



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

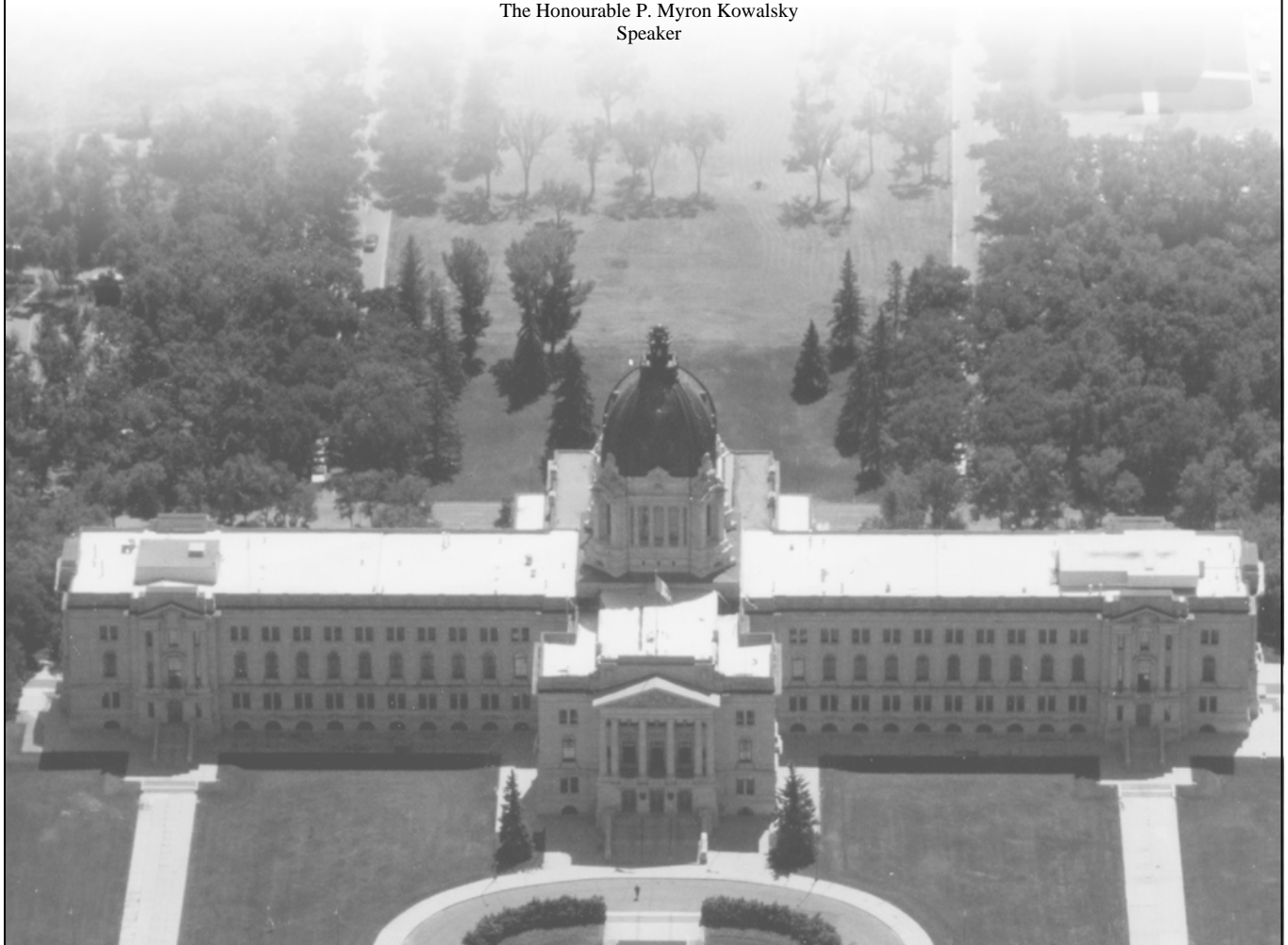
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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
Gantefoer, 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 Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present to the Assembly today regarding a provincial children's hospital in the community of Saskatoon. I read the prayer:

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.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition I present is signed by people from the good city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition on behalf of individuals from the city of Saskatoon on behalf of their request for a children's hospital. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources before the next election to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition regarding a children's hospital in Saskatoon. This is not the first day that this petition has been heard. It's been heard for a number of weeks. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from Saskatoon. I

so present.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to present today.

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.

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

These petitions come from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition to present stressing the need for a provincial children's hospital. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition are all from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition requesting allocation of funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are concerned that children in this province should deserve the finest health care. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition reads:

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 — that's underlined — to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, almost all of the signatures on this petition come from the city of Saskatoon, although I do see one from Warman. I am pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to present. And the prayer reads:

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.

The signatures, Mr. Speaker, are all from the city of Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the lack of a dedicated health care facility for children. And the prayer reads:

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, this petition is signed by individuals all from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I present a petition by people concerned about the provincial children's hospital. The prayer reads:

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.

And as duty bound, your petitioners humbly pray.

I'm pleased to present this petition on behalf of the signators from Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are very concerned that we do not have a children's hospital in this province. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signators to this petition all come from the city

of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition with citizens concerned about the dire need of a children's hospital here in the province of Saskatchewan. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are all from the great city of Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with my colleagues concerned about the lack of pediatric care facilities and services in this province. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

Signatures on this petition today, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Warman and Saskatoon. I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise today to present a petition on behalf of those people in this province who are very concerned about the lack of a children's hospital. And the prayer reads:

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.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the citizens of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present a petition requesting allocation of funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. The prayer reads:

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 before the next election to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of concerned parents across Saskatchewan. They are concerned that Saskatchewan is the only province besides PEI [Prince Edward Island] that does not have a dedicated 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 before the next election to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

The petitioners today live in Sutherland, Erindale, Arbor Creek and Silverspring in northeast Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with my colleagues I'd like to present a petition on behalf of people that are getting quite upset with the lack of commitment by this NDP [New Democratic Party] government toward a children's hospital in Saskatoon. And the prayer reads:

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 before the next election to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This is signed in total by the good citizens of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too arise to present a petition for a children's hospital. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources before the next election to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of the fair

city of Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with my colleagues in presenting a petition.

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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed by the good citizens from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I arise also with my colleagues.

That a health facility focusing specifically on the areas of pediatric patient care, disease and injury prevention, pediatric health education, and research would best optimize the safety, health, and welfare of our children.

And the prayer ends:

As in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

From the good people of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I too rise today to present a petition requesting an allocation of funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by concerned citizens from the constituencies of Saskatoon Riversdale, Saskatoon Eastview, and Saskatoon Fairview. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I also join with my colleagues in opposition rising on behalf of citizens concerned about the need for improved pediatric patient care in the province of Saskatchewan. The prayer of their petition is 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 resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

The petitioners are all from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14 are hereby read and received as additions to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 4, 7, 8, 644, and 669.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 50 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001?

I give notice that I shall on day no. 50 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: how did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001?

I give notice that I shall on day no. 50 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001? If so, what is the nature of this activity?

I give notice that I shall on day no. 50 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: what did management of the department find as a result of its monitor of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001?

I give notice that I shall on day no. 50 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001, such as

information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

I have similar questions for the year 2002, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

[13:45]

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice, the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly, victims services volunteers who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to serving victims of crime in this province. They are here today in recognition of the first National Victims of Crime Awareness Week which kicks off today across the country.

I ask that each volunteer stand as I introduce them: Mr. Spence Bourassa, Regina victims services; Ms. Lori Campbell, Regina victims services; Ms. Holly Degelman, Regina victims services; Mr. Phillip Gunther, Regina victims services; Ms. Heather Kurz, Regina victims services; Ms. Pat Lee, Regina victims services; Ms. Deanne Brown, Regina region victims services; Ms. Carol Glowa, Regina region victims services; Ms. Joann McKay, Regina region victims services; Mrs. Joyce Warriner, Regina region victims services; Mrs. Sharon Wilde, Regina region victims services; Mrs. Jackie Calvert, who has 12 years of service with Moose Jaw and district victims services; Ms. Peggy Johnson, Moose Jaw and district victims services; Ms. Mary Rose Reid, Moose Jaw and district victims services; Ms. Sandra Sparkes, who also has 12 years of service with Moose Jaw and district victims services.

I invite all members of the House to welcome these volunteers and recognize them for their contributions to the people of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition would like to join in welcoming these hard-working individuals to their Assembly.

We recognize the hard work and commitment that this role takes. We very much value their services. They are assisting individuals who are probably going through some of the most traumatic and difficult times in their lives after they have been a victim of a crime. In my practice I have had occasion to deal with individuals that have dealt with some of these people and have heard only the very best comments and favourable remarks about them.

And on behalf of this side of the House I would like to thank them for their continuing hard work and would like to welcome them to their legislature today. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Nutana, the Minister of Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery today are 23 public servants from the departments of Agriculture and Food, Corrections and Public Safety, the electoral office, the Environment department, Health, the Legislative Library, the office of honours and protocol, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Highways, and the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as part of a program that goes on for public servants in our province, these members of the public service are visiting the legislature today to receive an in-depth history and tour of our Legislative Building. They've received briefings from the library, I think from the Office of the Clerk, as well as Executive Council. They're now here to observe the proceedings, and then they have an opportunity to meet with members of the official opposition and the government this afternoon as well as yourself, Mr. Speaker.

I know that the public service in this province provide important public programs to our citizens. I'm pleased that they're able to be here for the day, and I would ask all members to welcome them to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister in welcoming the public servants to their legislature this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, little has been taken for granted by people of this province when it comes to the role of the public service. We here in this Chamber enact the laws in the best interests of the people, but the public servants are the people that give it life and give it meaning and give it interpretation to the citizens of our province. We owe them a great deal for the work that they do, and it's wonderful that they're here today. And on behalf of the official opposition, we'd like to join in welcoming you to your legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to all the members of this Legislative Assembly, 55 students from St. Angela Merici School in the west gallery. And they are accompanied by teachers Jim Walker and Wendy Gervais.

And I'm looking forward to meeting with them later on in the afternoon and having an opportunity to talk with them about what they observe in the session here. And I would like all to join with me in welcoming them here today. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina

Elphinstone.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you two individuals seated in the Speaker's gallery. If I could get them to stand when I name them. They are Arielle Zerr and Alyssa Fullerton.

Now of course these two individuals are no strangers to this Legislative Assembly because of course Arielle was a Page during the last session and Alyssa is of course her friend and visited this Assembly quite often.

But they're here today in more of an official capacity. I believe they're here to get ready for the 12th biennial Western Youth Parliament which is going to be taking place on the May long weekend. And in the government in that youth parliament, Mr. Speaker, Alyssa is going to be the minister of intergovernmental affairs and Arielle is going to be the premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. McCall: — So Premier Zerr has gone from being Page one session to premier the next. So it's a meteoric rise, Mr. Speaker. Anyway, I'd ask all members to please join me in welcoming them to their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Tribute to Canadian Soldiers Killed in Afghanistan

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday four members of the Canadian Armed Forces made the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country on operations in Afghanistan. Corporal Matthew Dinning, Bombardier Myles Mansell, Lieutenant William Turner, and Corporal Randy Payne were the victims of a roadside bomb.

These individuals placed the national and collective security of both Canada and the Afghan people before their own. One could argue that there is no greater example of humanity than those that put the well-being of others before themselves.

All members should recognize the valuable work these men did not only in serving Canada, but the work they did to bring security, democracy, freedom, and stability to the people of Afghanistan.

We should also be very proud of the hard work that all of the men and women of our Armed Forces are doing to improve the lives of the people of Afghanistan. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of these soldiers, and our thoughts and prayers are with them throughout this difficult time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Victims of Crime Awareness Week

Mr. Trew: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in honour of the first national and provincial Victims of Crime Awareness Week, I will share a testimonial. Open quotations:

On December 12, 1999, my family's world came crashing down. At approximately 1:30 AM, our youngest son and a police officer came to our door with the horrible news that our oldest son and his brother had been cut in a bar fight.

We left the house right away to go to the hospital to see him. We had only driven 50 feet when a police officer stopped us to tell us that our son and brother had passed away. We carried on to the hospital to see our son and brother, just to make sure they had the correct person. We couldn't believe something like this could happen to our family.

We went into the emergency room and went to be with him. When we came out of the room, a few minutes later, Maxine was there. Maxine, we found out, was with Victim Services Estevan. We knew nothing about Victim Services or what to expect.

Maxine comforted us at the hospital and has been with us since that day. She has made numerous trips to our house, the court house, and has offered to go to Regina, Saskatoon, or Prince Albert with us for sentencing, appeals, the upcoming parole hearing, and anything that has to do with our lives since that night. She has been a source of comfort for all of us including not only myself but also our son and my husband.

I don't have a clue what would have happened if there had not been a Victim Support Service here when this happened to us. After our encounter with Maxine at Victim Services, I cannot imagine what it would have been like [not] to do it on our own. She truly has been an angel.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

More Services Needed for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House to speak about a neurological disorder that affects many children in this great province and one which deserves further attention by this government.

The neurological disorder that I speak of is autism spectrum disorder, ASD. In Saskatchewan the number of children being diagnosed with ASD is high, 1 in 251 in the year 2003, and the rate of increase is alarming. For a variety of reasons the provisions of the much needed resources to provide the proven intensive behavioural intervention therapy is not yet available in the province of Saskatchewan.

I rise today to ask the government to act on the

recommendations made in February 2005 by the Government of Saskatchewan caucus committee on human services to the Saskatchewan Minister of Health.

These recommendations called upon the minister to coordinate among the necessary departments and stakeholders to formulate a comprehensive provincial ASD treatment program; to provide adequate, effective, and early treatment based on this program; to increase the early diagnosis of children with ASD; provide respite and family support more accessible; and to make access to specialized equipment and supplies based on need; and to support a regional autism service provider program; and to ensure ASD adult services and supports are accessible; and to encourage and support autism-related research in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the province is in a unique position to be at the forefront of providing the necessary resources and support to those in communities who need it most. Mr. Speaker, the government has had since February 2005 to provide this. We call on them to do this now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Recognition of Saskatchewan Volunteers

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, this morning at United Way Connects we raised the flag for National Volunteer Week, April 23 to April 29. The theme, Volunteers Grow Community, is especially true in Saskatchewan. As we look back on our proud history, we see very clearly that helping others is something that just comes naturally to the people of this province.

Volunteers are the foundation for more than 5,000 incorporated charities and 12,000 cultural and recreational organizations, and represent over \$1 billion annually in delivery of services and programs to Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, it's the enthusiasm, energy, and commitment of our volunteers that enables thousands of community-based organizations to provide services and support to hundreds of thousands of individuals.

As Chair of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, I'm extremely proud of the work that has been done by the members of the joint steering committee to strengthen the relationship between government and Saskatchewan's voluntary sector to assist volunteer organizations in effectively fulfilling their mandates. By fostering a greater and richer understanding of each other's processes and challenges, we create yet another innovative first for the nation and we come closest to realizing the goal of a Saskatchewan where no one is left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing our volunteers and their enormous contribution in making Saskatchewan the best place to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Westside Irrigation Project

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Wednesday between 200 and 300 people attended a westside irrigation project meeting in Conquest, west of Outlook. They came to hear the findings of an initial report about the feasibility of irrigating up to 370,000 acres from Lake Diefenbaker on the west side of the South Saskatchewan River from Macrorie to Harris, Delisle, and Perdue.

Project steering committee Chair Doug Ball gave an overview of the progress to date, and two engineers contracted to provide initial insight as to project viability went into more detail. The mayors of Rosetown and Outlook and councillors from five rural municipalities as well as scores of farmers and business people were at the meeting to show their support, which came in the form of a unanimous vote to press forward with the project. This means local farmers and their governments are prepared to invest more dollars into the project. However, for the westside irrigation project to move forward, it will require funding and co-operation from both levels of senior government.

Now what must happen for the project to become reality is getting more than just farmers' support. *The Outlook* newspaper quotes Roger Peterson, Chair of the Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association, as saying:

It all comes down to one thing, and that is political will. Studies have been done, economics show it works. It's been proven time and time again. Irrigation is a great economic benefit to the province. It is a matter of politicians realizing it and doing something. Plain and simple.

To members on both sides of the House I say, I couldn't have said it any better than Mr. Peterson, who fairly represented the sentiments of the meeting. The project has been on hold for over 30 years. It's time to get moving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

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

Crystal Clear — A Play About Crystal Methamphetamine

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, It was my pleasure on Saturday afternoon to attend *Crystal Clear*, a play written, produced, and performed by the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company in Saskatoon. This play is an educational piece directed towards young people detailing the horrors of crystal methamphetamine, crystal meth.

Mr. Speaker, this cast and the award-winning company was comprised entirely of youth with potential. These young actors are all overcoming challenges and are well on their way to obtaining educational or career goals and aspirations.

I'm pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that the government was well represented in the audience of this performance. My colleagues,

the members from Saskatoon Massey Place, Saskatoon Sutherland, Saskatoon Centre, and Regina Dewdney joined with the member from Saskatoon Northwest to watch the performance.

At the end of the performance, Mr. Speaker, all those who attended were invited to a question and answer session that was hosted by these courageous and talented young people. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that all the government members stayed. At the session the performance told their various stories, all of which involved addiction experiences, including crystal meth.

I would like to congratulate the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company on the success of the production *Crystal Clear*, which will be performed in approximately 30 schools across Saskatchewan. I would also like to congratulate the talented cast who had the courage to answer questions about such difficult experiences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 23 to 29 is National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I had the opportunity to attend the kick-off this morning at the F.W. Hill Mall on behalf of the opposition. I've heard stories from people such as Yvonne Wedrick who talked about losing her daughter. She spoke on behalf of donors' families. She lost her young daughter in a playground accident and they had talked, her and her husband, before about donating organs, and in this situation that's what they did.

Also heard testimony from David Milliken who is a young heart transplant recipient and how his life had absolutely changed after receiving his heart. Also Dale Banks talked about being one of those that are waiting on the list for organ donations. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it was a great opportunity to make people aware of the absolute need for organ donation, when you hear testimonials like these. It doesn't take a lot.

How to donate organs. Talk about it with your family or next of kin about your wishes. Sign your organ and tissue donor card and put the sticker on your health card. To get one of these organ donor cards contact Sask Health or Sask Transplant.

Mr. Speaker, the saying on the back of the pamphlet I think says it all: it's not what we take with us when we leave this world, it's what you leave behind.

Mr. Speaker, sign the donor cards. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Delivery of Pediatric Services in Saskatoon

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of April, 18-month-old Paige Hanson was admitted into Royal University Hospital because her arm was swollen and she was in excruciating pain. She was treated for infection and given painkillers. After two weeks, baby Paige was sent home limping and without a diagnosis.

By Good Friday she was unable to walk or crawl because of severe swelling of her legs, and again she was screaming in pain. The family doctor left a message for the pediatrician in Saskatoon on Saturday. No one responded or bothered to tell the family doctor that the pediatrician was on holidays.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health: what does he have to say about the breakdown of communication in the Saskatoon Health Region?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do want to thank the member opposite as well for calls that she made to me on Thursday of last week with regards to this case. So I've had the opportunity to review some of the information.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say to members of this House and the public that the circumstances of this case of course are particular to the Saskatoon Health Region and to the family. That having been said and knowing the very difficult circumstances that the family found themselves in, the unfortunate circumstances that the family has found themselves in, Mr. Speaker, I don't know all of the details. I have asked my deputy minister, with permission of the family, in coordination with the quality care coordinators in the province and the chief medical officer for the province, to thoroughly review this situation.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to help the minister with some of those details.

Having heard nothing from Saskatoon by Tuesday, Michelle, Paige's mother, rushed her daughter to emergency at Royal University Hospital. Michelle was told that Paige would require an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] and a bone scan. And at this time, she was informed that the MRI was not working and that she would have to wait three weeks for a bone scan. Paige stayed in the hospital overnight. All that could be done for her without a diagnosis was to continue with the antibiotics and the painkillers.

Mr. Speaker, is this acceptable that an 18-month-old screaming in pain should be forced to wait three weeks for diagnostic testing because of equipment failure and because of waiting lists?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask the member opposite to respect the privacy of the family and at

the same time the internal workings of the Saskatoon Health Region while they also do an investigation into this circumstance.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard on several occasions and now again in the House that the MRI in Saskatoon was not working. I have yet to confirm that the MRI was not working.

I have been informed that a regimen of care was prescribed for young Paige and that there were communications between the health region and the family.

Mr. Speaker, I am not at liberty because in most cases I respect the privacy of individuals within the health system. But I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that the investigation will take into account the work of the professionals and the work of the administration in this case.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the family decided on their own to contact the media, and the family is who is giving me the information.

According to baby Paige's aunt, while they were in the hospital in fact in Saskatoon, they were told by one of the staff that if they weren't happy with the service that they should call their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly].

If that is not an indictment of the failures of the system, I don't even know what is. Even the professionals in the system are so frustrated that they're sending people to the opposition. I was asked to be involved. Mr. Speaker, does the minister think that that's acceptable?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, the simple answer to the question is no. The system is designed to assist people who need care. And to the best of my knowledge at this point, Mr. Speaker, the system had a care regimen in place and a care delivery system that had been worked out for baby Paige. The fact that there was money in the system to cover these costs, the policies were all in place, this is a matter that will be subject to an investigation both by the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority and by the deputy minister in my office.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, Michelle took baby Paige home from the hospital because the hospital was telling her that there is nothing more that they could do without a diagnosis. Paige's condition deteriorated. And I was speaking with Michelle quite frequently. Finally baby Paige started to vomit violently, and she was only sleeping 20 minutes a day and when she was awake, she was screaming. Any time that I spoke with Michelle, I could hear Paige screaming in the background.

Despite the mother's pleas to anyone — to anyone who would listen — to have her daughter referred to children's hospital in Edmonton, nothing was done. That is what I requested of that

minister's office.

Mr. Speaker, why, when a child is so obviously critically ill, is our health care system failing so miserably?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And yes, when the member opposite called my office on Thursday, my office immediately made inquiries of the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority, had been informed that a care regimen was in place and that, I'm told, she was welcome to Saskatoon for a continuation of the care. The family, I understand, left that evening for Edmonton.

Mr. Speaker, through the specialists and family physicians, we have referral mechanisms to Edmonton. And, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the doctors talked to each other, and she did receive very good care at Stollery Hospital in Calgary . . . or in Edmonton.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, no one would give baby Paige a referral. There was a three-week waiting list for testing. There was poor communication from one facility to another. There was a lack of specialists available to look at baby Paige. There was equipment failure, and there was a reluctance by everyone to refer her out of province, including his office.

The quality care coordinator told Michelle to go back to square one. He told Michelle to go back to the family doctor, even though what they needed was diagnostic testing and consultation with specialists. Meanwhile baby Paige had been on painkillers for three weeks. This is an 18-month-old baby, and her parents were no closer to knowing what was wrong with her. Mr. Speaker, this family had done everything that they could do, and they were so desperate that, yes, on Thursday they packed up their car, and they took Paige to the hospital in Edmonton.

Why are families being forced to flee the province to seek urgent medical help?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Families in Saskatchewan should not be forced to seek out-of-province care for help. Mr. Speaker, there may have been some unfortunate circumstances in this case that will be examined when the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority conducts its investigation and when the deputy minister of Health, utilizing the chief medical officer for the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, conduct their investigation.

Mr. Speaker, we understand that families, and particularly families of young children, seek health care when their children, who can't speak, indicate stress. Mr. Speaker, we have to and will be responsive to those needs.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — The problem is the response is too late. According to baby Paige's aunt, it was only after the family left for Edmonton that a call came from the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority. Paige's aunt told a talk show program this morning, and I quote:

It was once they were in the car on the way to Edmonton that I got a phone call saying, don't let them go to Edmonton. We'll have a pediatric doctor look at her immediately.

But they were already on their way. And guess what, Mr. Speaker? Paige was diagnosed in Edmonton within 24 hours with leukemia.

Mr. Speaker, the family had already waited three weeks and was facing an additional three-week wait in Saskatoon. Why could baby Paige get all the testing and diagnosis in Edmonton within 24 hours but was being forced to wait an additional three weeks in Saskatoon?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I indicate that we should not prejudge this case based on the information that's circulating either through secondary information, information in the House, or information that may have been carried on the radios.

Mr. Speaker, all of the advice that is provided in these cases, from the time that a patient presents to the time that decisions are made about care, are handled by professionals who are trained to deal with disease, distress and, in some cases, grief. Mr. Speaker, the system functions extraordinarily well 99.9 per cent of the time. Mr. Speaker, occasionally — and we don't know if it's the case in front of us today — but occasionally there are problems. And, Mr. Speaker, both the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority and Saskatchewan Health, under my jurisdiction, have launched investigations in this regard.

[14:15]

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to remind the minister that I have been talking directly to the mother, and this isn't information just floating out there that I've picked up. The mother and I have been in contact on many occasions. We know that Saskatchewan Health has a policy that if you go out of province for medical treatment, you must get prior approval in order for your medical costs to be covered.

I'd like the Minister of Health to put himself in the shoes of baby Paige's parents. They've had a baby girl screaming in constant pain for three weeks, and they can't get any answers out of this system. They can't even get any testing done. They can't get a referral for out of province, and this baby's condition was getting worse every day.

Mr. Speaker, baby Paige's parents did what any responsible parent would do. Could the minister commit today in covering the family's medical costs while they're in Edmonton?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I'd indicated before, I'm not yet aware of all of the details in the case. And out of respect for a certain amount of respect for the privacy of the family, I can say however that I am aware enough of the care that she received at Stollery hospital in Edmonton, I am aware enough to be able to state that all of her medical costs today or in the future, either in Saskatchewan or in Alberta, will be covered by Saskatchewan Health.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — I would like to thank the minister for that answer. Is his department going to cover the cost for baby Paige from Thursday night going forward until she's returned to Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, there are very specific guidelines with regards to out-of-province care and the costs that are covered by Saskatchewan Health insurance. Mr. Speaker, baby Paige's medical care is covered whether she's in Saskatchewan or Alberta. It would have been covered previously. It's covered going forward.

There are costs that are not covered under Saskatchewan's insurance, Mr. Speaker, for anyone in the province, and that includes travel and accommodation. So travel and accommodation costs — to be clear, Mr. Speaker — are not covered. All of her medical costs are indeed covered.

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

Future Children's Hospital in Saskatoon

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if anything highlights the urgent need for a children's hospital in Saskatoon, it's this case. These parents were told they would have a very long wait to see a pediatrician. And they had no choice but to take matters in their own hands. Parents in Saskatchewan shouldn't be forced into doing that, Mr. Speaker.

A children's hospital in Saskatoon would be a resource for the entire province. A children's hospital would be a magnet for research. A children's hospital would help our province retain the specialists they need.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government stop talking and begin working on behalf of the children of Saskatchewan? Can the minister commit to starting today?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact on May 11, 2005, this government made the announcement that we are committed to the building of a children's hospital or a hospital within a hospital in the city of Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of this period of time, from May

11 of last year until today, the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority has been doing two things, including an assessment of all of facilities in Saskatoon, so that the children's hospital within a hospital will fit in an appropriate matter. And, Mr. Speaker, they've been doing the planning necessary to bring forward a complete budget request.

Mr. Speaker, we have supported the need for a children's hospital or a children's facility within Saskatchewan for some time now, and we are continuing to be committed to that.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, this government talks a lot, but there's no action. The people in Humboldt were promised a new hospital in August 1999. They're still waiting, Mr. Speaker.

Last year parents across Saskatchewan heard supportive noises from the former minister of Health about the need for a children's hospital. But there was nothing in this year's budget to get that project started.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit today to moving this along and getting it started today?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I like my predecessor, the member from Regina Lakeview, and this government are 100 per cent committed to a children's hospital, a hospital within a hospital in Saskatoon.

We have provided resources to the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority to proceed with the planning process in this regard. Mr. Speaker, we cannot begin to put forth a request for proposals with regards to tenders until such time as the necessary planning has been done. Saskatoon Health Region is discussing with the senior medical people as to what the needs are and the way in which it's configured within the facilities in Saskatoon.

And, Mr. Speaker, we remain committed. We will see this project go ahead in the very near future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, the minister may be interested to know that last week I had a meeting with the doctor spearheading the effort to get a children's hospital in Saskatoon at their request. They're tired of waiting. They're fed up with the promises. They want to get started now.

Mr. Speaker, how much longer will they have to wait? How much longer will parents in Saskatchewan have to wait? How many more children like baby Paige Hanson will be left behind by this NDP government before something is done? Enough planning, it's time for action, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the member opposite didn't mean to say what he said when he said, enough planning; build it. Mr. Speaker, I believe in planning. I believe in doing a thorough job of doing the right thing at the right time in the right place.

The Saskatoon Regional Health Authority has been given the responsibility of doing the planning. They've been given the fiscal resources to do that planning. They are in the process of doing that planning. Mr. Speaker, this project will happen.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Quality of Health Care

Mr. Wall: — Well Mr. Speaker, you can forgive Saskatchewan people for being a little doubtful about the minister's comments because they've been planning for a hospital in Preeceville for six years, in Humboldt for ten years. Mr. Speaker, who knows how long in Moosomin? Press releases are one thing; action is quite significantly different.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. We have heard him in his Throne Speech, and his ministers and himself almost every day stand up and say . . . give us the slogans. They're not going to leave anyone behind. No one will be left behind on the pathway to opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, clearly Paige Hanson was left behind. Her family has been left behind. They had to watch her lose the use of her legs. They had to watch her, unable to ease her suffering, the screaming in pain that went on for days in that household, Mr. Speaker. And yet somehow there was no place for her in the Saskatchewan health care system.

My question is to the Premier: the Premier, is he satisfied with the minister allowing an internal departmental investigation or will he do the right thing today and announce an independent investigation into this incident so that no other parent, so no other child has to face this kind of suffering again, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, in this circumstance, I believe the Minister of Health has taken the very appropriate action upon being informed about the circumstance facing this young child. The minister has asked not only of the Saskatoon region a thorough investigation, but he has instructed his own department, through its deputy and the chief medical officer and quality care coordinators, to do the investigation of the circumstances in this case, Mr. Speaker. He has also assured the family, this legislature, and the people of Saskatchewan that the medical costs for this child will be borne by the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we are building, as best we can, a high-quality health care service in Saskatchewan. Today, Mr. Speaker, there are literally thousands of people who are being served by the health care professionals in this province — by our hospitals, by our doctors and nurses, and in long-term care. Thousands of people are being served on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker. And they are doing that without call, without call on their ability to pay, Mr. Speaker. That's the fundamental principle, and we are delivering good, quality health care in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the mom and dad of Paige would probably disagree. Others, whose case we have raised at this Assembly would disagree with the Premier about the quality of care they're getting from this NDP health care system.

Mr. Speaker, we know, we know that in this case referrals were even requested. Out-of-province referrals were requested and not approved, and not approved until they had to go on their own and drive all the way to Edmonton to seek care for Paige.

Mr. Speaker, something has gone seriously wrong. Not only in this case but in others that we have raised. I wonder, would the Premier answer this question: why could Paige get the diagnosis and the treatment, the beginnings of the treatment that she needs within 24 hours in Edmonton? And why was our system here, under the NDP government, unable to provide it after weeks, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that's precisely what the Minister of Health has asked both the Saskatoon region and his own department to probe the answers to.

Now the Leader of the Opposition across there, he talks about the New Democratic Party health care system in this province. You bet it's a New Democratic Party health care system in this province. It's a commitment to care that's not based on your ability to pay. That's the fundamental principle of this government and this party.

I challenge the Leader of the Opposition opposite, so what is the Sask Party version of health care in this province, Mr. Speaker? What kind of a third way does he have planned if he had an opportunity, Mr. Speaker?

It's one thing, Mr. Speaker, to criticize the system, and it's appropriate when there are flaws that we discover those flaws and do the repair, Mr. Speaker. But, you know, if you're going to be credible, you need stand up and provide some alternative, Mr. Speaker, some alternative other than saying, other than saying, well the solution, I guess, is we should have cut further taxes in this budget, or we should have put more money in this budget. Mr. Speaker, we need some practical solutions, the kind

of solutions we achieve by working with medical professionals but based, Mr. Speaker, on the fundamental principles.

[14:30]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Premier, this NDP government presides over the longest waiting lists for health care in the country. He says he's proud of health care in the country. Day after day we bring forward cases of people who have been let down and betrayed by that Premier's health care system which seems to be more about ideological rhetoric in the 1940s than it is about health care in 2006 for people like Paige Hanson, Mr. Speaker. That's what it seems to be about.

This year's budget has \$3 billion plus 380 million more dollars. And that's their solution: to have press releases about the amount of funding that's gone on and no direction from this government as to what they're going to do to ensure that that money is getting to the frontline and not being deflected in administration, Mr. Speaker.

Here's an opportunity for that Premier to stand up and say, we need an independent investigation into this case — a pediatrician from outside the province, some authority from outside Saskatchewan or independent of any government office — to find out what happened with respect to Paige Hanson. Will he commit to that today in this Legislative Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition says one thing in this House and says quite a different thing in his hometown of Swift Current when we're cutting the ribbon on the turning of the sod for the new hospital in Swift Current. What does he say there, Mr. Speaker? He praises the government, praises the system. What does he say in Outlook where we're now creating the new hospital in Outlook? What does he say about that? What does he say about the new MRIs? What does he say about the CT [computerized tomography] scanners that are being put in?

He stands in his place, and he votes against the very budget that put these facilities available to Saskatchewan people. So now we've heard it, Mr. Speaker. He got to his feet today, and he promotes his solution, his solution to health care in our province including issues like for baby Paige. It's an audit of the system. That's what he proposes. That's his one solution. Audit the system. Audit the workers. Audit the professionals as if they're not doing their work, Mr. Speaker.

No, we will work in partnership with the medical professionals, and we will work with administration, and we will work with the people of Saskatchewan to ensure the quality of care that comes to the people of Saskatchewan based on that fundamental principle of medicare — it's not determined by your ability to pay.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Victims of Crime Awareness Week

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today to recognize the first annual National Victims of Crime Awareness Week which runs from April 23 . . .

The Speaker: — Members will come to order. Once again the Chair invites the Minister of Justice to start over.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise . . .

The Speaker: — Order, members. Order. Order. Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today to recognize the first annual National Victims of Crime Awareness Week which runs from April 23 to 29. Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to announce that I have also declared this week Victims of Crime Awareness Week in Saskatchewan. This annual event was formerly known as Victims Services Week.

The purpose of this week is to raise awareness about victim issues and services and laws in place to assist victims of crime and their families. The week will also highlight victim services progress across Canada.

It is also important that we use this week to recognize the dedication of volunteer victims' support workers. Each year nearly 300 volunteers donate 17,000 hours of their time to assist 15,000 victims of crime through police-based victims services programs. This year six volunteers have reached the 10-year plateau in their careers as victims services volunteers. This brings the total to 40 volunteers who have contributed at least 10 years of their lives to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, these volunteer victims' support workers help to put a caring and familiar face on the justice system. They provide comfort, advocacy, and a sense of security to victims of crime and help to reduce the trauma experienced by victims during their involvement with the criminal justice process. Through the dedicated work of victims services volunteers, Saskatchewan Justice is better able to respond to the needs of victims in a meaningful and compassionate way. The Saskatchewan government is pleased to help raise awareness of victims' issues, needs, and services and recognize the contributions of all victims services volunteers.

We encourage all people across Saskatchewan and all Canadians to promote National Victims of Crime Awareness Week by joining crime victims, their families, victim advocates, and justice professionals planning and taking part in the activities to mark the week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition recognizes as well the importance of Victims of Crime Awareness Week. The opposition is committed to raising awareness about victims' issues and services and laws that are in place to assist victims of crime and their families.

We also this week honour the volunteers who work to assist victims of crime through police-based victims services programs and through government-based programs. We recognize the care, compassion, dedication, and commitment that those workers have. It is particularly important here in Saskatchewan that we recognize the serious effects that crime has on its victims and on their families.

It's also important to note, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan under the NDP government has become the crime capital of Canada. The NDP government has failed to keep its promise from the 1999 election to hire 200 new police officers.

We have the highest overall crime rate in Canada and a violent crime rate double that of Ontario. We unfortunately and tragically have the highest youth crime rate in Canada. The worst crime record in Canada over the past ten years belongs to Saskatchewan, the worst violent crime record in Canada for the past 7 years, and the highest concentration of youth gang members per capita. It's estimated that there are 1,315 youth gang members in Saskatchewan. This has translated into high levels of crime victimization in Saskatchewan.

It is essential that we do more to assist the victims of crime and support the many community-based organizations that provide assistance to victims of crime. It is important that we have a government in Saskatchewan that will be proactive in reducing crime.

We have also argued that the NDP needs to be more proactive in taking steps to reduce addictions in our province which are one of the main causes of crime. We also recognize the need to deal with property crime and victims of property crime as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Condolences

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I wish to advise members that earlier today I have expressed condolences on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to the family, friends, and legislative colleagues of Jobie Nutarak, Speaker of the legislature of Nunavut, who died Saturday, April 21, while out on his snowmobile on a hunting trip.

Speaker Nutarak represented Pond Inlet in Nunavut's legislature since the territory was created in 1999 and was selected as Speaker in the year 2004.

Jobie Nutarak leaves behind his wife, Joanna, and five children.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, I'll be tabling responses to written questions no. 908 to 923 inclusive.

The Speaker: — The responses to 908 to 923 inclusive have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 60 — The Evidence Act/Loi sur la preuve

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

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

Mr. Speaker, The Evidence Act repeals and replaces The Saskatchewan Evidence Act and The Recording of Evidence by Sound Recording Machine Act. The Evidence Act governs the issues of evidence in matters over which the province has jurisdiction. The Canada Evidence Act, Mr. Speaker, governs matters within federal jurisdiction. The Saskatchewan Act deals primarily with the evidence of witnesses and the proof of documents and records.

The Evidence Act updates the current Saskatchewan evidence Act, much of which has not been changed in the last 100 years. The present Act is a mixture of provisions based on 19th century English statutes and more recent provisions meant to deal with contemporary Saskatchewan problems. Because the Act has never been reviewed for consistency between the various provisions, Mr. Speaker, some issues of interpretation arise. As well the Act presents issues of unclear terminology, obsolete references, and antiquated language.

The new Act also includes the provisions now contained in The Recording of Evidence by Sound Recording Machine Act. This Act provides that court proceedings may be recorded and sets out procedures for transcription, destruction, and preservation of records. As with The Saskatchewan Evidence Act, this Act has not been reviewed in some time and is out of date.

The goal of the revision is to re-enact the legislation in a more user-friendly version so that the Act may be more easily understood. To this end, significant consultations with Saskatchewan judges and lawyers have occurred in the development of the new evidence Act.

Mr. Speaker, in re-enacting the legislation, some updating has been necessary. As I mentioned, many of the provisions have not been changed in 100 years. As well a fair bit of reorganization of provisions has occurred. The Act contains new definitions intending to clarify terms used throughout the Act.

Definitions of action and matter describe the types of civil matters covered by the legislation. Mr. Speaker, the Act applies to all proceedings within provincial jurisdiction including actions and matters in the civil realm and quasi-criminal proceedings such as prosecutions under provincial statutes.

Court is defined generally as an entity authorized to hear witnesses, take evidence, make orders or exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial function. This definition makes it clear that the Act will apply to entities such as boards and commissions, public inquiry commissioners, and arbitrators.

Mr. Speaker, spouse has been defined in the legislation. The definition refers to a legally married spouse or a person in a spousal relationship for two or more years. This reflects the definition of spouse that has been developed by the courts and is used in other Saskatchewan legislation. The definition comes into play in the provisions relating to the compellability to give evidence. Consultees asked for guidance in the legislation respecting rules for determining what the laws of other jurisdictions are. These rules are not presently well understood. New provisions will provide clarification. Mr. Speaker, the general rule respecting competence and compellability is that every person is competent and compellable to give evidence in a proceeding. However spouse witnesses may refuse to disclose communications made during the spousal relationship.

An exception to the rule respecting spouse witnesses has been expanded. The new provision states that if a spouse brings an action against his or her spouse, or a child brings an action against one or both spouses, the spouses are compellable to disclose communications during their marriage. The effect of this change is to extend the current provision beyond toward actions by spouses and to include actions brought by a child.

Another new provision based on a provision in the Canada Evidence Act provides that in a prosecution, the failure of an accused to testify or the refusal of a spouse to disclose a marital communication is not to be the subject of comment by the court or prosecutor.

The Act provides that evidence with respect to proceedings before quality improvement committees is privileged. Provision has been updated in light of changes in the health care system. New definitions of committee and health services agency reflect the fact that quality improvement committees are no longer confined to hospitals. Committee activities occur in a range of health services agencies including the regional health authorities, health care organizations, and other facilities.

Mr. Speaker, the current Act provides that the reports of doctors, dentists, and chiropractors are admissible without proof of the professional signature, qualifications, or licence. This provision has been updated as a result of our consultations with judges. The new provision which expands a list of professionals to include psychologists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists reflects the current practice of the Court of Queen's Bench in relation to health care treatment reports.

The Act states that proposed witnesses may swear an oath or make an affirmation. Reflecting current practice, each option is given equal weight. Witnesses may take an oath in any form that binds their conscience. The goal is to ensure witnesses find

the court experience to be inclusive and relevant to them.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions presently contained in The Recording of Evidence by Sound Recording Machine Act have been updated. The provisions were developed when tape recorders were the latest in technology, and of course much has changed since that time. Consultations with personnel working in the courts have ensured that provisions reflect current practice.

Mr. Speaker, provisions dealing with judicial notice and the proof of public documents have been substantially revamped as they are very much out of date. This has involved updating and reorganizing provisions and modernizing language. The new Act will require that judicial notice be taken of federal, provincial, and British legislation, federal and provincial proclamations, constitutional documents, and international treaties. Judicial notice will also be taken of Aboriginal treaties that are published by the Queen's Printer of Canada. Modern publication practices have allowed this list to be significantly expanded.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions respecting business records have been rewritten to reflect changes in the business world. For example, provisions respecting banking records have been expanded to include the records of similar financial institutions. Provisions in the current Act relating to vulnerable witnesses and electronic documents are recent and did not require significant updating.

Mr. Speaker, The Evidence Act is being re-enacted in French and English. This, along with the clear language and the new provisions, will help make the Act more accessible to members of the public.

As I mentioned, significant consultations with the Saskatchewan judges and lawyers have occurred in the development of the new Evidence Act. The bench and the bar are pleased that the revision will provide clarification to judges, lawyers, and others interpreting The Evidence Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Evidence Act.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 60, The Evidence Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak briefly on the second reading debate of the An Act respecting Evidence and Witnesses, making consequential amendments to other Acts and repealing The Recording of Evidence by Sound Recording Machine Act.

Mr. Speaker, the minister in his comments made very extensive reference to the fact that there are really two major components to this legislation as I understand it. The first is to update the terminology and the way the courts reflect the technology that has changed much over the last course of years and certainly over the last hundred years to reflect the fast-moving technological changes that are occurring in presenting evidence and recording it.

Mr. Speaker, the minister also outlined a number of new provisions that further reflect changes to the legislation that we now have on the provincial statutes. And, Mr. Speaker, it seems as if all of these changes have been well-thought-out and are appropriate to improving the legislative framework in our province.

The minister mentioned that this was done as a result of a serious amount of consultation between the judiciary and the lawyers of the province. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that the official opposition is going to want to consult with these individuals as well to make sure that the legislation is thorough and complete and nothing has been overlooked. And in order for that process to occur, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate of second reading of Bill No. 60, The Evidence Act be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

[14:45]

Bill No. 61 — The Evidence Consequential Amendments Act, 2006

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Evidence Consequential Amendments Act, 2006. Mr. Speaker, this Act makes consequential amendments to English Acts resulting from the passage of the new evidence Act.

Mr. Speaker, The Evidence Act is being passed in English and French and includes consequential amendments to other Acts that have been passed in both English and French. Consequential amendments to Acts passed in English only require a separate Bill. The consequential amendments update the name of the Act and section references.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Evidence Consequential Amendments Act, 2006.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 61, The Evidence Consequential Amendments Act, 2006 be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This piece of legislation is very much parallel and in tandem with Bill No. 60, The Evidence Act, that I previously spoke about. Mr. Speaker, it certainly is important that this legislation is being passed in both official languages, and it is appropriate that this legislation follows the legislative course of Bill No. 60. So in order for that to be streamlined, I would move at this time to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 61 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. 50 — The Queen's Bench (Mediation) Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine (médiation)

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Queen's Bench (Mediation) Amendment Act, 2006. This Act amends the mediation provisions in The Queen's Bench Act, 1998, The Children's Law Act, The Family Maintenance Act, 1997, and The Small Claims Act, 1997.

The mandatory mediation program in The Queen's Bench Act, 1998 requires that mediation occur early in the civil litigation process in non-family litigation. The requirement to engage in a mandatory mediation session applies in the judicial centres of Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Battleford.

Mr. Speaker, the integration of mediation into our Queen's Bench court process began more than 10 years ago. It has been extremely successful in assisting parties resolve civil disputes early in the litigation process on a consensual basis. Court statistics show that following mediation session, minutes of settlement or notices of discontinuance are filed in over 30 per cent of the cases. A number of other cases simply have no further action once the mediation session has been completed.

One of the key components of this early dispute resolution is providing the parties and their legal counsel an opportunity to speak freely without the fear of the comments being taken out of context or being used against them at some future time. The parties can discuss issues and potential solutions openly.

The mediation provision in The Queen's Bench Act, 1998 provides restrictions on the admissibility in any action or matter before the court of evidence arising out of the mandatory mediation. Thus this information cannot be used in court.

This legislative amendment provides that evidence directly arising from anything said in the course of mediation is not admissible in any civil, administrative, regulatory, or summary conviction proceeding. The pre-trial conference provision in The Queen's Bench Act, 1998 includes the same confidentiality provision. It is amended in the same way. The amendment clarifies that only evidence directly arising from anything said during the course of mediation should be excluded. The same evidence otherwise obtained should be admissible. This change was requested by some members of the legal community, and other members agree that it is a beneficial change.

A number of other statutes provide for mediation and include the same confidentiality provision. The Children's Law Act has a mediation provision in the parts of the Act respecting custody and access. The Family Maintenance Act, 1997 provides that the court may appoint a mediator when a person has applied to a court to establish or vary the amount of maintenance that must

be paid for a child or a spouse. The Small Claims Act, 1997 provides that the judge may direct the parties to participate in a mediation session, and also provides for a case management conference in most small claims actions.

These statutes are being amended in the proposed legislation to include the same changes as are being made to comparable provisions in The Queen's Bench Act, 1998. The consultations that have taken place indicate that this amendment clarifies the confidentiality provisions and will help maintain the integrity of the mediation process. Consultees agree that the changes will enhance the full and frank discussions that are critical to any successful mediation process.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act, 1998 and to enact consequential amendments to certain other Acts.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 50, The Queen's Bench (Mediation) Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak briefly on second reading of The Queen's Bench Act, 1998. Mr. Speaker, I think that in the last decade since compulsory mediation has been the norm in our province, I think that there have been a great many cases where this has been shown to be a much preferred route than what we had prior, where it was into immediate and automatic litigation.

Mr. Speaker, I think that after the decade of usage of this provision of The Queen's Bench Act, I think it has been shown that it has been very valuable, but also that it pointed out some areas that need to be strengthened and improved. And the minister has outlined that following consultations with a number of individuals in the process, that these amendments have been largely supported and agreed to. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to make sure that there is appropriate time for the official opposition to have those same consultations with affected parties and professionals in the field. And in order for that to be facilitated, I move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on Bill No. 50, second reading, be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 32 — The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — Speaking to Bill 32, the Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we're pleased to have this Bill proceed forward today. We recognize as well that's it Victims of Crime Awareness Week. And having said that, Mr. Speaker, we feel that it's appropriate to move this Bill to committee to have further debate.

One of the principles that's behind this Bill is trying to work towards restorative justice. The opposition is highly supportive of the notion of restorative justice. It is a factor that the courts are increasingly using in sentencing.

One of the issues that we have and one of the issues that is not represented in this Bill is the notion of what will happen with victims of property crime. This Bill deals only with victims of violent crime. And while we have the greatest amount of respect and wish to deal with it and be of assistance to the trauma that those victims face, we as opposition members hear increasingly from victims of property crime who have been victims of break-in, victims of minor thefts, and these people are waiting for restitution orders. And unfortunately although there's a great willingness on the part of the court to make those orders, there is no great enforcement mechanism other than to take out a judgment and to deal with remedies in the usual fashion as any other judgment.

It's certainly the position of the opposition that this willingness on the part of the offender to try and make restitution and try and make the victim economically whole should be something that should be considered by the courts as a factor in sentencing. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we would be prepared to allow this Bill to proceed to committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 32, The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 32, The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 32 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 47

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 47 — The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this Bill is one of a number of Bills that moves our various regulatory system forward. In particular, this Bill allows Indian bands to register a business name as a sole proprietorship — in effect allowing a business name to operate a casino, golf course, whatever else they may choose to. So it's certainly progressive in that it recognizes that our First Nations partners are getting active in the business community, creating jobs, and moving forward. And we're certainly very supportive of that.

It also recognizes that professionals will want to carry on business using their surname as part of their professional trading name. It makes necessary changes for that. It also makes a slight change to the three-year registration provision in allowing a month's grace period in allowing names to be registered during that grace period without having the name unnecessarily lapse and possibly run the risk of having somebody else try and register during that period of time.

As we move forward, Mr. Speaker, towards a national economy and a global economy, it's essential that we bring our legislation into compliance with what is taking place in other provinces and in other countries. And this Bill certainly is a step in that direction.

We are supportive, Mr. Speaker, of moving this Bill into committee so that we can go through a consultative process or move forward on a consultative process with the various stakeholders that are affected by this Bill. And, Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to allow this Bill to be voted into committee at this time.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 47, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I move this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 47 be referred to the Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 46

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Serby that **Bill No. 46 — The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, The Snowmobile Act one would think would be a rather innocuous Bill that no one would be taking offence with. However there are certain groups in Saskatchewan that are not happy with this particular Bill or more specifically are not happy with the trail permits being mandatory.

While the snowmobile association and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] are certainly promoting this as a safety factor, there are a good number of people who do not support the forced use of the licensing fee system to go to the support of the trail designations. And fact is I'm told that the registration of snowmobiles has dropped since the mandatory trail fees were placed on the snowmobile licences. So that's a bit of a problem when you're reducing the number of licensed snowmobiles, of snowmobiles with licences, because of the trail registration that has been put in place.

I guess the question has to be asked as to how these funds are going to be administered. They're supposed to be administered by the trail administrator, the trail manager. And yet I think back to the Wildlife Development Fund that was put in place for an additional fee on hunters for wildlife development lands, and yet a few years ago the government sucked money out of that fund, didn't use it for the development of wildlife lands, and used it in the general Consolidated Fund. Are there any guarantees that this money that's supposed to be designated for trail use will not be used for some other use in the GRF [General Revenue Fund]?

So I think those are the kind of things that people are concerned about on this particular piece of legislation, and we'll need answers to that when it comes before committee.

Another thing, Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about on this Bill, and it says, and I quote: "... no person shall operate a

snowmobile on a designated trail situated on private land . . .” I have some very serious concern that this is restricting a person’s access to their own property. If a designated trail traverses their piece of property, can they legally travel from one side of that trail with a snowmobile to the other side of that trail without a trail permit?

[15:00]

You know, it may cross through a farmer or a rancher’s land. He has cattle perhaps in areas on either side of the trail. Can he travel from one side of that trail to the other side of the trail without having to have a licence, without having to have paid the trail fee when he hasn’t even left his own property? I think there’s a concern there that needs to be addressed, that anyone who is allowing a designated trail on private land isn’t losing control, isn’t losing use of their own property.

One of the areas that there was a concern raised to me in the past was the availability of the park’s equipment, their trail grooming equipment, to be utilized on the trails because to the best of my understanding, it is not allowed to be used on trails outside of the park itself.

And so some of the clubs that operate the trails were concerned — why can’t they be paid to utilize their equipment on the parkland rather than parks buying high-priced equipment to do very limited amount of trail? Where what it does for them, is it would give them additional revenue certainly, but it also means that they are making a circuit. They come up to one side of the park; they can’t utilize their equipment. They now have to transport it to the other side of the park and continue to groom the trails, whereas if they were paid to go through the park, they could make a big circuit and end up back at the original spot where they had launched their trail grooming. So there is some very practical reasons why the clubs wanted to be able to do the trail grooming through the parks as well and be compensated for that.

Mr. Speaker, another concern that we have is all the fees will now be set in regulation. What sort of controls will be in place to ensure that this isn’t simply a method to extract money from the snowmobiling population for some other use?

So, Mr. Speaker, these issues are some of the ones that we will be raising in Committee of the Whole when this Bill comes before the committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development that Bill No. 46, The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development, the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 46, The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy Premier that Bill No. 46 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 40

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 40 — The Income Trust Liability Act** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise today to make comments regarding this Bill. Income trusts have become an increasingly popular investment vehicle not just in our province but throughout Canada.

There was a number of small clouds that sort of circulated and hung over income trusts as an investment vehicle. One was the great disaster that the previous federal Finance minister found himself in with regarding leaking certain information on the taxation of income trusts. And fortunately the last federal election has provided a very satisfactory resolution to that particular issue.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is another issue that this Bill is intended to address, and that’s the potential liability for beneficiaries of a trust. And that liability would come by the treatment by the courts of the beneficiaries or participants in an income trust, in the event that the trust lost money or ran into a financial difficulty, and whether the courts would treat the income trust as a partnership and would apportion loss back to the participants in the trust.

This Bill goes towards addressing that problem to prevent the beneficiary from the trust from having that liability. And what participants in an income trust will now have at risk will be their original contribution and only their original contribution. They will not be at risk for anything else unless it’s specifically acknowledged, whether they have signed a guarantee or somehow became involved in a trust otherwise. We’re pleased to see that this Bill addresses that concern because of the increasing popularity of income trusts.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to allow this Bill to go to committee so that we can ensure that there’s been adequate

discussion and consultation with investment brokers and investment dealers throughout the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly, it's been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 40, The Income Trust Liability Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 40, The Income Trust Liability Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 40 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 45

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 45 — The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand and comment for a few minutes on Bill 45, An Act to amend The Local Government Election Act. And basically, Mr. Speaker, these amendments are generally housekeeping in nature, changing some language and such as that.

There's a couple of things that it does do, I'd like to just point out. The amendment allows urban municipalities to hold joint elections with school divisions, and that provides some uniformity with the rural municipalities. It also changes the definition of voter from a person that "is an occupant of property in . . . [an RM] that is used for business purposes;" to a person that "is licensed with respect to property in the . . . [RM] used for business purposes."

It also sets out the date for resignation of a councillor who

wishes to run for reeve and make them correspond to amendments made to The Rural Municipality Act of 2003.

One of the items in this Bill that I think we all would agree with is amendments to this Act will ensure that voters are only allowed one vote regardless if they qualify as a voter twice under the definition. I think we would all agree with that one. Also official agents for candidates must take an oath swearing that they are the official agent, and this actually corresponds with school board election procedures. And a change on election day — which is done provincially, but now for municipal elections — no candidate or official agent or any person is allowed to canvass for votes at a polling station.

Mr. Speaker, there's only one flag that was really raised by myself when I looked at this Bill and the comments by the minister on this Bill. And what was stated was the amendments were developed in consultation with a bunch of different people — the city clerks, SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], administrators.

But that raises a flag because we have heard in the past from that government that they have done consultations, and in fact we know that the consultations have not been thorough and complete. The example is the smoking issue and what resulted with smoking in Native casinos. And so we know that the consultation was not done. And there's other cases, Mr. Speaker, where the consultation process has not really been thorough and has not been accurate, if you wish.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do have some concerns about the consultation process. But all of the issues that I have we can bring up in committee, so I would recommend that this is forwarded to committee at this time.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly, it has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 45, The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — And to which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 45, The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

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

Government Relations that Bill No. 45 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Bill 45 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 35

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 35 — The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi d'interprétation de 1995** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise to make comments on Bill No. 35, The Interpretation Act. In the post-Enron world that we now live in, US [United States] public corporations trade differently. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act has posed a much higher standard of care and burden on directors.

This Bill is probably in recognition of the potential liability that came out of the US court cases and the US legislation and tries to bring this province's legislation into consistency with what is taking place elsewhere. It allows for protection of directors from liability where the liability would arise from their reliance on professionally designated people such as a lawyer or an accountant. It allows them to make reasonable inquiries from those professionals and to rely on the advice that they get. It also allows corporations to purchase insurance and pay for the insurance in advance to allow for the coverage of director's liability to cover these particular situations.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will be seen as progressive and moving our legislation forward. Recruitment of directors for corporations, both public and private, is sometimes a difficult thing to do and largely because of the risk of liability. We are pleased to see this Bill moving forward and would like to see it moved into committee so that we can move on with the consultative process with members of the investment committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 35, The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 35 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 31

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 31 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this Bill recognizes and clarifies the roles of certified general accountants, Society of Management Accountants, and the chartered accountants of Saskatchewan. It recognizes their professional status and allows them specific legislative authority to hold funds for trust accounts, for builders' liens, for royalties, and a variety of other things. It gives them some of the same obligations and liabilities that lawyers have in holding funds and administering funds for other people.

It is a Bill that has been requested and is supported by the three professional bodies supporting accountants. And it is a Bill that hopefully will streamline business operations and allow more options for people that have to have funds held. They can look towards other people and it gives greater diversity. As a lawyer I guess I should be somewhat troubled that it is diluting the areas that I may practise in, but in spite of that I think it is probably a worthwhile endeavour, and we certainly support this Bill moving forward so we can once again participate in the consultative process that will take place in committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 31, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 31, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 31 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. Bill No. 31 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 37 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a companion piece of legislation to The Interpretation Act. It provides indemnity and insurance provisions for directors of certain corporate entities. These would be corporations that would be incorporated under The Business Corporations Act and The New Generation Co-operatives Act, The Credit Union Act, and The Crown Corporations Act. And it specifically allows for corporations to enter into contracts to indemnify directors of the corporation and to acquire insurance in support of that indemnity where the directors have acted in good faith.

The downside to this legislation is the risk that investors or others may have that they may well be precluded from a remedy against the directors. But once we move forward into these, I think it will likely turn out that we want to maintain a fair and equitable balance, and that this moves us back towards a fair playing field where we can find and recruit quality, high-calibre directors. And we've also maintained a reasonable standard for people that are dealing with those corporate entities.

We will once again be prepared to see this Bill move forward into committee so that once again a consultative process can take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly, it's been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 37, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 37, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 37 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 36

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell, that **Bill No. 36 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)/Loi corrective (indemnisation et assurance au profit des administrateurs et dirigeants) de 2006 (n° 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this is a companion Bill to Bill No. 37. It broadens and deals with non-profit corporations and also co-operatives. It contains similar provisions protecting directors and allowing directors to be indemnified by the corporate entities as well as obtaining insurance to protect those individuals. It does certain other things like deals in English and French, and once again would be regarded as a progressive piece of legislation.

We will once again want to go through the consultative process as the Bill moves forward through committee, and am prepared to allow it to go to committee at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 36, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 36 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor, that **Bill No. 43 — The Medical Radiation Technologists Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to join in the debate on An Act respecting Medical Radiation Technologists, Bill No. 43. This Bill looks like it's pretty much a Bill that has been asked by the radiation technologists. It's regarding self-regulation. Certainly they have been calling for this over a number of years — many, many years. And after speaking to them briefly, the Bill looks like it's in order as to what they want to see in the Bill, Mr. Speaker. So I at this time would move it to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion 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?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would move that the Bill be referred to the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 43 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 42

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 42 — The Respiratory Therapists Act** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 42, an Act respecting respiratory therapists amendment Act is again a Bill similar to the previous one. It's been a Bill that has been driven by the association for the most part. It's a Bill that they've wanted for 11 years. They've also been able to have a look at it regarding self-regulation and it looks like it covers most of the bases that they've been interested in.

But I do want to say a little bit about this Bill, and I guess I'm not sure who would lead the association to think that the Bill would go through without some scrutiny, whether it's a planning branch or whoever it is from the government that had relayed some information to this association that the Bill would pass through almost automatically, which is, you know, it's very, very frustrating when you hear associations coming back to us with that type of information. And if they get that information from the government, it is extremely frustrating.

And I know different Bills over a number of years ... I remember The Cities Act and I remember town administrators and town — this was an Act regarding urban municipalities — mayors and such getting back to us saying, how come you're holding this up? Well we're not holding it up; we're making sure the proper scrutiny is done.

So whoever in the government is putting forward information to these associations that Bills will pass through without any scrutiny needs to learn the system a little bit better. Because it would be absolutely delinquent on our part not to do the proper due diligence to make sure these Bills cover what they are intended to cover.

And in this situation with the respiratory therapists, after talking to them it looks like it covers off everything that they're interested in. But I can tell you from years past where Bills have

gone through and associations will come back and say, well that's not quite exactly what we thought was going to be in the Bill, it would be . . . we would be lax in our duties if we didn't hold the Bill up so the associations got to have a look. In this situation I believe, again, it was driven by the association. They've been waiting 11 years for it; it meets their expectations. So I don't see any need to hold it up any longer. So we'd be willing to move this to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 42, The Respiratory Therapists Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall Bill No. 42 be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would move that the Bill be referred to the Crowns and Central Agencies Committee.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 42 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crowns and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Bill No. 42 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crowns and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 41

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 41 — The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 41, The Partnership Amendment Act, is a Bill that again we've looked at and there are some questions that we've looked at and for the most part have been answered. It adds new definition to the Act, defines firms, firm name, Indian band, and person — all useful definitions in the business world. So it sets out provisions that an individual must be 18 to be a partner.

So a number of those changes in the Act have been looked at and certainly we have talked to a number of the stakeholders that are impacted by this Act. For the most part the issue of the changing of names and things like that, firm name, means that

the name under which the firm carries on its business, issues like that. It's more of a housekeeping Act than anything else. So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move — after we've talked to the people that it impacts — we would move this to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 41, The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 41, The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 41 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. Bill 41 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 39

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 39 — The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly pleased to be able to speak to Bill No. 39, an amendment to the watershed authority Act. Mr. Speaker, this Bill is quite short. It has one new clause in it. It deals with the watershed . . . Clause 83.1 gives the Watershed Authority the ability to register notices of complaint against landowners. These notices will be registered on the title.

It deals with drainage that takes place out in rural Saskatchewan, draining water from one parcel of land onto another. This is an issue, Mr. Speaker, that can cause a great deal of friction amongst neighbours and amongst neighbouring communities and municipalities. And particularly in a year like this where in parts of the province we are seeing record runoffs

and record amount of water that is collecting up on farmers' fields, and there's always the desire to have that water drained into a drainage system and eventually finds its way into a creek and then into a river and so on.

And if that in fact is the case, that is quite the most desirable situation. But quite often what happens, Mr. Speaker, is that one landowner will do some drainage work in the fall to drain water that will collect in the spring — and it's called creative landscaping — and it'll drain off into the neighbour's field, and the neighbour ends up with excessive water. And as I said, it has caused in the past and I suspect will cause in the future heightened tensions between landowners and so on. So anything that we can do to deal with the issue, I would say, Mr. Speaker, is certainly a step in the right direction.

[15:30]

But, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to add at this time that there are a group of individuals within our province and without in other provinces who are developing a concept called the alternative land use service. And what that principle or that concept embodies, Mr. Speaker, is that landowners would be paid for the environmental goods and services that they provide.

And up until this point in time, landowners have all the costs associated with water collecting on their fields and none of the benefits. Society will benefit through enhanced wildlife population, the ecosystems of wetlands.

And a lot of this strife and a lot of this desire to drain standing bodies of water off of farmers' fields would be alleviated if the farmers would see some compensation for that particular service that they are providing to society. And so we need to embrace the concept of alternative land use service or ALUS as it's known by its acronym. We need to develop the systems that will allow landowners to be compensated for the environmental goods and services that they are providing.

However having said that, this Bill certainly doesn't have it. It has the legal ability for the Watershed Authority to register notices of complaint against the title which would then impede that piece of property from being sold. Ownership probably wouldn't take place — at least that's my understanding — until that notice of complaint was removed from the title.

There are a number of questions around that whole procedure that we would like to discuss with the minister but, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think we can deal with that in committee. So therefore we are prepared to move this piece of legislation forward to committee.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly read for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is Bill No. 39, The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act, 2006. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that Bill No. 39, The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 39, The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on the Infrastructure . . .

An Hon. Member: — Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — Economy. Sorry. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 38

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 38 — The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act/Loi sur le règlement des différends internationaux relatifs aux investissements** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Madam Speaker, I had said earlier in remarks on another Bill that the fact that Saskatchewan is moving increasing into a national and a global economy, and as such it's necessary to bring our legislation into line with what takes place in other jurisdictions.

This Bill will take a significant step towards that. It will enter into force the convention on the settlement of investment disputes between states and nationals of other states.

It actually is a Bill that goes back and was created in other jurisdictions as far back as 1965. So this is a doctrine or a convention that was in place for actually over 40 years. Canada signed the international convention for the settlement of international investments dispute, and it applies to Saskatchewan when it is entered into force for Canada. So it becomes as such, Madam Deputy Speaker, for our province to pass the enabling legislation for it to come into place in this province.

Under the British North America Act the issue of property and civil rights is something that is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the provinces. So as such it becomes under provincial jurisdiction and as such becomes necessary for the province to enact enabling legislation.

It includes as a schedule the entire convention so that the entire document becomes part of our statutes and it makes changes to incorporate that agreement and to make it applicable in Saskatchewan.

Some of the significant things it will hopefully do is streamline investment dispute mechanisms that will take place between other countries and Saskatchewan. It creates and allows for arbitration proceedings and may preclude people from having access to our courts or tribunals or otherwise.

In certain situations, Madam Deputy Speaker, it becomes necessary to go forward with this where you don't allow things to have direct recourse to the courts. As much as I'm a fan of our court system, it is necessary at times to bring in other parties or other agencies that have specific expertise in dealing with those type of things so as such we can have another entity that has the expertise to deal with it in a professional and a timely manner. So for that reason, Madam Deputy Speaker, we're prepared to let this Bill proceed to committee.

We know that we want to be competitive with other jurisdictions. We want to have a framework, an environment that we can work with other jurisdictions and it's necessary that we enact this and bring this into place as quickly as we can.

We know that we have a large economic force next to us with Alberta and I know we talk about and don't like to talk about but continue to talk about Alberta envy. But if we want to remain competitive, we have to know and accept the fact that Alberta is one of our significant competitors and as such we have to have the appropriate dispute mechanisms in place so that people will want to invest and will see our province as being an attractive place in which to do business.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this type of vehicle will hopefully serve our province well. In the 40 years it's been in existence in other jurisdictions, it has served them well and, as such, Madam Deputy Speaker, we are prepared to allow this Bill to proceed to committee. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 38, The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 38, The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act be referred to the

Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 38, The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act be referred to the Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 44

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 44 — The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Chair. This is an opportunity to put a couple of thoughts in place with regards to this particular Bill. One of the things that we have to make sure in this day and age is that the federations and the associations of people like the teachers or any other professional groups are in fact adequately covered through legislation, that their concerns are met with clear and unequivocal definitions and directions within the legislation.

I think that's been the problem that has accumulated over a number of years with The Teachers' Federation Act. It became a collection of amendments, and it became to the point where a lot of the things were either not up-to-date or not very clear, so in this particular case the amendments in Bill 44 are such that it allows some of the things that you'd normally expect professional groups to be able to do.

It appears then that because there's a lot of consultation with the association, they're very much in favour. I would at this time recommend that this goes to . . .

An Hon. Member: — Others have something to say.

Mr. Wakefield: — Others will have something to say I've been told.

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

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to be here and join in the debate today about The Teachers' Federation Act. Madam Deputy Speaker, in prefacing my remarks, I would like to first of all, on the public record, correct a comment that was made by my colleague, the member from Carrot River Valley, when he entered into the debate. He mistakenly implied that there was some direct connection between the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and funding of the NDP party.

I would like to categorically state that that is not correct, that the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation has been outstanding in

making sure that it doesn't align itself with any political party and very diligent in the fact that it makes sure that there are no dues or fees that are attributed to contributions to any political party.

I think it's also important to state that in their governance and operation bylaws, it states under category 2.9.4, and I'll quote:

The STF . . . [does] not align itself with any political party or group, but encourages its members to be active in the political parties of their choice, in seeking political office and in influencing the electorate on educational matters. The STF will support such individual actions with information and training.

I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is important function to recognize that the Saskatchewan teachers have a critical responsibility in making sure that they educate our children in the political process. And certainly the Social Sciences Teachers' Institute that's sponsored by the provincial legislature is an example to make sure that we, as legislators, have all the tools made available to our teachers that are necessary in order that they properly portray the political process in our province.

So in saying that, I want to make sure that the record is set straight, and I want to thank the teachers for their understanding and the work that they do.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in speaking to the Bill, I've had the opportunity to have consultations with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation; I've had opportunities to talk to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. And they all assure me that this legislation is not designed to change the powers or the responsibilities or the relative balance that there currently exists in existing legislation but is indeed an opportunity for the legislation to be upgraded and modernized in a contemporary framework.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think this is appropriate. Certainly the work that the teachers do — and as represented by their organization, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation — that it's critically important that all components of the education process work together to make sure that the education of our children is indeed done very, very well.

[15:45]

You know, I've often said that there's a special bond between teachers and the parents of this province. When they take their child to their first day of school, when they walk up the school steps with their son or daughter holding onto their finger, it's a very emotional and a special day for parents and these students and I think for teachers as well because there's a special bond that's created between those parents and their expectations for their child and the teaching system and by and large that's embodied by a teacher. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, we can't fail, and we shouldn't fail to articulate the special place that teachers have in developing the citizens of the future.

There's a lot of challenge and stress and strain in the educational process right now with the amalgamation process, with the reality that we're expected to lose almost 4,000 students next year, that we've lost 3,800 students this year. That

creates a great deal of uncertainty and concern for our teachers as they strive to make sure that programs are relevant and that the very best curriculum is being offered to our children. And certainly the profession needs to continue to be diligent and continue to work together with school boards and educators of every type to make sure that the well-being of our children is maintained.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there are a few technical details in this Bill that I think need to be clarified, but certainly that information can be done very comfortably in committee. And I would suggest that we would have no further impediment to adjourning this Bill and indeed would like to see it referred to committee. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 44, The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Learning.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — I move that Bill No. 44, The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Deputy Speaker: — It is moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 44, The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 33

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 33 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, Bill No. 33, an amendment to The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act, is a very short Bill. Basically what it does is that it removes some of the land that is currently being

protected by the habitat protection Act and removes it from that protection so that it can be used for the purpose of settling a specific land claim with the Mistawasis First Nation. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, we certainly don't have a problem with that. There are some questions that we would want to ask the minister, and we will be doing that, Madam Deputy Speaker.

But before I recommend we move it to committee, I think I would like to just make a few statements about wildlife habitat in general. I certainly feel that environmentally sensitive areas or areas that are unique and have a species of wildlife that need to be protected or that we need to encourage greater numbers of certain wildlife, we need to set areas aside. And I think by doing so with The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act it certainly has proved to be one system that will work to accomplish those sorts of things.

However we could also I believe encourage wildlife habitat on other properties that don't necessarily need to fall into the category of a protected area. Through much of our province we have farm land that is not suitable . . . the whole area, the whole quarter section as such, or section is not suitable for agricultural purposes, particularly grain production, and does have wildlife habitat on it. And again going back to some of my earlier comments this afternoon, where if the landowners . . . Landowners are great stewards of the land, and they, most landowners, like to see wildlife on their property, and they will go out of their way to leave some wildlife habitat. But again as I said earlier they bear the sole cost of doing such things and enhancing wildlife habitat.

And I would just like to reinforce the statements I made earlier where there is a concept that is currently out there and is being tested with pilot projects, one as near as our neighbouring province of Manitoba. I understand Alberta is moving down the road to have pilot projects set up whereby they evaluate the mechanisms and the effectiveness of paying landowners for the ecological goods and services, the environmental goods and services they do provide society with, whether that's wildlife habitat or protection of our watershed areas, riparian areas, Madam Deputy Speaker. And that is something that I would urge this government to get on board with, the alternative land use concept because I see many benefits for wildlife but also for the landowners, and it's a concept that we need to move on.

But having said that, Madam Deputy Speaker, getting back to Bill 33, as I had said earlier, we have a number of questions for the minister, but I believe all those questions can be discussed with the minister in committee. So I would recommend we move this to committee.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is Bill No. 33, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly it be now read a second time?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that Bill No. 33, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 33, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006 be now referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 34

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 34 — The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill No. 34, an amendment to The Wildlife Act, deals with a number of issues that are quite important. It deals with the provisions that are currently in the Act that for the seizure of illegal wildlife that individuals may have captured. Currently the provisions are quite onerous on the Department of Environment staff to house the seized animals. The amendments talk or make provision for partial seizure and I believe basically streamline the procedures in dealing in that area.

Also, Madam Deputy Speaker, by reading the Bill and listening to the minister in his second reading speech, there are provisions to amend certain sections of the Act that deal with an individual's ability to obtain licences — whether it'd be hunting licences or fishing licences. Currently if an individual is convicted of an offence dealing with big game, they could still perhaps qualify for a game bird licence or a fishing licence and other licences other than big game.

The amendments are proposed to change that so that those

individuals who have been charged with offences under the Act dealing with, as I'd said, big game, the amendments will prevent those individuals from obtaining other licences, wildlife licences which I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, certainly seem reasonable. We certainly will be discussing these changes, these amendments.

There's one proposed amendment to the Act that's contained in this Bill that certainly we would have some questions about extending the commencement date for prosecution beyond the two-year limit. I understand that there could be some reasons for delaying those procedures beyond the two-year limit.

We would like to have the reasons and the processes, the reasoning processes that led to this amendment. But I believe, Madam Deputy Speaker, that our questions can be answered in committee. I believe we will be taking some time on this particular Bill to examine all the various sections to the Bill and making sure that what is intended is actually in the Bill and that the amendments are workable and that they make some . . . that common sense is being used in some of these provisions because there are some changes that are departing from established procedure in this Bill, but I believe we can deal with those issues in committee. So therefore I would recommend that this Bill move to committee.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 34, The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that Bill No. 34, The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 34, The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 28

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Wartman that **Bill No. 28 — The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I just want to add a few more comments to the comments I raised the other day regarding the veterinary Act that is currently before the Assembly. And let me begin, Madam Deputy Speaker, just making a few comments in regards to the appearance that a number of veterinarians may be getting throughout the province that the Saskatchewan Party is trying to create a division between veterinarians themselves and the very clients they work with — the agriculture community and the farmers in those communities.

Madam Deputy Speaker, about a year and a half ago we had a piece of legislation that was brought to this Assembly by the government. And at the time the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association was really pressing for . . . and I remember when the association president and the director and CEO [chief executive officer] came to meet with our caucus in the fall of 2004 regarding the municipal Act, and they were very adamant that as a caucus, an opposition caucus — members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition — that this piece of legislation be moved forward because they had taken the time to consult with everyone that would be affected by the legislation and that there was nothing in the legislation that would impact other municipalities or other levels of government within the province of Saskatchewan.

[16:00]

And it appeared to us as well. And the sense that we received was that the minister had given and the government had given the assurances that when the Act was introduced, that the Act would speedily move through the legislative process. And we all know, Madam Deputy Speaker, that at that time we had a 14-day, I believe it was around a 14-day legislative session. And each and every one of us knows that when we began in November '04, we started with a Throne Speech which eats up about eight days of the legislative process. Then Bills are introduced.

And Bills don't go through the House in a matter of a few hours, Madam Deputy Speaker. A Bill is laid on . . . notice is given, and 48 hours later the minister would introduce second reading to which the opposition would respond. And it just seemed . . . the sense was that SUMA, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, felt that the legislation that they'd been working on for a good period of time was indeed fully thought out. There weren't any problems with it, and that piece of legislation should move through the Assembly in a few short days.

And of course, Madam Deputy Speaker, we found out that within a few hours there were some significant problems with that piece of legislation. And at the time the Saskatchewan Party, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, they indicated to the government we would continue to debate this Bill. It would not pass in the fall session. And we had suggested as well at the

time that the government pull the Bill and address the areas of major concern and reintroduce it in the spring.

Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, what happened was the Bill didn't move forward in the fall. We expected it to come up in the spring, to which it showed up on the order paper when the House sat. And then a couple of days later, we all of a sudden noticed it had left, was not on the order paper any more. The government had actually pulled it.

And indeed, Madam Deputy Speaker, the government did take that piece of legislation — that fairly large piece of legislation — and after they'd been listening as well and they'd been hearing the arguments from all the other stakeholders about some of the problems that that Bill had and that would impact their associations or their ability to provide governance to their level, whether it's at the municipal or the urban community, Madam Deputy Speaker, and the government listened. The government pulled the Bill reintroduced the Bill with a number of changes that as we sat down and talked to the stakeholders, most of the stakeholders could say at the end of the day really met what was intended.

Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, we now have The Veterinarians Act, and it would seem to me that the same thing has happened, is that this Act has been introduced. And there are a number of good parts to this legislation, but there are some concerns as well.

Some of the comments however we're getting from individuals are along the lines that we're trying to create a rift between the individual veterinarians and their farmer customers. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, that is certainly the farthest thing from the truth.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, if the association in consulting with its members is indicating that the government had told them that this piece of legislation met all the requirements and would move through in a short order, unfortunately, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe the government — if that's what's happened — certainly the government was not forthright with the veterinary association and then the veterinary association as well has maybe not been communicating as well with its members. They're communicating what they've been led to believe by the minister and by this government.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when a piece of legislation comes to the Assembly, it's as I indicated earlier. The Veterinarians Act was introduced, and 48 hours later the minister did second reading. And our opposition critic responded to it and indicated that, as an opposition doing its job forthrightly and doing it appropriately, that we would adjourn the debate at the time, and we would consult with people throughout the province in regards to the legislation and whether or not The Veterinarians Act not only met the guidelines that the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association was looking for, but indeed that it didn't infringe on the abilities and the rights of others in the province — farmers themselves — who would seek at performing procedures that they've done in the past and that wouldn't impact what the individual producers have over the years done in their line of maintaining their livestock herds.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, I can appreciate the fact that the

veterinary association has some major concerns in regards to how they look at disciplining members they feel may not be complying with the broad view of what a veterinarian's responsibilities are and how they not only perform their duties in the province, but also how they work within the association. I can appreciate that, and that's part of what this piece of legislation is intending to do.

On the other hand, Madam Deputy Speaker, this piece of legislation as well, as we have seen over the past number of months and even today . . . I had an individual mention to me over the weekend, indicated that some family members — there's I believe a son and a daughter are veterinarians, and I'm not sure if they practise in the province, and a nephew — there's a number of family members. And his indication was that even within his own family there wasn't agreement amongst these individuals themselves who are practising veterinarians in regards to this piece of legislation.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's only appropriate that my colleagues and I take adequate time to review the legislation and to raise the concerns that have been brought to our attention, whether it's by individual groups like the Moose Mountain trail blazers or whether it's individual veterinarians themselves, Madam Deputy Speaker. I think it's important that we raise these concerns, and it's certainly our responsibility to ensure that the concerns of everyone are addressed.

And at the end of the day, Madam Deputy Speaker, we would trust that with the concerns that have been raised not only with our caucus but with the minister and with government members opposite, that we could look at the Bill. And it doesn't mean the Bill has to totally die on the order paper. But through some amendments made to the Bill, we can address those concerns, and the needs of the veterinary association can be met as well as recognizing the rights and responsibilities of other individuals.

Now when I spoke last time, I spoke of an elderly gentleman who used to do a fair bit of practice. And I may have left the wrong impression that this gentleman basically did and operated a veterinary clinic which, if I did, Madam Deputy Speaker, that certainly wasn't right, and I apologize for that. This gentleman helped a lot of individuals out over the years but in a limited fashion, Madam Deputy Speaker.

This gentleman didn't go around and prescribe medications. There were certain procedures that he had learned quite capably of, and in fact the local veterinarian of the day was quite knowledgeable of. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, even as I grew up on the farm with my dad and brothers, on many occasions after we had exhausted calling the three or four veterinarians in the area and found that they were all out on a call, in fact the closest veterinarian would suggest maybe calling this gentleman if we needed a hand before he was able to arrive at the farm.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's unfortunate that maybe we created some waves that have raised some concerns with veterinarians because that certainly wasn't the intent. The intent of the debate is to raise the other issues that have been brought to our attention and the importance that this legislation at the end of the day recognizes the rights and responsibilities of individuals, and it doesn't impede especially farm entrepreneurs

or farmers or . . . and in this case, one of the major concerns in this piece of legislation is equine dentistry.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, my colleagues and I have received a number of letters and while we appreciate the letters — we appreciate the comments and the thoughts that have been brought forward by the individual veterinarians who have taken the time to write — unfortunately sometimes, maybe from what we have said in debate, may not necessarily reflect the views or how an individual veterinarian may have interpreted the debate.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, to indicate that all the veterinarians are in line or on board with this piece of legislation would certainly be far from the case, as we see that we have had veterinarians themselves who have called. In fact, I may have quoted last time, but I just want to add to the quote I made. And this comes from a gentleman who has not signed his name on, but one of my colleagues knows him very well — veterinarian, been there in the area for a number of years. And he writes, and he says:

It used to be fun being a Veterinarian. It is not much fun any more. The work is still the same, it is still most enjoyable to see and treat the wide array of animals and for the most part, to deal with the people who own these animals. But there's an ominous cloud over the horizon that is taking the pleasure out of it. It is becoming too risky.

And he goes on to talk about litigation. And as we see in so many associations and as we have seen over the past number of years, so many groups and organizations . . . We are living in a society now where it's so easy to immediately draw a conclusion on . . . whether you're in an argument or whether a dispute has taken place and immediately go to the courts to try to settle that argument. And it sounds, as this gentleman is writing, that that is certainly becoming the case and that the veterinary association as well, veterinarians are facing that.

And as this individual said, well he enjoys working with the animals that he has worked over the years and continues to work with and with the farm community that he continues to work with. There are some areas about being a veterinarian that he finds becoming more difficult. And it's like he said. It's just taken the fun out of being a veterinarian.

He also went on to say there's another element that clouds the horizon far more ominously than the litigation spiral. That is a self-regulating professional association syndrome. And he goes on to list a number of associations where we have had individuals, questions . . . where we've had questions in regards to how associations have worked with and treated their members.

And he raises a number of points that he feels need to be addressed in the piece of legislation, so that as a veterinarian he is treated fairly by the association he is a member of and that indeed he also recognizes the fact of the responsibility of individuals to treat this profession seriously as well as recognizing the rights of individuals.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the legislation before us certainly is one that needs clarity. There certainly are a number of areas that

we need to . . . As we debate the piece of legislation and as we work with the Minister of Agriculture and the government, we need to look at very carefully so that at the end of the day when the legislation finally moves through the process of the Legislative Assembly, that indeed all of the questions and the concerns that have been raised are addressed.

And it's imperative, whether it's . . . Veterinarians themselves have some concerns with the legislation and how it's written. And I guess the concern, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the concern arises around, what does this specific section mean? Well can it be interpreted differently than the way the section is laid out?

And that's a legitimate concern. Individuals want to know that when a section says one thing that that's exactly what it means and that the association can't go beyond that; that the association has the ability to deal with its members to a point but not over and above a point; that that individual, that member actually has rights as well, and that they need to be adhered to and followed through. And therefore, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's important that we take the time to debate this legislation and debate it thoroughly.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it's unfortunate that in legislation at times as we debate legislation as individual members and as we raise concerns that have been brought legitimately to our attention as opposition members, that individuals within organizations who may be impacted by legislation like The Veterinarians Act may feel we're trying to drive a wedge between them and the people they work with. That's unfortunate because, Madam Deputy Speaker, I've had the privilege over the years of getting to know a number of veterinarians and knowing them very well.

We've had the privilege in our area of being able to call a veterinarian in Kipling. And if the gentleman, or the veterinarian was not available . . . And unfortunately, Madam Deputy Speaker, we must also acknowledge that many of these practices are single individual practices. And as a result when the veterinarian gets called out, he may be out on a call that may be an hour or two hours on the call. And you may have something that needs to be addressed even sooner than that, much more quickly than two hours.

So where we happen to live, we have the privilege of either calling Whitewood or we can call Wawota. They're about equal distance. And on many occasions we've been fortunate. We've been able to find someone in one of the other communities who was able to come immediately.

[16:15]

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, one of the concerns that was raised — and I appreciate the comments that were raised by the individual who wrote me — is veterinarian medicine is changing quite dramatically. And there's no doubt about it that a lot of veterinarians find small animal practice a lot more rewarding and not as taxing, I don't believe, as large animal practice, in view of the fact that over the years large animal practice has meant that you've had to be in your vehicle driving for miles.

In fact the veterinarian from Kipling will be driving up to Montmartre and even further, or south to the Moose Mountain, or north into the Broadview area. It just depends on where the call comes from. And if it's a call that the individual producer isn't able to load up the animal that they need to have dealt with and bring it into the clinic, it means that that veterinarian is on the road. And it may be 15, 20, 25, sometimes 35, 40 minutes. Which means that's an hour just in itself just on the road, and then whatever time you have to take at the location you were called to, to deal with the situation.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, what we've seen over the past number of years, we've seen a major shift as more and more producers have really upgraded their corral-handling facilities. Most producers now have a fifth wheel livestock trailer, and in many cases it's actually quite simple to transport an animal to the clinic. And I can appreciate the fact that, as was raised in the one letter, how much easier it is for a veterinarian. Yes it is easier if producers can bring their animal to the clinic but that doesn't always work out.

And in the past it certainly wasn't the practice of the day. It's just over the past number of years, a few short years, that we've actually moved to larger animal clinics in communities where people can bring their large animals for veterinary services and to be checked, to have a variety of diseases dealt with and problems in animals dealt with.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, if in my comments I've left the impression that what I was trying to drive a wedge or wasn't appreciative of the veterinary services that we've had over the years, I apologize for that, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I also want those who may be following this debate today to realize that by the fact that The Veterinarians Act has been adjourned on a number of occasions does not mean it necessarily . . . that the Act at the end of the day may not move through the House.

The government may decide as they did in the municipal Act to pull it and come back with the revisions. Or the government can certainly let us know a number of areas that we've already raised that they're getting concerns raised and drawn to their attention, what areas where they can bring forward amendments when we get into committee that we will address a number of the concerns that have been raised with us, and the legislation can move forward.

But it certainly would be inappropriate for any legislation or any opposition party to just let a piece of legislation to come to the floor, be set on the table, introduced, and move through the House without giving it thoughtful and indeed in-depth scrutiny, Madam Deputy Speaker.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I trust that having added those few words can alleviate some of the concerns that have been raised to my colleagues and I trust that the veterinary association themselves will be more upfront with their own members and that if they have not been . . . the government hasn't been as forthright, that the government will acknowledge as well that there is a process and say it may take us some time for this legislation to move forward but we will move forward in the best interests of everyone involved — not only your association, but your members and other individuals that will be impacted by this piece of legislation.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to again rise in this Assembly to speak to The Veterinarians Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the minister for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

An Hon. Member: — The member.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for that promotion but I think we may have to wait for a few months.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I was listening very closely to my colleague, the member for Moosomin, who eloquently explained the legislative process and the role of an opposition and the duties in fact of an opposition to make sure that the legislation that is passed by this Legislative Assembly is the very best piece of . . . best that it can be.

And in this case, Madam Deputy Speaker, this particular Bill that we have before us in its present form is not that. It can be improved and therefore we need to take our time to consider the legislation, look at possible amendments, hear from all those groups and parties that are affected by this piece of legislation and hear their concerns so that we can see the full picture and the full impact of this legislation.

And as my colleague, the member from Moosomin, had indicated, that we have seen this in the past with most recently The Municipalities Act which wasn't the best piece of legislation that could be put forward. There were many inadequacies and eventually the government ended up pulling that particular Bill and resubmitting a new Bill with the improvements that were required.

Now I'm not sure whether it is the intention of the government to pull this particular piece of legislation and bring forward a new Bill that would deal with the issues that are contained in the present piece of legislation or whether they may be bringing forward amendments. But we also have had some recent information come forward to us that we need to consider.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, until we have an opportunity to do that I must indicate we don't need a lot of time but we will need a few more days to examine the new information that we have and therefore I would move adjournment of debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Committee of Finance. I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

The Deputy Chair: — So I'll bring the committee to order, members of the Assembly. And the first item of business before

the committee is the estimates for the Department of Agriculture and Food. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Chairman, I move the committee recess until 7 o'clock.

The Deputy Chair: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the committee recess until 7 o'clock. Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — That is agreed. The House stands recessed until 7 p.m. Thank you.

[The Assembly recessed until 19:00.]

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Premier

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Minister Responsible for Seniors

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