeting. The minister doesn't want to quote, but I will quote what Marlene Brown had to say. And this is what she said:

The meeting was extremely disappointing. The Minister is refusing to share with us or the public the factual data that SUN has requested concerning the nursing shortage. The public has a right to know since the shortage affects their care and affects access to . . . [the health care system].

She went on to say:

This government has no plan to fill the vacancies, no target for retaining or recruiting nurses, and refuses to make a commitment to solve the nursing shortage. Frankly, we're shocked by the obvious lack of concern about patient safety and access to services [Mr. Speaker].

That's what the vice-president of SUN had to say after leaving a meeting with this minister. He should be ashamed of himself. When will the minister live up to the commitment he made in this House and give them factual information?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, during the meeting I committed not only my officials but myself to continue to meet with SUN to resolve some of the issues that are in front of us. Mr. Speaker, the officials met on Monday and provided information to SUN. SUN indicated that that was not adequate information, and we have committed to receiving additional information.

Mr. Speaker, we do have a plan in place. It was put in place in December. We are implementing a number of strategies.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, tomorrow I will be in the city of Lloydminster to unveil and open the new CT [computerized tomography] scanner. Mr. Speaker, new nurses, new

technologists, new equipment operating in the city of Lloydminster . . . The candidate from Lloydminster for the Saskatchewan Party is in the gallery today. He is committed to two-tier health care, Mr. Speaker. I ask the member opposite to tell us indeed what's the position of the members opposite.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Support for Agriculture

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday the Agriculture minister had the opportunity to meet with the fed Agriculture minister and his provincial counterparts, and one of the things I understand he was asking for was a \$200 million cash injection.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's less than the last payment of the grains and oil seeds payment that just happens to be coming out right now to farmers and isn't going very far. Now our party believes that we would need approximately a \$500 million injection from the federal government to make any significant difference. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, does the Agriculture minister have anything optimistic to tell the farmers of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find it a little odd that we're this far into the session — priorities were the economy and agriculture — and here's our first question on agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that we have projections, national projections that there will be . . .

The Speaker: — All members, all members please come to order. All members. The Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the analysis, the federal statistics that there is a realized negative net-farm-income projection of \$200 million. That, Mr. Speaker, is after the grains and oil seeds payments of 290 million flow. It's after the 53 million that our government is putting in with the education tax.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can say clearly that I am disappointed by the reaction that we got from the federal minister that there was no indication of any ad hoc payments coming. And when we asked about the 500 million that they had promised, Mr. Speaker, we were told he doesn't have the authority to administer that. He can't tell us anything about that today.

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, if there is any hope, that hope is that they will make some adjustments with the 500 million that they said they would add to the agriculture budget and that they will get that to flow quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — To respond to a question for which notice was taken, the Chair recognizes the Minister for SaskTel.

SaskTel International's Project in Trinidad and Tobago

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Friday of last week I took notice of a question that was asked by the member from Humboldt.

In July 2005, SaskTel was awarded a management contract to assist LaqTel in the creation of a mobile network in Trinidad-Tobago. SaskTel was a contractor of LaqTel's and not a partner. SaskTel did terminate its contract due to non-payment by LaqTel on March 9 of this year. The member from Humboldt asked how much the Saskatchewan taxpayer would lose as a result of SaskTel exiting this agreement with LaqTel.

First off, Mr. Speaker, SaskTel does not use tax dollars for any of its investments or operations. In fact over the past 16 years, SaskTel has declared and paid substantial dividends in the millions of dollars to CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] which are ultimately used for the benefit of Saskatchewan people. As indicated, the outstanding payment from LaqTel is approximately 250 to \$300,000 but we will be seeking . . .

[14:15]

The Speaker: — The member's time has elapsed. The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Support for Agriculture

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, we agree with the provincial Agriculture minister that we are also disappointed in what he found out on Monday, but we don't believe that we should let that file sit. We should continue to lobby the federal government for help for Saskatchewan farmers.

But again, having said that, there are things that this provincial government could do to help Saskatchewan farmers, and one of them would be to reinstate spot loss hail. At SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention they were asked to do that. Mr. Speaker, we are asking that minister to reinstate spot loss hail; do one thing that would help Saskatchewan farmers.

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said to the members at SARM that clearly spot loss hail has been an issue in the province. Private brokers really wanted to be able to cover the hail issue. The RMs [rural municipalities] themselves own Municipal Hail, Mr. Speaker, and do provide coverage.

But we also recognize that there are efficiencies in the provincial government and the Crop Insurance Corporation providing spot loss hail, and so to that end I have asked the Crop Insurance Corporation to investigate — there's no time

this year to reinstate — but to investigate with the potential of reinstating next year. That, Mr. Speaker, is what they are doing. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I think what farmers want to know is what that minister and that government's intentions are to help them out to get this crop in this spring and help them get from now till next fall.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, in the 2004 budget, some more cuts that this NDP government made to agriculture was the elimination of the farm fuel tax rebate on gasoline and propane bought at retail outlets. That's another thing that they could change and reinstate.

Mr. Speaker, they also had a 20 per cent rebate on farm fuel purchases. If he wanted to do something constructive that they cut in the last few years, he could do things like that — reinstate them. They have a mountain of money. They have an oil and gas revenue building up there. Let's do something constructive with it and maybe help farm families in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that the opposition is finally raising some ag issues. I know that there is much concern in the province about what can be done to help farmers through this time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have done I think a good job in terms of providing PST [provincial sales tax] free inputs for farmers. We have provided tax-free diesel fuel for farmers which is the primary engine that they use and, Mr. Speaker, except for private use, the opportunity for tax-free gasoline, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that what we are committed to doing is to try and get that new federal Conservative government to stick to their campaign commitments. We want \$500 million. We want it moving. We want it moving fast, Mr. Speaker. We want this opposition related to that federal government to do what they can to pry loose that money.

And, Mr. Speaker, we want them to work to try and get the trade injury that was talked about during that campaign too. This is significant.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. The Chair recognizes . . . Order please. The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I'm tabling responses to questions no. 582 to 594 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 582 to 594 inclusive have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 42 — The Respiratory Therapists Act

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 42, The Respiratory Therapists Act. Mr. Speaker, in developing this legislation, the government has consulted closely with the Saskatchewan Association of Respiratory Therapists.

Brent Kitchen, Chair of the self-regulation task force for the Saskatchewan Association of Respiratory Therapists, has done a tremendous job in this regard, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to thank him and his colleagues for all the hard work that they've done in bringing forward this Act today.

I also would like to acknowledge the vital role that respiratory therapists play in our health system and in serving the health needs of Saskatchewan people. As health professionals experienced in caring for people with breathing disorders, respiratory therapists have a variety of skills essential to building the kind of health system that we want in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill I bring before the House today proposes establishing a college of respiratory therapists responsible for regulating respiratory therapists. At the same time it proposes to delegate this privilege of self-regulation to the Saskatchewan association of regulatory therapists.

The Bill will include new provisions clarifying that the duty of the regulatory body is to serve and protect the interests of the public and not the interests of its members. In essence then, the Saskatchewan Association of Respiratory Therapists will establish a self-regulatory college, while conferring its current professional advocacy role to a separate professional association.

This Bill will also appoint three public representatives on the council of the Saskatchewan Association of Respiratory Therapists. Doing so will give the public a greater voice in the regulation of respiratory therapists.

Mr. Speaker, as part of our government's commitment to quality, accessible, and responsible health service for the people of Saskatchewan, we believe it is important to bring forward this legislation to the House today. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to

move second reading of The Respiratory Therapists Act. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 42, The Respiratory Therapists Act be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to this Act respecting respiratory therapists. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note that this is going to be a self-regulating body. But it's interesting also to know that it's taken 11 years to get this in place, and one wonders what has been taking so long for this government to really get its act together and bring this Act in and create an association for the respiratory therapists.

In today's world of increasing pollution it's also very noteworthy to ask some questions concerning this profession, this new body that is being set up and how that relates to the patients that these therapists look after, and also what new areas are coming on stream as far as the therapists that are doing very good work need to look at in the future. We certainly will be speaking to the respiratory therapists and all other stakeholders who want to make . . . have an opinion on setting up this new association and the college that the minister spoke of. And so, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill No. 42 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. 43 — The Medical Radiation Technologists Act, 2006

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of The Medical Radiation Technologists Act, 2006. In developing the legislation, Mr. Speaker, the government has consulted closely with the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the president of the association, Stella Juma-Anderson, for the work that the organization — the association — has done, both to her and to her colleagues for the dedicated hard work that they've done in updating the Act and this new Bill.

I also want to acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, the important role medical radiation technologists play in our health system and in serving the health needs of Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, as specialists in the use of radiation to image the human body, MRTs [medical radiation technologist] have a variety of skills and experiences essential to building the kind of health system that we want in the province.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists has asked for a number of legislative changes to the Act. Specifically, the Bill will appoint three public representatives to the council of the association and in

doing so will give the public a greater voice in the regulation of MRTs. The Bill will also reserve professional titles to members of the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists. These titles include medical radiation technologist, medical radiological technologist, medical radiation therapist, nuclear medicine technologist, and magnetic resonance technologist. In addition, Mr. Speaker, this Bill will allow the association to establish a clearer and more effective disciplinary process for its members.

These amendments, Mr. Speaker, along with others concerning minor administrative details, are proposed to make the Act consistent with other Saskatchewan health profession legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to accessible, quality health care. We will provide leadership in making the changes needed to strengthen and sustain the system for the future. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, we believe it is important to bring this Bill to the House today.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Medical Radiation Technologists Act, 2006.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 43, The Medical Radiation Technologists Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak on the Act respecting medical radiation technologists. The minister has outlined the various aspects of the Bill, and we certainly will look into this and speak to the association and get a better handle on what all the different changes mean in respect to not only the practitioners but also to the general public.

We certainly agree with the minister that health care professionals are very valuable and we certainly appreciate the work that they do for the citizens of Saskatchewan. And we also will continue to ask questions in the legislature and in committee concerning this particular self-regulating body that is being set up, Mr. Speaker. And so at this time, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill 43 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate the work of the policy field committees on the Economy as well as on Crown and Central Agencies, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:29.]

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