



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

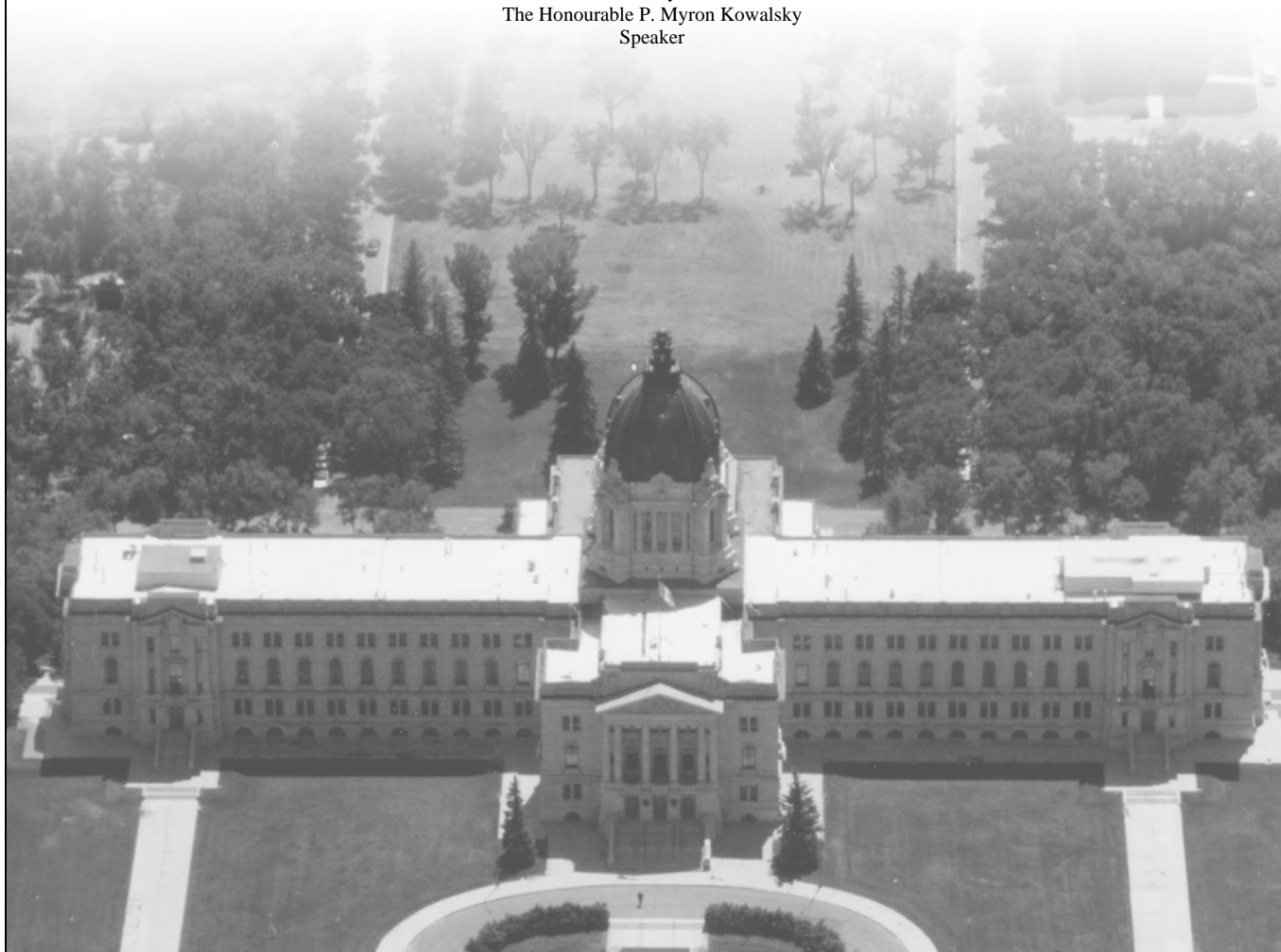
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
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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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
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]

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again today I present a petition on behalf of constituents of Cypress Hills regarding their concerns with the condition of Highway 32. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, today's signatories come from the communities of Prelate, Leader, and from Provost, Alberta. I so present.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from citizens of the province regarding the issue around Avastin, the lack of funding by this provincial government, the whole issue around two-tier health. 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 actions to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by a number of people from Balgonie. I so present.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about the government's refusal to fund the drug Avastin.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

The people that have signed this petition are from Tisdale and Porcupine Plain. I so present.

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today

to bring a number of pages of a petition of people who are concerned about the safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Leask, Muenster, Rosetown, Humboldt, Margo, Drake, Guernsey, Eatonia, and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition from citizens of Biggar who are concerned about the possible reductions of the health care services in their community. The prayer reads:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of families across Saskatchewan concerned that Saskatchewan is the only province besides PEI [Prince Edward Island] that does not have a children's hospital. 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 a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today live in northeast Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition. And 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures of this petition are from Saskatoon and Calgary. I so present.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to read a petition from people that are concerned with the safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition calling the government 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 will ever pray.

This particular petition is signed by the good citizens from Watrous and Young. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the deplorable condition of Highway No. 55. 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 invest the needed money to repair and maintain Highway 55 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and business.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by citizens from Arborfield, Codette, Tisdale, and Star City.

#### 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 additions to previously tabled petitions being addendums to sessional paper nos. 6, 7, 64, 67, 638, 639, 644, and 645.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 24 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole of this Bill. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. Bill is waived for Committee of the Whole. The Chair recognizes the minister.

#### THIRD READINGS

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 24 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Third reading of this Bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 18 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in

Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 18 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2005

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 18 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Third reading of this Bill.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 19 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of this Bill in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave is granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 19 — The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that this Bill be now read a

third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 19 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Third reading of this Bill.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 40 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SGI: for the fiscal year 2005-2006, how many snowmobile licences were sold in Saskatchewan?

And I have similar questions for the years 2004-2005, 2003-2004, 2002-2003, 2001-2002.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 40 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SGI: for the fiscal year 2005-2006, how much revenue was generated for the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association from the sale of trail permits on snowmobile licences?

And another question, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 40 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SGI: for the fiscal year 2005-2006, how many snowmobile trail permits were sold?

I have similar questions for the years 2004-2005, 2003-2004, 2002-2003, and 2001-2002.

I give notice that I shall on day no. 40 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development: for the fiscal year 2005-2006, how many snowmobile licences were sold?

And I have similar questions for the years 2004-2005, 2003-2004, 2002-2003, and 2001-2002.

Also for the Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development: for the fiscal year 2005-2006 how much revenue was generated for the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association from the sale of trail permits on snowmobile licences?

And a final question, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 40 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development: for the fiscal year 2005-2006 how many snowmobile trail permits were sold?

And also for the years 2004-2005, 2003-2004, 2002-2003, and 2001-2002.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure today to introduce to you the Consul General of France in Toronto, Mr. Philippe Delacroix. He is seated in the Speaker's gallery. This is Mr. Delacroix's first official visit to our province. This morning he met with the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Industry and Resources and the associate deputy minister of Industry and Resources. And we also hosted him to a lunch this noon hour.

Later this afternoon he will be meeting with the vice-president, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership and the executive director of the French education and languages branch in the Department of Learning.

Members may be aware that France has the fifth largest economy in the world and is our second largest foreign investor in Canada. We have an excellent trading relationship. We export uranium to France and we import wine, French wine, from France.

The French relationship with this continent of course dates back to 400 years when Samuel de Champlain established the first settlement at Ile Ste-Croix. And we're glad that the Consul General is here to help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of this legislature here in Saskatchewan. Would members please welcome the Consul General.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — And of course seated with the Consul General today is our own Dr. Michael Jackson. Welcome back, Dr. Jackson.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery we have four northern champions that are visiting the city today. They have also got some business on a wide variety of fronts and I want to especially welcome Randy Stomp who's the vocational counsellor with the Gary Tinker Federation and as well George Ward who is the executive director of the Gary Tinker Federation and really a very, very good supporter, a very strong advocate for disabled people.

[13:45]

And one individual from Cumberland House who's the vice-chairman of the Gary Tinker Federation has got his class 1A driver's licence and has worked very hard and tells me that he started his effort in life after he got hurt, being challenged by a doctor to sit in a wheelchair or work very hard. And he's done

a tremendous job of that and is indeed a great credit to the North and to the Gary Tinker Federation. And that's the vice-chair of the federation, Mr. Clinton Carriere of Cumberland House. And of course the namesake of the Gary Tinker Federation was Gary Tinker himself.

And these folks travelled a long ways and coordinated a trip to Regina. They'll be here for a couple of days.

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

So that's a Pinehouse story that I want to tell Gary, and of course he likes it because he's from Pinehouse originally.

And I would ask all members of the Assembly to welcome these very fine group of people that are advocating and fighting for many of the rights and the respect that the disabled community in the North and across Saskatchewan want and deserve. So I'd ask all members of the Assembly to give a big, warm welcome to our special guests from the North.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot River Valley.

#### Saskatchewan Party Leader's Annual Dinner

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night the Saskatchewan Party held their annual leader's dinner and what an event it was. Over 1,000 people strong listened to the young, dynamic leader of the Saskatchewan Party, the member for Swift Current.

That member spoke of a vision for our Saskatchewan economy, a vision to keep our young people here and a vision for the future of this province. I will read from a news story on CJME this morning. Mr. Wall was "Speaking to over double the amount the Premier had done the week before . . ." Double the amount the Premier had at his dinner.

Mr. Speaker, we can understand why over 1,000 people would want to come to hear a positive message from a party with new ideas for our province. And, Mr. Speaker, we can also understand why there was a considerably smaller crowd for the Premier. No one wants to hear the old, tired, worn-out message from the NDP [New Democratic Party]. They are tired of unfulfilled expectations that has become the trademark of this socialist government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Although it was difficult to hear, I do believe that the member used the name of a member incorrectly, but I was not able to hear that. But I'd remind the member of that. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Last night the Leader of the Opposition broke from tradition by holding a fundraising party right here in the capital city instead of the city of Calgary. And present at the dinner was the Sask Party leader's former boss and political

mentor . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please, members. Order. Order. Member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — And present at the dinner was the Sask Party leader's former boss and political mentor, Grant Devine, introduced along with former Mulroney cabinet minister, Mr. Bill McKnight, and apparently a number of former Devine members from the legislature.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that they were all in town . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please. It appears . . . Order please. Order. Order. Member for Saskatoon . . . Order. Order please. Saskatoon Nutana.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — And, Mr. Speaker, they were all in town to reminisce about the good old days and see how their protege is coming along. And, Mr. Speaker, he didn't disappoint them. The Leader of the Opposition hearkened back over 20 years and pledged that with a Saskatchewan Party government, the province would be open for business.

For those of us who remember the Conservative Party campaign slogan from 1982, we wonder if Mr. Devine had a hand in crafting and drafting that part of his eager pupil's speech.

Mr. Speaker, the old boys from the 1980s were clearly impressed with just how far their bright-eyed staffer has come. And, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party leader is quite the little trooper. Mr. Speaker, the boys are back in town.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Nakawe Saulteaux Festival

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I had the honour of attending the fifth annual Nakawe Saulteaux Festival at the Nibwakawigamig Education Centre at the Kinistin Saulteaux Nation. The festival is a showcase of the Nakawe culture and language.

Students from Pleasantdale Central School, Star City School, Tisdale school, Fishing Lake First Nations, Yellow Quill First Nations School participated in workshops that were lead by Mary Machinskinic and Frances Scott on making beaded colour bracelets and the importance of colours and the Saulteaux words; a hoop demonstration by Kinistin band member Patrick Nippi assisted by the Kinistin Nakawe singers; a storytelling workshop by language instructor Albert Scott; Kinistin Nakawe traditions by Peter Nippi who spoke of the changing times and the importance of the Nakawe language and culture; and the Kinistin health staff . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. I would ask . . . Order. I would just ask for order so that we can hear the member's statement a little more clearly. Thank you, members. Member for Kelvington-Wadena.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kinistin health staff who provided information on the Kinistin traditions and healthy lifestyles talking about previous food First Nations people ate.

During the afternoon there was a Nakawe concert which was done in Nakawe and featuring the nursery to grade 9 students singing songs and the presentation of art and crafts awards.

Mr. Speaker, this event was truly a showcase of the Nakawe Nation and an educational opportunity for the students and spectators attending this cultural event. I'd like to thank Chief Thomas, band members, and school staff for the invitation to attend. I was honoured.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina South.

#### Leprechaun Trap for Budget Day

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As you can imagine, during the past several weeks I have received a lot of advice and helpful suggestions about the upcoming provincial budget.

I rise today to thank a group of grade 1 and 2 students in Ms. Bonnie Conly's class at Georges Vanier School in Saskatoon for their advice. While recently visiting the school, the member for Saskatoon Eastview and I learned of an interesting project in which the students were building leprechaun traps for St. Patrick's Day.

Once the students figured out just exactly what it was that a Finance minister does, they thought that their project could be useful in helping me do a better job for the province. After some tough negotiations it was agreed that in exchange for a very interesting book on lizards that they would send me the best leprechaun trap of the class so that I could catch a leprechaun and his pot of gold, and that the province could benefit from even more prosperity than we're currently experiencing.

As such, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Amy Bantle for her leprechaun trap and her story about the goody leprechaun. When I announce the budget tomorrow, I expect that all members of the Assembly will be pleased to see just how it is that young Ms. Bantle's advice on trapping leprechauns has worked and how we will use our new-found wealth to create an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask all members to join me in thanking Ms. Conly and all of her grade 1 and 2 students for their generous gift.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — And I want to remind all members that props are not to be used in the Assembly.

The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

### Condition of Highways in Southwestern Saskatchewan

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. “Southwest roads are dangerous” reads the headline of a recent front-page story in a Maple Creek newspaper. The facts behind the story come from Chris McMillan of Consul.

A few weeks ago Chris was driving his new car from Consul to Maple Creek. He met a semi-trailer unit near the Cypress Lake turnoff and found himself in a rather dangerous situation due to the severely deteriorated condition of Highway No. 21. As a truck passed, a chunk of pavement flew up and pieces caught the front bumper of Chris’s car, bounced off the hood and the windshield on the driver’s side before it became airborne once again, and landed on the road behind the car. Now Chris’s new vehicle needs a new windshield as well as some bodywork on the front end.

This story is one of but many I’ve heard regarding near misses and unavoidable incidents that happen daily on the crumbling highways of southwest Saskatchewan. It’s impossible to miss the potholes, the loose pavement, and the trouble spots unless you’re driving down the centre of the road. And, Mr. Speaker, in the interests of highway safety, that’s really not a good option.

There’s heavy industrial traffic on these roads in southwest Saskatchewan due to oil and gas development work. The traffic has increased dramatically over the last few years, but the road maintenance has not kept up with the impact. This government simply refuses to reinvest an adequate portion of its annual tax and royalty windfalls to assure the safety and convenience of the motoring public.

The people of the Southwest who are forced to use Highways 21, 13, and 32 have been advising friends and neighbours to take alternate routes where possible. And even ambulance operators are choosing longer routes to avoid the dangers of these roads. That, I suggest, is a fact you should keep in mind when you come to visit our area.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Fundraising for Breast Cancer

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Breast Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to fundraising for breast cancer relief. The project began with 10 women from Foam Lake but swiftly expanded to involve other organizations as well.

To raise funds, the organization published *For the Breasts of Friends*, a cookbook developed from a banquet menu in Foam Lake — a cookbook, Mr. Speaker, that I purchased myself. It is an impressive compilation of recipes and ideas which we are still experimenting with.

Word spread quickly and it became available in many medical facilities across Saskatchewan. Eventually, Mr. Speaker, sales expanded to other provinces and the book became a Canadian

bestseller. Mr. Speaker, this cookbook fundraising effort has been so successful that Breast Friends has recently reached \$200,000 in donations.

The organization’s major donations have supported such groups as the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, the Canadian Cancer Society, Prairie Women on Snowmobiles, Breast Cancer Action Saskatchewan, the Hope Centre in Saskatoon, and numerous Saskatchewan hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, the organization will soon release its second cookbook entitled *For the Breasts and the Rest of Friends*, the initial proceeds of which are intended to furnish the Foam Lake palliative care unit.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to join me in congratulating the Breast Friends for their fundraising efforts and wish them continued success for the future.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Ministers’ Comments in the House

**Mr. Stewart:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday again we witnessed another incident of this tired old NDP government disseminating false information. After witnessing the Deputy Premier apparently lose his grip on reality on Friday and stand and accuse the member from Saskatoon Northwest of deliberately misleading the House in response to an agriculture question, on Monday we were once again presented with an inaccurate view of the facts when the Minister of Advanced Education stood and informed the House that SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] was reconsidering their waiting list management fee.

The next morning, Saskatchewan residents were able to read in *The StarPhoenix* and *Leader-Post* that SIAST had no intention of making any changes to their waiting list management fee.

And finally yesterday, the Minister of Agriculture stood in his place, fired up the blame thrower . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Member for Thunder Creek.

**Mr. Stewart:** — The Minister of Agriculture stood in his place, fired up the blame thrower and stated that opposition MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and Saskatchewan MPs [Member of Parliament] were telling farmers in the northeast area of the province that they had no choice but to venture out into muddy fields to try and harvest a crop last fall or they would not be eligible for crop insurance, even though he is the only member of this Assembly that Crop Insurance takes direction from.

At least we know that that minister has some creativity and imagination. It would just be nice if he would use it to help Saskatchewan farmers instead of making up stories to cover his own shortfalls in the areas of compassion and competence.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!



[14:00]

### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

#### Nursing Shortage

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, I have been contacted by a mother from Biggar who has seen first-hand the impact the nursing shortage in Saskatchewan has on her daughter. Bobbie Haynes's daughter finished her schooling last October and started working as a nurse in a hospital in Regina shortly thereafter. Mr. Speaker, her mother writes, quote:

She worked so hard to get through the very difficult program and was so looking forward to working and now, after only a few short months, she is already facing burnout and looking for something else to do.

Mr. Speaker, how does this NDP government expect to retain young nursing graduates when they are getting burnt-out within the very first year of employment?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I've had the opportunity to meet with various nurses throughout the province over the last little while, and I've heard stories, Mr. Speaker, of nursing graduates moving into the system and having to take up significant workloads, Mr. Speaker. And I applaud those who have been able to deal with the pressures that have been put forward on them.

But, Mr. Speaker, this issue is one that this government has been working on for several years. And in December, in December 2005, Mr. Speaker, we issued the action plan relating to the health workplace. And, Mr. Speaker, that action plan is addressing the issue not only of the shortage but of the efforts that are being made in the workplace to improve circumstances for nurses throughout the system, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, Bobbie Haynes believes, quote, "... the situation is nearing crisis proportions ..." but this minister won't admit the severity of the problem.

Ms. Haynes's daughter looks after eight very ill patients every day. Her friend who is a nurse in the cardiac ward was responsible for 14 cardiac patients one day. Ms. Haynes says, quote, "These numbers are unacceptable for any nurse let alone a new nurse with very little experience."

Mr. Speaker, how can nurses give good care when they are sick themselves? When will this minister do the right thing and commit to better nurse to patient ratios?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Again, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government considers the care of Saskatchewan people in our hospitals, long-term and institutional environments, as a priority, Mr. Speaker. The health of Saskatchewan residents is of great interest to this government, Mr. Speaker. And for those who care, for those who need care, Mr. Speaker, we are doing a tremendous amount to assist them in doing the work that they themselves wish to do.

Mr. Speaker, the action plan in the health care workplace take into account several years worth of study, consultation, and review. And, Mr. Speaker, that report brought out in December addresses some of these issues. We will be working with the nursing profession over the course of the next year, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we're able to implement strategies that are brought forward in the action plan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses say the Saskatchewan health care systems need 600 new nursing positions to bring the province up to professional standards. And, Mr. Speaker, this minister refuses to commit to those targets.

Mr. Speaker, Bobbie Haynes's daughter is not alone. Ms. Haynes writes that several of her daughter's classmates feel the same way and will be getting out of the profession before it's too late for them. Her daughter is heartsick over the current situation and truly does not know what to do.

Mr. Speaker, Bobbie Haynes has serious concerns about the state of health care in this province and the impact the nursing shortage is having on young women like her daughter. Saskatchewan already has the worst nursing retention rate in the country. If these conditions continue, Saskatchewan will continue to fall further behind. Is the minister's intention to finish last?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much again, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite have been fairly critical over the last couple of weeks with regards to the question of nursing shortages in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, there's an acknowledgement that of course nursing shortages across Canada are causing significant pressures within the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, there's virtually no unemployment amongst nurses anywhere in Canada. Mr. Speaker, to fill 250 vacancies or to fill the 600 positions that SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] targets, Mr. Speaker, is not a matter of waving a magic wand or snapping our fingers and immediately putting somebody into those positions.

Mr. Speaker, the other day the minister of advanced learning

and employment announced a number of bursaries that are useful in this regard. Mr. Speaker, today I have announced funding for more than . . . for 500 new, continuing, in-return-for-service bursaries, Mr. Speaker — \$5 million.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Funding for Hospital Construction

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard the new NDP policy on rural hospital construction, and I'd love to summarize that for you — first they make you wait; then they make you pay.

Mr. Speaker, this Minister of Health is penalizing the people in Humboldt for his department's delays and mismanagement. And what will happen if Humboldt can't commit to the extra money, Mr. Speaker? Well here's what the minister had to say: "It could be delayed further if the community share does not reach the commitment we have asked for."

Mr. Speaker, why are the people of Humboldt being penalized for the NDP delay and mismanagements?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Again thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't know where the member opposite comes up with the language about penalizing. Mr. Speaker, the policy that we are talking about is a policy that's been in place since the early 1990s. Communities across this province have participated in fundraising efforts to support the community facilities in their community.

Mr. Speaker, there are numerous communities across this province who are fundraising today for projects that are not yet announced for approval to proceed with planning or for construction. Mr. Speaker, we are firmly committed to supporting the people of Humboldt in the development of their new facility. We want to work with the community, the regional health authority to ensure that the facility is the best possible within the resources available, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, how in the world does that minister think that asking for 5 million additional dollars in 40 days is working with the community? The minister said yesterday that in other projects where the costs have increased, the architect has been asked to scale down the project. Has that been the NDP strategy all along: string the people along until they have to accept a smaller hospital? Is Humboldt going to have to accept a smaller hospital? This seems to be the way of every NDP promise — that first they make it look very good but the promises always have strings attached.

Mr. Speaker, this Premier said yesterday the federal Throne Speech had all the right words, but he was waiting for some action. Well so are the people of Humboldt. They're waiting for some action. Will the people of Humboldt get a break from this government for their hospital instead of a 40-day deadline?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Again thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The comments of the member opposite are just not credible when reviewed with the facts. Mr. Speaker, when this, when this project was, Mr. Speaker, when this project was first discussed with the people of Humboldt and the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order. Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When this project was discussed with the regional health authority and the people of Humboldt, Mr. Speaker, the estimates that were discussed at that time for the construction of the hospital there were considered very realistic. Mr. Speaker, in the last two years we've seen significant inflation in construction costs that affect schools, highways, even garages in the member's backyard, Mr. Speaker.

What is happening now is the project has not yet gone to tender. The exact dollar values are not yet known, Mr. Speaker. When the tenders come back, the regional health authority wants to know that there's a commitment from the people at the local area to reach their 35 per cent. Mr. Speaker, the 40 days is to find out if that commitment is there and, if not, what do we do to make up for it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, this is nothing more than another NDP shell game. You pay your money, and you take your chances, but the carnival barker always seems to want more and more and more. If the minister sincerely wants the Humboldt hospital project to go ahead, could he possibly change the funding formula? What he's asking for right now is nothing short of a rural health tax.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister change the funding formula, or will he keep playing an NDP shell game while he's holding all the people in the Humboldt community hostage?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the early 1990s, this government came up with a policy that allowed for community participation in the decision-making process and the delivery of health care facilities across this province. Mr. Speaker, many communities have participated in this process of raising money and participating in the planning process. Mr. Speaker, that planning process has been well

developed with many projects. I wonder if the member opposite is concerned about that planning process and which steps she would not have taken in developing the facility in Humboldt.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I did yesterday — we know that there are some new capital dollars coming forward in tomorrow's budget — I ask the member opposite: if there's money there for Humboldt, will she support the budget?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Anticipation of Budget Policies

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, two years ago almost to the day, this NDP government received a scolding in the form of a newspaper column, and I quote from it:

This government has a very tenuous grip on reality. If voters are dismayed today, they should be. Everything the government is doing runs exactly counter to what the NDP has campaigned on . . . nowhere in Calvert's platform will you find a mention of a higher provincial sales tax . . .

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the Finance minister to show that he can do a better job than his predecessor. If he can't reverse the NDP broken-promise tax grab now, when he's sitting on a mountain of money, when will he do it?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, the budget I will present tomorrow will be balanced in its priorities. It will be balanced on the bottom line. It will provide us with a significant set of changes to improve our business climate in this province. It will make major new investments in our social programs, and it will continue to pay down a debt that was built up by the previous administration.

Mr. Speaker, this budget that I present tomorrow will be worthy of the member's support, and I will encourage him and all of his colleagues to support it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — How can it be worthy of my support when he doesn't even answer the question, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, this minister can distance himself from his predecessor with this budget. This new Finance minister can erase the cynicism created by his predecessor who said and I quote:

I suspect that anyone who talks about tax hikes is not . . . [likely] to be very popular during the course of an election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, before gouging the people to the tune of \$150

million with a PST [provincial sales tax] increase, the Premier told business audiences that there would be no tax increases. Mr. Speaker, will the new Finance minister chart his own course and right the wrong, or will it be the same old NDP: say one thing and do another? Which is it?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, there is nothing that I would like more to do than to be able to reduce our sales tax in this province. It is regrettable that today almost four points of that seven point sales tax is needed just to pay interest costs on the debt built up by the previous administration. It is interesting to note that we will continue to be calling on taxpayers to put \$550 million just towards interest costs on that debt, not to mention what we'll be calling on them to reduce debt.

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order please. Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, we have a number of requirements within our financial plan to meet, not the least of which is paying down a debt that was built up by the previous administration, continuing to pay interest costs built up on a debt by the previous administration, by making new investments in health care that those members call for on a daily basis. To make new investments in our families, within our social programs, and within our communities, this budget I present tomorrow will do those things, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, we will all be waiting with bated breath to get the answer from the minister on how much the nationalization of the potash mines in the 1970s added to this provincial debt. I hope the minister will reply just with that information tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, we have 44,000 children living in poverty in Saskatchewan. After dithering for 14 years, this NDP government raised the basic food allowance for the first time last year, but they did not index it to inflation, Mr. Speaker. Surely this government has the resources to index it this year, Mr. Speaker.

The third quarter financial report shows this government has a windfall of \$988 million more than it expected. Mr. Speaker, to use the minister's language, how many sleeps will the poor have to wait before the basic food allowance is indexed to inflation? How many sleeps will ordinary Saskatchewan people have to wait before they see a tax break from this NDP government?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, this budget that I present tomorrow will be balanced in its priorities, and it will be balanced on its bottom line. It will make sure that we make significant new investments in the business climate of this province and in our social programs. It will be a good budget for Saskatchewan people.

What I would encourage those members opposite to do is take a real good, hard look at that budget when it comes down and find in their hearts and find a way to vote for this budget that moves Saskatchewan forward socially, economically, and in terms of the overall development of this province. That is a challenge for the members opposite.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Federal Support for Agriculture

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we saw the Throne Speech from the federal government, and it promised separate and more effective farm stabilization programs — something we wanted to hear. It promised disaster relief programs — something also that farmers were waiting for. It promised to work with producers to achieve long-term competitiveness and stability. The question that farmers . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Member for Melville . . . Order please. Melville-Saltcoats.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has made commitments, and we'll all be here — that side and this side — to hold them accountable for that. What will this minister tell farmers tomorrow? Tell them today that they have something to be optimistic about and something to help get through this summer.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, clearly in the Throne Speech yesterday there were allusions to agriculture. But I want to say that one of the problems is that there is nothing concrete from the federal government — nothing, Mr. Speaker. The \$500 million that was mentioned in their campaign, Mr. Speaker, has no base in it at all. There is no sense of where and how that will be spent. Will it be just put into funding current programs? We don't know.

Mr. Speaker, when we meet with the federal minister . . . and we met with him just recently at Harrison Hot Springs. It was very clear that he did not have the say about where and how that money might roll out. And it wasn't indicated in the Throne Speech.

So farmers in this province and farmers across Canada and provincial ministers, provincial ministers all across Canada are saying, is there anything there? When is it coming and how

much is it? Will it help? Mr. Speaker, we don't get that from the feds.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, this morning APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] was on the steps of the legislature, and they were informing the public of exactly what happens to a loaf of bread. Mr. Speaker, the farmer receives 6 cents a loaf for bread. Out of \$1.35, Mr. Speaker, \$1.35 . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order please. I would ask . . . I once today already mentioned use of props. I would ask the member to deliver the prop to a Page.

Order please. The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the farmers lose 2 cents a loaf. I know how they feel. I just lost the whole loaf.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this morning and outside speaking to APAS . . . And what APAS was trying to do was inform the urban public just how bad it is in agriculture and who's making something on that loaf of bread and who's not making and who's losing. And the Minister of Agriculture went out and again continued to point the finger at the federal government and take no responsibility for Saskatchewan farmers. He absolutely ignored the problem from the NDP government and said it's all the federal government's fault. Well, Mr. Speaker, the federal government has made commitments. What commitment will that minister make?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to know, Mr. Speaker, that the federal government has made no solid commitments. And I would like to read the segment of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. He did not, he did not tell the farmers that they should buck up this time, but he did just give them a few empty words. Let me put them out here: "[The] Government recognizes the unique challenges . . ."

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — From the federal Throne Speech, we have the words of the federal government saying that they have plans, that they'll take action, that they'll deal with short-term needs, that they'll create separate, more effective farm programs. Well in the meantime, what do they say farmers should do? Buck up. What do they say, what do they say we

should do? What do they say we should do? Suck up. No, we're not doing . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order. I would ask members, including the minister, to be judicious in the use of language. Order please. Order. Member for Melville-Saltcoats.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that minister is amazing. We saw this NDP government — when AIDA [agricultural income disaster assistance], CFIP [Canadian farm income program] and then the CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] program was put together — we saw that government actually completely gone from the scene, had no input into it. And the federal government designed the program for Saskatchewan. And what have we got? A program that doesn't work.

Now what do we see from that Ag minister with a new federal government, a new federal minister, one that should be at the table having input for our farmers? He does nothing but point the finger and badmouth the federal Minister of Agriculture. How are we going to have any input into the new program when he goes down east? Will the minister explain that to us. How does he expect to have any respect for the federal government speaking like he's been speaking in this House the last week?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — A word of caution also to the member for Saltcoats in terms of inflammatory language. I recognize the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, clearly the member opposite and his party are acting as apologists for the federal government today, and they have a lot to apologize for, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to say that that party came into government saying they would do something. We need action. We need it now.

Mr. Speaker, on the loaf of bread, on the label of the loaf of bread that APAS was selling, they did not say, write your MLA or your provincial government. They know where the problem is. They know where the solution is. Mr. Speaker, it's in Ottawa. They say write your MP.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to do more. We're going to Ottawa, and we're going to talk to that federal minister, and we're going to talk to the other MPs. And we're going to do everything we can to get them to put that solution forward in concrete terms and to do it now. That's what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, and we're doing it next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe the minister should read the column in pretty near every rural newspaper this week. It's an article under the headline and I quote, Mr. Speaker: "Wartman shouldn't lecture farmers." And let me quote further from the same article:

. . . maybe anyone sitting in a cushy government office in Regina making a six-figure salary would want to be [more] careful . . . [as] coming across as condescending.

Well the minister has offended every farmer in this province, offended every farm family in this province, and now he's working on offending the new federal government and the new Ag minister that we need, Mr. Speaker. We need the federal Ag minister to come to bat for our farmers, and we don't need that minister offending those people at a time of need in Saskatchewan. Will the minister apologize for what he has said towards a federal Agriculture minister, heal relations, and get to the table and make a program we need in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes . . . Order. Order please. Order. Order. The . . . Order. Order. Order. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Mr. Speaker, clearly there is the evidence; they are simply apologists for the federal party.

Mr. Speaker, I really can't give any credibility to the Sask Party columns that they put out there. Mr. Speaker, last year they were paying to take two words out of *Hansard* and stretch out a big story that they concocted, saying that the Minister of Agriculture was saying, farmers going broke because of business decisions — completely made up by the Sask Party. No credibility, Mr. Speaker. No credibility.

Mr. Speaker, APAS is . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order please. The Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, APAS is saying, write your MP. They know the solution is at the federal government. The national government in Canada must support farmers as national governments do in the US [United States] and the EU [European Union]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member from Swift Current on his feet?

**Mr. Wall:** — Request leave to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you for leave to the members here. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the all the

members of the Assembly a special guest that has joined us halfway through question period from my constituency of Swift Current, the chief administrative officer as we used to refer when we were working together at that point not too many years ago. The city commissioner and an excellent one for the city of Swift Current, Mr. Matt Noble has joined us. I wonder if all members would help me welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Before orders of the day, I wish to table from the Office of the Provincial Auditor a report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on the financial statements of Crown agencies for years ending in the 2005 calendar year, dated April 2006.

#### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

##### Use of Personal Names

**The Speaker:** — Members, I also wish to advise that during oral question period I was able to discern members calling other members by their own personal names. That is something that should not go on, and if it carries on, I will have to interrupt oral question period to put a stop to that. So I ask that not to be done.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, in order to facilitate 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. The House stands adjourned until Friday, 10 a.m. . . . Thursday, Thursday 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:30.]

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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Premier

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Minister Responsible for Seniors

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Minister Responsible for Immigration  
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