



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

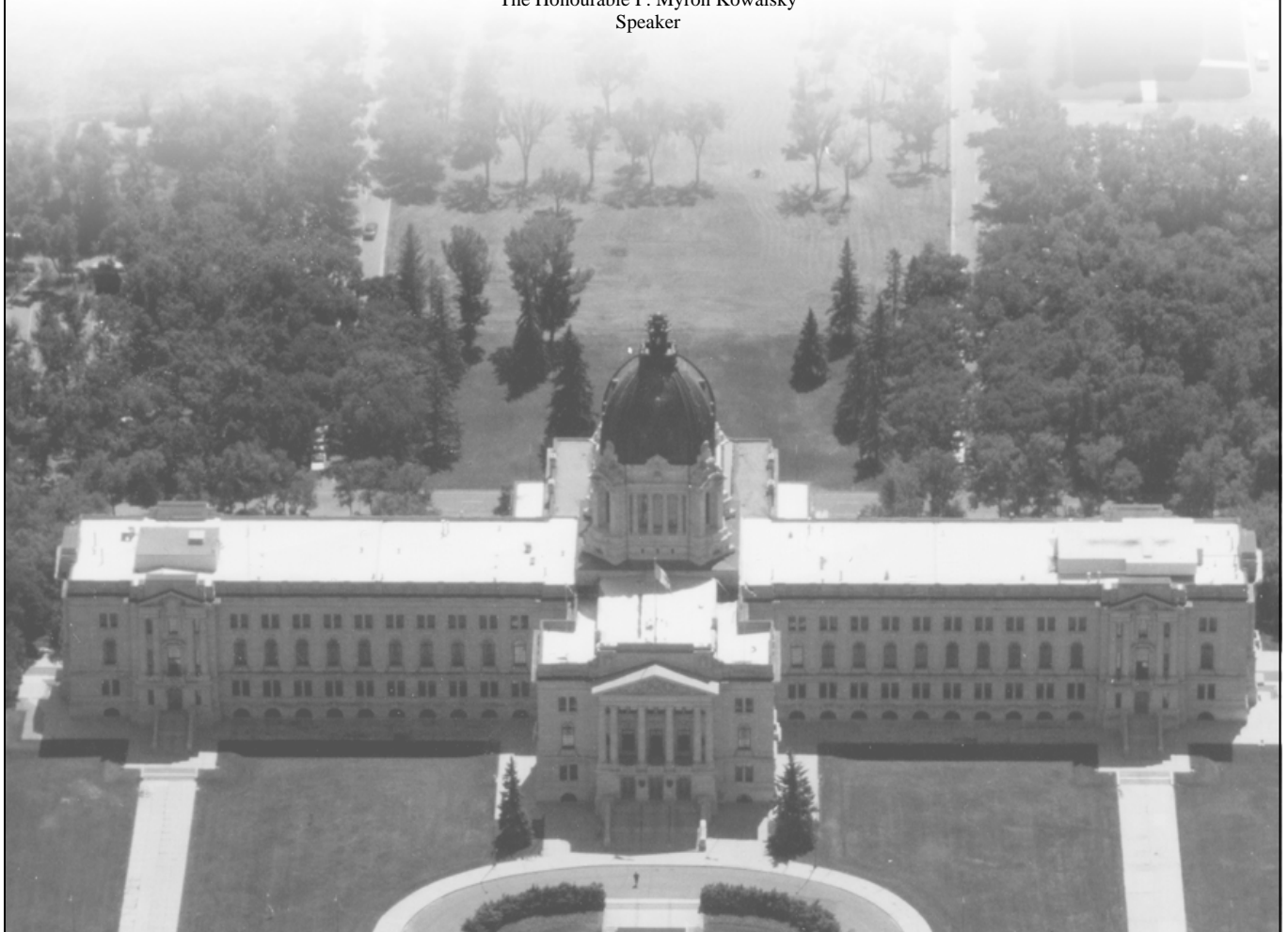
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have with me this morning a number of petitions regarding conditions of Highway No. 3. And I present the petition:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to resurface and properly maintain Highway No. 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford and the Livelong access road.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitions I present today are signed by the folks of the communities of Livelong, Goodsoil, Turtleford, Edam, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. I so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the last several weeks, I've been presenting a petition on behalf of people living in the proximity of Highway 18 that runs from Claydon to Robsart. At the time of the highway's conversion to gravel, there was the expectation it would be returned to pavement. And the prayer is consistent with that expectation:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to ensure that Highway 18 from Claydon to Robsart is repaved at the earliest possible time to ensure the safety of drivers in the area and so that economic development opportunities are not lost.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, today's petition is signed by individuals from the community of Maple Creek. I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege to stand today and present this petition, a petition regarding Avastin and the issue around funding Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many, many people from

the community of Saskatoon. I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have petitions to present today on autism from the autism organizations of Saskatchewan. There are nine recommendations they are calling on the government to support, including having respite and family support accessible based on need, support regional autism service providers and provincial autism organizations that are providing support to families and individuals with ASD [autism spectrum disorder].

Mr. Speaker, they're asking that the government follow through on these recommendations. I so present.

The Speaker: — Member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of citizens of the province concerned with the government's decision to not provide any funding or copayment even for the drug Avastin:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to give cancer patients timely access to medical treatments.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today represented are from the communities of Hafford, Mayfair, Spiritwood, and Rabbit Lake. I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition to fund Avastin. Mr. Speaker, the people who have signed this petition are concerned that forcing patients to pay for this drug is an example of two tiered health care. And, 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition come from the communities of Yellow Grass, Lang, Weyburn, and McTaggart. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

The Speaker: — 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 provincial funding for the cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Muskoday, Dalmeny, Saskatoon, and Calgary, Alberta. I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Chisholm: — Mr. Speaker, I also rise to present a petition to fund the cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by people from McTaggart, Weyburn, Langham, and Saskatoon. I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a number of petitions that I'd like to present this morning 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to these petitions come from the great city of Weyburn and surrounding communities, and I'm pleased to be able to present it on their behalf.

The Speaker: — The member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will come as no surprise that I have a number of petitions today of citizens concerned of the safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And to demonstrate how well-travelled this highway is, Mr. Speaker, the signatures are from Saskatoon, Meacham, Watson, Humboldt, Bruno, Spalding, Englefeld, Prud'homme, Kelvington, LeRoy, Sturgis, Viscount, Muenster, Rose Valley, Shell Lake, Annaheim, Warman, Naicam, Kamsack, and Simpson. I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens concerned about this government's lack of funding for the cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Weyburn. I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will read a fairly lengthy prayer concerning a petition regarding autism spectrum disorders:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act upon the following recommendations made February 2005 by the Government of Saskatchewan caucus committee on human services to the Saskatchewan Minister of Health, the Hon. John Nilson.

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

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

The Speaker: — Member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents across Saskatchewan that 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 in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

The signatures live in the constituencies of Saskatoon Silver Springs, Sutherland, Martensville, and Saskatoon Nutana. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a number of petitions today from people from around the province that are very concerned about the NDP's [New Democratic Party] two tiered health system. And I'll 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this is signed by good citizens from all across Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — The member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a number of petitions in regards to the government's handling of the crop insurance premiums and the increase to the crop insurance premiums to Saskatchewan farmers. 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 steps to have Saskatchewan Crop Insurance reverse the 2006 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition are from Mayfair, Spiritwood, Rabbit Lake, and Hafford. I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring forward a petition from citizens concerned with the lack of funding for the new cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

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

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition calling on the government to maintain the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Saskatchewan Highways employees who would be affected by such possible closure.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege and a honour today to rise to present a petition on autism spectrum disorder. The petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Saskatchewan humbly . . . [inaudible] . . . and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act upon the following recommendations made February 2005 by the Government of Saskatchewan caucus committee on human services to the Minister of Health.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

From the good people of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, I so present.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a great number of petitions regarding autism spectrum disorder. This is the last in a long series of petitions that we've presented this session on this particular matter. I will read a portion of the prayer for relief:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act upon the recommendations made February 2005 to the Saskatchewan caucus committee on human services on autism. And those recommendations include coordination among the departments of Health, Learning, and Community Resources with input from stakeholders to formulate a provincial comprehensive autism spectrum disorder treatment program; to provide adequate, effective, and early treatment based on intensive behavioural intervention and include speech, communication, occupational and physical therapy, and medical attention for ASD-related conditions; and to ensure ASD adult services and supports are accessible and based on need rather than on IQ or physical disability; and to encourage and support autism-related research.

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

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am pleased today to rise to present the last petition of this session from citizens who are from the Zenon Park area who are concerned with the unsafe and deplorable condition of the south access road that leads out to Highway No. 23 from Zenon Park, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to invest the needed money to repair and maintain the south access to Zenon Park so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and businesses.

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

Mr. Speaker, literally hundreds of people from Zenon Park, Tisdale, Arborfield, Carrot River and others. And I so present, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order petitions received at the

last sitting day have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as follows:

Petition concerning south access to Zenon Park, that's sessional paper 760;

And additions to previously tabled petitions being addendums to sessional paper nos. 7, 27, 67, 638, 639, 669, 742, and 757.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its sixth report. I move, seconded by the member from Cypress Hills:

That the sixth report on the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview and seconded by the member for Cypress Hills:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

[10:15]

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure to report that it has considered certain estimates and present its fifth report.

I move, seconded by the member from Kelvington-Wadena:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure now be concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Northeast, seconded by the member for Kelvington-Wadena:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and present its sixth report.

I move, seconded by the member from Cannington:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Walsh Acres, seconded by the member for Cannington:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Any further reports by standing and special committees?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you and good morning, Mr. Speaker. It is my great pleasure to introduce guests to the Assembly. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, representatives of the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation. Because some of them are a bit hiding behind the clock, I'll ask if they might stand as I mention their names so that everyone can see them, starting with two of my constituents, Brad and Tammy Blackwell. Also we have with us Joan Steckhan, who is the Kinsmen Foundation executive director. We have Lori Cosh and Heather McInnis, Heidi Forsythe, Mike Gage, and Bob Lesperance.

Mr. Speaker, the delegation from the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation are here with us today to witness the passing of Bill 204, the recognition Act for Telemiracle week here in the province of Saskatchewan. I've had a great deal of pleasure working with them preparing this legislation, and we look forward to seeing this Bill passed later in the day. We would like all members of the legislature to welcome them here this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd

like to join with the member in welcoming the individuals from Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation. I had the great privilege and honour of nominating Urban Donlevy and Bob McGrath for the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. Unfortunately I was storm-stayed in Saskatoon, but the member for Regina Wascana Plains filled in more than admirably. But I will be speaking in favour of the Bill later this day.

And I just wanted to join with the hon. member in welcoming the members from Kinsmen as well here today. So I would ask all members to thank them.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great privilege to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, a gentleman seated in your gallery, Ken Bakken from Balgonie, Saskatchewan — if you would stand and would give us a wave.

Ken is the coach of the Mandy Selzer rink. I had phoned Ken probably only hours after he got back from Korea — I think he wasn't too happy about that first phone call — because I was saying, why don't you come to the legislature, bring the rink to the legislature and we can introduce you.

Well it's been 10 weeks and it's pretty tough to get the four girls or the five girls back together. And we couldn't quite accomplish it because some are in . . . one, I believe, is in Saskatoon and one is down in Carlyle. But I did want to at least have Ken come to the Assembly so I could introduce him and thank him for the great work that he had done.

You know, this doesn't happen overnight. He wasn't the coach just for the nationals and he wasn't the coach just for the provincials or the worlds. Ken has been working with this team for six years, working with these girls for six years, and has taken them to . . . You know, I mean he wasn't the one out there throwing the rocks but he was probably a strong part of the glue that held this rink together over the six years. I don't know whether Mandy's nodding or disagreeing, but anyway I just wanted to thank him for all the work that he's done.

I'm going to do a bit of a member's statement on the rink and say a little bit more about their accomplishments, but I'd like all members to welcome Ken Bakken to his Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly my daughter, Heather, up in the gallery — Heather Haase — with her husband, Jodi. They're poised to change all of our lives drastically in the very, very near future by making me a grandmother. I'd like to welcome them to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Athabasca.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce six visitors to your gallery. They've travelled from many, many places and many, many miles to be here. Mr. Speaker, please forgive me if I have a fairly long introduction because these are very special people that have joined us, and I think we need to take the time to introduce them well.

Mr. Speaker, in your gallery are six people that are doing a walk for suicide awareness. And we often refer to them as the suicide awareness walkers. First of all I want to recognize Mr. Vincent Watts of Port Alberni, BC [British Columbia]. Vincent has been organizing this walk and has been one of the gentlemen that has worked very, very hard to spread the awareness and go to all the provinces to tell young people about the problems and challenges associated with suicide.

Mr. Speaker, this walk has taken place every year for the past four years with 2006 — this year — being the final walk. Suicide affects all races, and each of the four years is significant, as Vincent explains, in that they walk each of the years for the four races. The first walk in 2003 was for the red race. The second walk in 2004 was for the yellow race. The third walk in 2005 was for the black race. And this the fourth and final year is for the white race.

Mr. Speaker, this final year completes the circle. And Vincent has explained to me some of the many pictures and some of the many stories and some of the help that they got along this journey. The walk started in Sydney, Nova Scotia on March 14, 2006 and will end at the provincial legislature in Victoria, BC on June 21, 2006, which by the way is National Aboriginal Day. Vincent organized this walk with many other walkers, and the total of this walk is 6,426 kilometres.

Mr. Speaker, with Vincent today is Thomas Watts, who is 21 years old, and this is his third year walking. Vince is his father. And Thomas lives on Vancouver Island and is a member of the Nuuchahnulth First Nation. He missed last year's walk because he was expecting a baby. And of course he's the father of a baby boy, Isaiah Thomas Knott, who celebrated his first birthday on May 16, 2006, a mere three days ago while his daddy was on the walk, walking for future generations.

Joining Thomas and Vincent, of course, is Tyler Joseph, who's 21 years old. And this is Tyler's first time walking. His ancestral name is Kitsemsia, which means carry it with honour. He lives in Vancouver, BC and is from the Squamish First Nations.

Also with the group is Edward Meldrum, who is 25 years old, and this is also his first time with the walk. Ed hails from the Chilcotin First Nations in the Williams Lake area, Caribou central interior part of BC.

Also with the walk is Reno Trimble. He is 21 years old. He's a veteran walker and gone through eight pairs of shoes on his final and fourth year. Reno is from Psimshian First Nation and resides in Vancouver, BC.

And last but certainly not least is Chasity Meuse, who is a

29-year-old Mi'kmaw from the Indian Brook First Nations, Nova Scotia. She joined the walk on April 1 in Montreal. And Chasity took an unpaid leave of absence from her job as a community educator who works with at-risk youth at the Phoenix Prevention Program in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She joins the walkers and she's also a very, very proud mother of six-year-old Justin, who is currently with his grandparents and is also a very, very good singer.

Joining the walkers, of course, is my secretary, Donna Standingready. And we should know that Donna offered her home last night and tonight to billet the walkers. And on Saturday, after they've taken the generous help from Donna, they plan on leaving to Alberta where they'll take seven days to hit Alberta. But they have an overnight stop in Saskatoon.

I should note as well, Mr. Speaker, that we had the pleasure and the honour of hosting this group that talked about youth and suicide and some advice for many of us in government. We had breakfast with them this morning. And I think the Premier's going to make that effort of stopping to say hello to the group for a few minutes.

And I ask all members of the Assembly to give a big round of applause to these very special guests and these fine people of spreading the awareness of suicide throughout the country. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members, it's my pleasure today to introduce a person who's seated with our Law Clerk, Ken Ring. This person is Chrystal Vanhouwe, who has spent the week at the Legislative Assembly with the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel.

She's actually an articling student on loan from with the city of Regina legal department. Chrystal is learning about the role and function of the Legislative Assembly and how laws are debated and made. And she's also seeing how the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel assists members in duties and legislatures. She's assisted in the preparation of some of the materials for the Standing Committee on the Economy as they were reviewing the regulations.

I found out also that Chrystal happens to be granddaughter of a former minister of the Crown and a former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon River Heights, Carol Teichrob. Would members please welcome Chrystal Vanhouwe to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members may also notice that Ben Block is seated in the Speaker's gallery today, instead of being seated in the Sergeant-at-Arms chair. Ben is a person here who is very recognizable, has been a permanent fixture with the legislature and has seen many MLAs come and go.

Ben came here after he retired from the Regina Police Service and he's been the watchful eye as sessional security officer in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly for the past 25 years. And he has many fond memories of the legislature but he feels

maybe it is time to move on. In appreciation of Ben Block's dedication and service to the Legislative Assembly, I would ask all members to recognize Ben as he takes his second retirement after 25 years here in the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatchewan Team Wins Silver at World Junior Curling Championships

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great honour and privilege that I rise today and talk about the world champion junior curling silver medallists. Mr. Speaker, the Mandy Selzer rink represented our province and nation extremely well. Her rink is made up of her cousin, Erin Selzer; Kristen Mitchell, who some people say is the fourth Selzer; and her twin sister, Megan Selzer. They also had an alternate when they went to the worlds, Penny Roy from Moose Jaw, and of course, who I mentioned earlier, Ken Bakken as their coach.

They competed in the provincials here in Regina at the Callie Club and won out of that competition to represent Saskatchewan at the nationals in Thunder Bay, Ontario. They went through the nationals with a eight and three record, finishing first in the round robin, and of course obviously finishing first in the nationals. That's quite significant. When you look at the other number of rinks that we sent to national competitions this year, Mr. Speaker, this is the only rink that finished and brought home a national title to our great province.

[10:30]

From there they were off to the world championships in Jeonju, Korea. Mr. Speaker, they had a bit of a challenging time in Korea as they came down with some health problems, food poisoning. And so I know Mandy herself spent 24 hours in the hospital in Jeonju before going on to compete in the semi-final and finals where they lost to a very strong rink from Russia in a score of 5 to 4. It's significant because this rink, a couple of members from the Russian rink, had also competed earlier in the Olympics, Mr. Speaker.

So we're talking about the best curlers in the world that our rink from Balgonie, that Mandy Selzer's rink competed against and did extremely well. So I just want to thank their rink and coach on behalf of not only the people from Balgonie and Indian Head and Milestone, but all of the province. You made us very, very proud. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Conference

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Conference is currently being held in Regina. Saskatchewan is pleased to host this biannual event, Mr. Speaker, and I want to acknowledge all the organizations involved in its planning and delivering: the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan, the Public Health Agency of Canada, provincial addiction services, the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres, the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan, and the Regina Community FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder] Network.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has been a part of this partnership since the beginning in 1998, working together with other members on approaches to prevention, intervention, care, and support of individuals affected by FASD.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is committed to recognizing and addressing the unique needs of people with cognitive disabilities including FASD. To that end we've implemented the cognitive disabilities strategy. And this year we're investing over \$4 million to increase access to supports, assessment, and diagnosis, and to develop and implement prevention and education initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, we are part of the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership and are investing in these programs and partnerships because we are committed to building a better future for our children, our families, and our communities. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Cathedral Village Arts Festival

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next week one of the largest community events in Canada. The Cathedral Village Arts Festival will get under way in the heart of Regina.

This is the 15th annual Cathedral Village Arts Festival, Mr. Speaker, a six-day extravaganza of arts and culture and the Cathedral area's vibrant spirit of community. From next Monday to Saturday, the Cathedral area will be alive with music, theatre, dance, film, visual arts, literary arts, and handcrafts, Mr. Speaker.

One of the highlights of the festival is the street fair that runs for six and a half blocks along 13th Avenue with some 260 craft and food booths and over 25,000 people expected to attend. It's the largest sale of its kind in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this year the festival will host 90 events, a 30 per cent increase from last year. And there'll be something going on every night of the week. There'll be local musicians, traditional buskers, First Nations dancing and story-telling, orchestras, theatre performances, poetry, and much, much more.

Mr. Speaker, it takes a tight-knit community to organize and host the Cathedral Village Arts Festival. This community truly does have the virtues of a village — diverse neighbourhoods, small-business people, artists, musicians, and school children.

Mr. Speaker, this festival's always a great success and much credit goes to festival Chair, Marilyn Turnley, and many, many volunteers on the festival committee and beyond. And thanks also to the festival's many supporters and sponsors. I encourage everyone to go on down to the Cathedral village next week for a good time and great entertainment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Attributing Blame

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the course of this session, we have seen many examples of people being left behind by this NDP government. But instead of taking responsibility and fixing the problem, they pull out the NDP blame thrower and fire away at the first target they can find. We in the Saskatchewan Party are used to the NDP blaming us for their problems, but this session they came up with new and more creative targets to blame.

Yesterday the Minister of Highways was blaming winter and the Crow rate for the crumbling highways. It was the fault of the rural municipalities that they weren't paying to fix for the roads.

The Minister of Health concocted some bizarre logic to blame Bill Boyd for the problems in health care. As well, he was blaming the health districts, the federal government, and even the patients.

The Minister of Finance blamed the school boards for teacher cuts and property taxes. And he was blaming the oil industry for creating the property tax increase in 61 of the old divisions.

The bottom line is, it's never the NDP's fault — always someone else. This NDP government is the worst possible example of irresponsible government of any government practising responsible government.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the times that the NDP have once again tried to weasel out of their responsibility to the people of Saskatchewan. But just as the immortal Homer Simpson once said:

Weaseling out of things is important to learn. It's what separates us from the animals . . . except the weasel.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Member for Cumberland House.

High Performance Athletic Camp for Aboriginal Teens

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, over the coming weekend two of my constituents will be taking part in the first ever high performance athletic camp for Aboriginal teens to be held in Montreal. Keewatin Trotter and Damien Morin, both members of the La Ronge Indian band, will be attending the event at McGill University.

It will include 24 exceptional Aboriginal teen athletes from across Canada and Keewatin and Damien were chosen to take part in the event because of their athletic, academic, and leadership abilities. The purpose of the camp is to introduce Aboriginal athletes to the lifestyle of elite sport and to introduce them to university athletic and academics. Keewatin and Damien will take part in seminars and workshops on sports nutrition, sports psychology, and time management.

Mr. Speaker, this event is being organized by former Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller who has done a lot of work with Saskatchewan Aboriginal youth and athletes. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Jake Eberts, Robert Lantos, and Nike for the charitable donation that make the program possible. I would also like to congratulate Keewatin Trotter and Damien Morin and wish them all the best in Montreal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Leaving No One Behind

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know how much that NDP government is fond of living in the past, so today I'd like to encourage the Premier and members opposite to sit back and think of the start of session and the commitment the Premier made in his Throne Speech that nobody would be left behind by his government.

Last night during the Premier's estimates, the Premier himself admitted that his commitment to leave nobody behind wasn't actually in fact a commitment. It wasn't even a goal. Last night he admitted in fact it was a dream. Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are tired of NDP fantasies.

Let's take a look at the people left behind by this NDP government during this session. Certainly the farmers of this province were left behind. Nurses were left behind. Terry Rak was left behind after this cold-hearted NDP government refused to fund Avastin. Baby Paige was left behind by an NDP health care system and a minister that says he's not responsible for wait lists in the province.

Mr. Speaker, in fact the only people that haven't been left behind are the members of the NDP government, well except maybe for the member from Sask Rivers. Half a million dollar advertising campaign for the Finance minister's leadership run, now the member from Regina Rosemont, a new salary increase to lead a review of the music industry — Mr. Speaker, it's pretty obvious it's the people of Saskatchewan that are left behind by this tired, old, worn out, NDP socialist government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Good News for Saskatchewan

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Well, Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows good

news for Saskatchewan is bad news for the Saskatchewan Party. And this province's 2006 budget is a very, very good budget for Saskatchewan people. It's balanced. It'll secure the prosperity we enjoy today for a generation to come. It reinvests in our social programs, and it contributes more than half a billion dollars to service the debt. It's a good budget for Saskatchewan people.

But the opposition won't vote for it, and they certainly don't want to talk about it. No, Mr. Speaker, they don't want to talk about the \$3.2 billion for health care to help support the 5.5 million visits to doctors and specialists, almost 94,000 surgeries, and over 100,000 advanced diagnostic procedures. They'd rather keep telling young people there's no future in Saskatchewan for them rather than talk about the budget they're funding for university seats, training spaces, and providing almost \$100 million in student assistance. And, Mr. Speaker, they'd rather praise the federal government's broken deal on child care spaces than talk about our budget increasing child care subsidies in this province by over three and one-half million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, good news for Saskatchewan is bad news for the Saskatchewan Party and clearly the Saskatchewan Party is bad news for Saskatchewan people. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Review of Infant's Medical Treatment

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 29 both of Saskatchewan's daily newspapers prominently featured the same story. In Regina on the front page the headline read, and I quote, "Still no answers in Baby Paige case." Mr. Speaker, that headline is as true today as it was on April 29. Could the Minister of Health please tell us why we still have no answers on the baby Paige case?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The review process on baby Paige that I committed to, Mr. Speaker, is in progress. This week the department and the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority had a very good and productive meeting with the family. They have taken a look at various bits of information that have come forward and discussed matters. Mr. Speaker, the review is continuing to include the folks from Stollery Hospital in Edmonton where baby Paige was taken to. And, Mr. Speaker, this review is still in process. And our commitment to provide a report to the people of Saskatchewan remains in place, and we will be releasing information as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to hear that

finally someone is listening to Paige's parents. But a lot of time has passed. When Paige's mother raised concerns about her daughter's condition, she was dismissed. An official in the bureaucracy called her an hysterical mother.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Michelle Hansen has never been an hysterical woman. She was fighting for her daughter's life, and no one would listen to her. Initially when she was concerned, no one would listen. And as time passed and Paige's condition worsened and she became desperate, still no one would listen.

It's time for everyone to start to listen to how this all happened. And furthermore we need to know what's going to be done to make sure it doesn't ever happen again. Mr. Speaker, will the minister please release today the information that he has gathered in this matter?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again I indicate to the public members of Saskatchewan that indeed the review is ongoing. It is proceeding exactly as we had asked for it to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to a public comment from baby Paige's mother the other day on the radio. I listened very carefully to a very caring and brave mother who has endured some very anxious and difficult moments in her life. And, Mr. Speaker I was very, very pleased to learn that according to . . . and this is just from the radio reports, Mr. Speaker, that she had indicated at that time that the health system had not yet interviewed her. But she said that that was the least of her worries, Mr. Speaker. She was looking for good quality care for baby Paige, which is being provided.

And, Mr. Speaker, she is now pleased to meet with the . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

The Speaker: — The member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Health Care Issues

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this NDP government continually says it supports publicly funded, publicly administered health care system, Mr. Speaker, where the ability to pay does not dictate the service that you get, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, all that has changed under this NDP government. The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency recommended that the government cover the drug Avastin. The Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada said that it's a standard of care for this type of cancer treatment, Mr. Speaker. But it's a first time in Saskatchewan under an NDP government that you need your credit card before you need your health card, Mr. Speaker — that's under this NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Loeppky and Terry Rak are being left behind. They have to pull out their credit card before they pull out their hospitalization card. And that's a sad day in this province, Mr.

Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, will this government do the right thing, change its mind, and fund the drug Avastin?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again I repeat what I had said previously, Mr. Speaker. The decision not to fund Avastin was a difficult one for this government.

But, Mr. Speaker, in making that decision to deny coverage, insurance coverage for the drug Avastin, Mr. Speaker, we committed to do two things: number one, continue to review the program; number two, work on the national level to ensure that we are reviewing new cancer drugs on a national level and working on a national pharmaceutical strategy; and number three, Mr. Speaker, to do the right thing and make the system available to those who could provide the drug for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, that option is not available anywhere else in Canada where the drug is denied. Mr. Speaker, this is a compassionate move by this government. It's the right thing to do under the circumstances.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Cancer patients from around this province are being left behind by this NDP government. Emily Morley from Meath Park was told that she'd have to wait three months for her first visit to an oncologist. After we raised her case in the House, she was able to get that visit within a week. But unfortunately the news wasn't good. She may only have three months to live.

Mr. Speaker, that's unbelievable that she wouldn't have even had her first visit before perhaps the issue of cancer may have taken her life. Mr. Speaker, that's appalling.

The national average to see an oncologist for the first time is four to five weeks. But in Saskatchewan, it's 12 weeks — four times the national average, Mr. Speaker — under this NDP government. How can he justify his health care budget when you're making people wait four times the national average for a first visit to an oncologist?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again this issue has been discussed in this legislature and around this province. Mr. Speaker, today the members opposite will have an opportunity to again review their commitment to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency in voting on appropriations, a budget that provided 17 per cent more money to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to assist it meet its waiting times.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased with the commitment that this government has made to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. I will continue to meet with and work with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency over the course of the next few months, Mr. Speaker, to address some of the issues that affect not only the agency but its ability to deliver services to the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we are committed to cancer patients in this province, and we will continue to do the right thing for them.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we have been in this Assembly for this spring session for a little over 10 weeks, Mr. Speaker. And week after week we get case after case of people coming to this Assembly because they haven't received the care they should be receiving. Whether it's Emily Morley, whether it's Valerie Paterson, whether it's baby Paige, whether it's Lana Van Elsacker, Mr. Speaker, whether it's Dr. Tammy McNab that's leaving this province because she cannot put up with the lack of recruitment of doctors from this NDP government, Mr. Speaker, we could stay here for two months, and it would be case after case after case, Mr. Speaker.

When will he take serious his job and start realizing there is a problem in our health care system and start addressing it properly, Mr. Speaker, through recruitment of health care professionals? When will he start taking his job serious and listen to what SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] has to say about 600 nurses being short in this province, Mr. Speaker? Take serious the job. Start doing his job recruiting and retaining our health care professionals so people of Saskatchewan get the health care they deserve.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want the member opposite and all members of the Sask Party to know that I took this job seriously the minute after the Premier appointed me to this position.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, thank, thank goodness that the members opposite weren't sitting in this chair over the last few years. Mr. Speaker, in 1995 they were going to drop the health care budget by 5 per cent. In 1999, Mr. Speaker, they were going to freeze it. And, Mr. Speaker, in 2003, the then leader of the opposition from Rosetown-Elrose said the Saskatchewan Party's plan in 2003, for this session, was to hire 240 nurses. Mr. Speaker, this government has already exceeded that commitment — not the 600 — 240 they said they were going to hire. We've exceeded that already, Mr. Speaker, and we're very proud of that.

We've got more work to do. We will take it seriously, and we will continue to do that work.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Support For Agriculture

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this session the NDP government introduced a \$7 billion budget, of that approximately \$1 billion windfall from gas and oil. And then they go on to talk about no one being left behind.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there's approximately 50,000 farmers in the province of Saskatchewan. If you include family members to that number, there's probably roughly 200,000 Saskatchewan rural residents that are being left behind by this NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, how can this NDP government with a \$1 billion windfall ignore and neglect all those rural people in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously the member opposite really does not have an understanding of how this government has supported farmers in this province over the past few years and is again supporting farmers.

Mr. Speaker, across this province, number one issue for farmers, as we travelled the province, was property tax. What did we do, Mr. Speaker? Sixty-seven million dollars of relief for property tax for farmers, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — What else have we done? We have continued to fully fund the CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] program. Mr. Speaker, we've moved the agenda ahead six months. Mr. Speaker, and in the third quarter, I have no doubt that we will announce that we will be fully funding it again.

Mr. Speaker, there will be people left behind in this province. I am sorry I have to admit it for this government. Mr. Speaker, the people that are going to be left behind are the Sask Party. That's it, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if this is news to that minister or if that minister can't even read their own budget. They are not fully funding the CAIS program and when it comes to education tax . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order. One at a

time. The member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the minister's information, they are not fully funding the CAIS program. And when it comes to education tax, 63 out of 81 of the old divisions out there are having to raise the education tax in the property of . . . in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we go on. There's other cuts — \$12 million cut to the crop insurance program, coverage down after continual increases to premium and coverage cuts before. They kicked 500 farmers out of the crop insurance program because they couldn't afford to pay the premium. They wouldn't even extend the three-month deadline to let farmers try and accumulate the money to pay their Bill. Mr. Speaker, when will that minister and that government actually help farmers in this province and do something for rural Saskatchewan for once?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all we get from the other side on this front are distortions and twists of the fact. In fact farmers will see a reduction, in fact, in property taxes, Mr. Speaker. In fact farmers will see support from this government on the business risk management programs as they have in the past, Mr. Speaker. Farmers will see this government continuing to push for changes in the CAIS program. Farmers will see this government supporting the crop insurance program and making sure that that program will provide continuing support.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you what the problem is. What the problem is in this province is that we have two GDPs [gross domestic product], Mr. Speaker. One is going up. It's been going up for years, over 3 per cent growth in GDP this year, Mr. Speaker. But the second GDP that's going down unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the second GDP which has caused all the problems in this province — the gloom and doom party on the other side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if that government keeps treating rural Saskatchewan like it is, it's not the GDP that's going down, it's the NDP.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, last year when they had a windfall of money, they put \$430 million into the Ag budget. This year when they got another \$1 billion surplus gas and oil money, they cut that budget to 264 million. Mr. Speaker, that's unconscionable at a time when farmers are going under. Farm families are doing everything to try and put this crop in, in spite of that NDP government. Now the federal government, Mr. Speaker, has come out with some new recalculations for the CAIS program, and part of that recalculation will be cost shared with the provinces.

Will that minister and that Premier do the right thing and promise today to honour the provincial commitment to that program?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we have done the right thing in agriculture from the beginning of our tenure here, Mr. Speaker. We have fully funded every inch of every program that has been put before us — every year, Mr. Speaker. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have exceeded — we have exceeded — what was expected of us, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue to provide the best level of support of any province in this country, far beyond what our neighbours are . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Minister of Ag and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no question when we look across the country that this government has been there, this province has been there, the taxpayers of this province have been there to a greater extent by far than in any other province, two, three times the provincial per capita average, five times the federal per capita average. People on the other side apologize for the federal government. When that federal government comes to the table as we are to the same levels, then they'll have room to criticize.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Government's Performance

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to hear the Agriculture minister talk about how this NDP government is supporting grain farmers more than the governments of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, for example, Mr. Speaker. It's a ridiculous argument we hear.

Mr. Speaker, it wasn't too long ago that this NDP government used to at least set some goals. The previous leader of the party would set some very specific goals and for a while this Premier did. They had a goal to create 30,000 new jobs in five years; they didn't even achieve half the number. They did have a goal for 200 new police officers, a promise they made; they broke that promise. They didn't make the goal. In the last election, they set a goal to cut taxes. They increased the PST [provincial sales tax], Mr. Speaker.

So they're missing their goals. They're not performing. Did they take steps then, Mr. Speaker, to improve their performance? No. They stopped setting goals. That was their response to that. Last night we found out they have no goals for population growth, job creation, nurse recruitment, or to reduce the waiting lists at post-secondary institutions.

Why in the world should the people of this province put up for even one more day with a government that has no goals for

anything in any area of government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, this session that will likely conclude later this day has made it abundantly clear to the people of Saskatchewan the difference between this government, New Democratic Party caucus, and that opposition, Saskatchewan Party.

The difference is, Mr. Speaker, just this. We began this session with a dynamic, visionary Throne Speech setting goals for the people of the province. We deliver in this spring session a budget, a budget that brings to reality those visions and goals. Mr. Speaker, this is a caucus and this is a government, this is a team that delivers for Saskatchewan families. We set our vision and we set our goal.

What this budget will deliver for Saskatchewan families is support for Saskatchewan young people to build their futures here. It develops support for families in terms of child care. It delivers a green and a prosperous and a growing economy. It sharpens our competitive edge. It works with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

The difference, Mr. Speaker, the difference is that group of angry men and women who come into this Chamber, no ideas, no plans. They came last session, that leader with a hundred new ideas. He comes this session with a hundred new positions.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[11:00]

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, what we began the session with were platitudes, were statements by the Premier, were sentiments. We heard every day the Premier used the words about who's going to be left behind or not left behind on the pathway to opportunity. I mean, his promise was that no one would be left behind on the pathway to opportunity. We hear it over and over again.

But it strikes us pretty hollow on this side of the House. It strikes pretty hollow, Mr. Speaker, as well for the taxpayers, the property taxpayers of this province, 63 out of 81 former school divisions left behind; nurses in the province, by their own account, left behind by this government. Teachers, 150 fewer in this province, are being left behind. Those people who deserve good highways in the province, highways that support economic development in the oil and gas sector, left behind.

Mr. Speaker, when will we get more than rhetoric and platitudes from this government? When, from this Premier, can we expect some leadership, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, \$3.2 billion for the Department of Health is no platitude, Mr. Speaker. \$620 million over four years in business tax reductions, that's no platitude, Mr. Speaker. One point five billion, record levels of funding for education in our province, that's no platitude, Mr. Speaker. \$67 million for the relief of property tax on our farm families, that's no platitude, Mr. Speaker.

And neither is it rhetoric. Neither is it the kind of rhetoric that comes from that Leader of the Opposition or from that party, the misinformation . . . [inaudible] . . . takes taxpayers' dollars. They fund misinformation on commercials.

Mr. Speaker, this is a government, this is a team of men and women who deliver for Saskatchewan people. We set bold vision. We set bold dreams. We seek a better future for our province, for our young people right here and we deliver, Mr. Speaker.

And the difference is, they complain. And when it's push comes to shove, they will stand in this legislature and vote against the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the surest sign, the surest sign that a government has reached its best-before date, that a government has grown stale and old, the surest sign of that is, when confronted with real problems that face the people of the province, they point to systems and processes and giant budget numbers — \$3.3 billion. That's what the Premier talks about.

You know what we're talking about on this side of the House in this session? We talked about Paige Hansen and her family. We talked about Terry Rak and Bob Loepky who deserve, Mr. Speaker, the respect and fairness from this government they wanted. We talked about Emily Morley. We were talking about teachers and about nurses, about farmers who are at their wits' end facing property tax hikes from this government. That's why it's out of touch.

And I ask the Premier again. I ask him for some answers on behalf of these people for leadership. Will he give us more than simply platitudes and sentiments, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, when issues are raised with this government, when we see a problem, when we feel a concern, Mr. Speaker, this government acts. And we deliver on finding solutions. What we do not do, Mr. Speaker, is stand in the legislature angry and annoyed . . . and not even one sense, not even one new position or idea of a creative solution to any of the challenges. That is not the record of this government, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Saskatchewan know it.

Now I'm hearing from the opposition members I should call an

election. Well some of these hours, some of these days I'm going to be visiting Weyburn. And we'll see about an election, Mr. Speaker. And I tell you the question that'll be asked in that election. Where is the former member of Weyburn, Ms. Brenda Bakken Lackey? Where is that member? And how is it, how is it that a member who did have ideas, who promoted her ideas, who was a spirited member of this legislature and that caucus, why was she muzzled? Why was she muzzled so she could not represent her constituents? Why did she say that party puts politics over principle every time? That's the question that'll be asked.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier says he'll soon be visiting the city of Weyburn. And we look forward to that as do the five or . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. The members will allow the question to be put. The Chair recognizes . . . Order. Order. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier says he's going to go to Weyburn. Let us hope that he is greeted by more than the throng of five or six that were going to come to his leader's dinner that he had to cancel down in the city of Weyburn. Do you know why he had to cancel that, Mr. Speaker? I'll tell you why. Because the people of Weyburn are fed up with his government cashing the oil and gas royalty cheques from their area of the province, Mr. Speaker, without reinvesting in things like Highway 5.

They don't mind sharing the royalties with the province, but they would like the government to invest in Highway 35, Mr. Speaker. They would like this government to ensure that they don't pay the lion's share of the costs of education by paying ever-increasing school taxes. That's what they would like from this Premier in exchange for their great contribution to this province. They'd like an agriculture budget that's sensitive to the needs of southeast Saskatchewan.

So instead of just going down to Weyburn, Mr. Speaker, and meeting with his four or five key supporters he still has, will he instead this day call the by-election for Weyburn-Big Muddy?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I stand in this legislature today, as this session concludes, proud of a government that will govern for the whole people of Saskatchewan and the whole province of Saskatchewan.

I stand in this legislature today proud of a government that has brought forth the kind of visionary Throne Speech that talks about a dream of a province where no one is being left behind on the pathway to opportunity, that dreams, envisions of a province of a green and a prosperous economy, a province, Mr. Speaker, with diverse and growing communities, a province,

Mr. Speaker, that builds for a future for our young people right here.

I am proud of a team of men and women who have delivered a budget, a budget that provides new benefits for the most vulnerable in our communities, a budget that provides thousands of new training spaces for our university and technical students, a budget that improves considerably the competitive advantage of this province in investment and job creation, a budget that stands to protect our environment, a budget that breaks the boundaries in working with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples in this province.

I am proud of a government that delivers for the whole people and the whole province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I am pleased to table written responses to written questions 1,152 to 1,162 inclusive.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 1,152 to 1,162 inclusive have been submitted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave of the House to go to private members' public Bill, Bill No. 204 for second reading of The Recognition of Telemiracle Week Act and then to revert to government orders.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to proceed to second reading of Bill 204 and then to revert to government orders. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 204 — The Recognition of Telemiracle Week Act

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with real pleasure that I speak to Bill 204 and later move second reading of a Bill that would recognize Telemiracle Week in

Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, many times we have lauded the volunteer efforts of the people of Saskatchewan. I think Saskatchewan stands out amongst certainly all of North American jurisdictions and perhaps globally as the volunteer capital of the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many efforts that are so worthy of our recognition, whether it be the works of churches, service clubs, community groups, societies, and associations that promote health and fight diseases and social ills. But, Mr. Speaker, there is one effort that I believe stands taller and prouder than any effort that I have certainly seen anywhere in the world, and that is the effort over the last 30 years of the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation who have raised millions and millions of dollars right here in Saskatchewan for work right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics are astounding. Telemiracle was founded in 1977 and in the last 30 years has raised over \$68 million, and these dollars are distributed by the Kinsmen Foundation to over 50 funding applications on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Kinsmen Foundation, how did this get started? And they told me that their history goes something like this. Back in about 1977 a man by the name of Peter Kilburn in Saskatoon, a Kinsmen member, was the founder of the foundation. Originally it was called the Kinsmen Foundation for the Handicapped. However today it is known as the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation.

Peter quickly realized that there were many who needed help through this foundation but the funds were not adequate. They needed to do more. So he approached his fellow Kinsmen, Mr. Urban Donlevy, and together the idea of Telemiracle was incubated and of course history tells us that it was the right move at the right time.

Mr. Speaker, the Kinsmen Foundation has three major client groups to whom funding is provided. The first group are to individuals, who form the largest client group, and a lot of this funding goes to medical travel, for special needs equipment. It provides travel, meals, accommodations to fund Saskatchewan residents that are required to travel away from home. The foundation also provides scooters, ultralight wheelchairs, modification for wheelchairs, access to vehicles and homes. The list is really quite astounding. And that's just the first client group.

The second client group is a classification of group homes and community organizations that are provided with funding for special needs and equipment, like handivans.

And the third group, Mr. Speaker, are institutions that provide service to a wide range of Saskatchewan residents. For example the Kinsmen Foundation recently made a significant contribution to the breast cancer centre of care and also to the Nephrology Centre of Excellence. And that is part of the Saskatchewan transplant program.

Mr. Speaker, we have all watched the Telemiracle event as it unfolds on our television on the weekend in March that Telemiracle occurs. And we have seen, you know, there's

names that are synonymous with Telemiracle. One of those names is Bob McGrath who has been a part of the Telemiracle celebration and fundraising effort here in the province of Saskatchewan for 29 out of those 30 years. In recognition of his commitment he was made an honorary Kinsmen and was recently presented with the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Dr. Haverstock.

We've seen other celebrities commit themselves to this fundraising effort, including Gloria Loring, Beverley Mahood, and Adam Gregory. And most recently, Mr. Speaker, Brad Johner, a Saskatchewan resident, has joined the Telemiracle effort for the last eight years.

[11:15]

Mr. Speaker, in addition to a national cast, the Telemiracle also allows for Saskatchewan talent to go on stage and strut their stuff. And I think just about every community, if not every community in the province of Saskatchewan, has been proud to see people that we know, that we have grown up with, go on the stage and perform, and perform admirably for the Telemiracle cause.

This doesn't happen by accident. This isn't easy to put on. This is not easy to organize. It takes the efforts of hundreds and hundreds of people. In fact over 1,000 Kinsmen and Kinette volunteers from across the province join in the effort on an annual basis to make Telemiracle happen. It takes over 200 TV production volunteers to make Telemiracle happen. It takes the co-operation of other groups throughout the province and of course the donors — the people who sit in their living rooms watching their television that call in when they keep saying, ring those phones, ring those phones, ring those phones.

And I just, you know, I've seen it I guess a hundred times. But I love watching, you know, the volunteers sitting there waiting for that phone to ring. And they just know it's going to ring, Mr. Speaker. Every time we see that whole bank of phones, one after the other, being answered when the challenge goes out to Saskatchewan people to get involved in a good project in their province to raise money for an excellent cause.

Mr. Speaker, the total amount of dollars raised in Telemiracle 30, the last Telemiracle, was I think over \$3.5 million in just a 20-hour period here in a province of less than 1 million people. It is truly amazing.

There are many, many testimonies to the work that Telemiracle has done because of all this effort by all of these volunteers. And I want to share one example with you about the practical way that Telemiracle helps people. And this is one letter of thanks that was received by the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation. And I quote:

I am writing to thank you for your continued support this year for my Mom. I never thought that I would be writing a letter like this, but we too were faced with an illness this year that has turned our lives upside down. It is thanks to your organization that we have been able to continue travelling for doctor appointments and surgeries that would have financially taken a toll on us.

And then, Mr. Speaker, she goes on to explain the hardships they have faced. And I quote again:

On the brighter side, Telemiracle has been there for us every step of the way. The continued support has certainly eased some of the stress. Also, my Mom received one of the greatest gifts from Telemiracle as well . . . a scooter. That little scooter has made a lot of miles this summer! It (the scooter) has put the smile back on my Mom's face and given back some of the independence that she lost when her leg was amputated.

So on behalf of my Mom and myself, I would like to thank the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation for being there for us this year. It is because of the generosity of so many people that families like ours are able to cope when someone we love becomes ill. You are truly amazing!

Mr. Speaker, applications for needs like this are approved by the Kinsmen Foundation Board of Directors which are made up of Kinsmen and Kinettes from around Saskatchewan. These individuals volunteer their time. They have nine meetings per year to make these miracles happen. The Kinsmen Foundation sees itself as the last option for applicants. So when someone has no other financial support to address their need, the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation will consider their application.

Over the last 30 years, Kinsmen Telemiracle has grown from being the provincial project of our service organization — this is the Kinsmen Telemiracle organization — to being part of the heart and soul of this province. Telemiracle is truly Saskatchewan's charity and is owned by the hearts and minds of the people of Saskatchewan. It is their fundraiser, and it is part of their sense that their donation helps their neighbours in acquiring independence, quality of life, and focuses on respect for people of all abilities.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to express some thanks. First of all I want to thank two of my constituents, Brad and Tammy Blackwell, for bringing the germ of the idea of having a Telemiracle week to my attention. They are my constituents from the community of Dinsmore. They are in the gallery today, and actually Brad is the upcoming chairman of Telemiracle 31. So he's got a big event that's going to happen in March 2007. And I know, Brad, that everyone in this Assembly wishes you well in that responsibility. And I also know that his wife, Tammy, has been very involved with Telemiracle as well, and they are working together on this project.

I also want to thank Joan Steckhan, who is the executive director of the Telemiracle Foundation. Joan has been excellent to work with, and she has provided me with much of the information that I have been able to share with the Assembly today.

I also want to express my thanks to the Law Clerk who helped draft the Bill and made sure that it was acceptable so members on all sides of the House could eagerly embrace the Bill that we are introducing and reading today.

I want to thank the House leaders, both my House Leader and

the Government House Leader, for agreeing to bring this piece of legislation to the floor of the legislature and allowing it to pass quickly. It's not every day that a private member's Bill does go through the House. It takes co-operation from all members of this House, and I can't think of a better cause for which we should all come together than to celebrate the wonderful work done by the Kinsmen Foundation through their annual event, Telemiracle.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member from Saskatoon Sutherland who I believe is going to speak on behalf of the government side of the House.

And therefore it is my great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in light of the work of Telemiracle over the last 30 years, to place it in our memories on an ongoing basis, to see an Act that would every year during the week that Telemiracle occurs be officially recognized by the province of Saskatchewan. It's our way of saying, way to go, guys; way to go, gals. We're behind you 100 per cent. We want Telemiracle to be an enduring institution in Saskatchewan that continues to meet the needs of men and women, girls and boys throughout our history.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of appreciation, and also I feel very humbled, to be able to move second reading of Bill 204, a Bill that is An Act to recognize Telemiracle in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Rosetown-Elrose that Bill 204, The Recognition of Telemiracle Week Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Sutherland, the Minister of Healthy Living Services.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my great honour to participate in the debate in support of this very worthwhile Bill.

I am going to tell a very brief story. In the spring of 1977 — it was the first year of Telemiracle — I was 13 years old. My parents were supporters and members of the Kinsmen. And our class in school decided to participate and raise money for this worthwhile cause. In fact our class of 13-year-olds, we decided that we were going to collect pennies and lay them end to end and collect enough pennies to stretch the length of the entire school.

Now when you're 13 years old, that sounds like a really good idea, until about the third day when you've basically taken all the pennies out of a town of 350 people and every noon hour you're laying these pennies out on the floor and then you have to pick them all up again. So by about the third day, we figured out that if you put them on masking tape, you can roll this out and roll it back up. But, Mr. Speaker, we actually had to encourage people to bring pennies from other communities, it seemed like. And for that spring, it was pretty hard to find a penny in Loon Lake, Saskatchewan.

But, Mr. Speaker, we were thrilled when Telemiracle came down and was being broadcast that weekend. I recall watching many, many, many hours of the Telemiracle, negotiating with

my parents to stay up later than I normally would be allowed to. And I was very excited and got enthusiastic and I phoned in. I pledged a certain amount of money. I can't remember how much it was. But I was a paper boy at that time. And I probably decided to give a week's, a week's earnings. And I remember challenging all other paper carriers in Saskatchewan to donate as much as I did. And then of course you're always watching the screen to see if your name goes by and whether or not they're going to issue that challenge.

So it was very thrilling for me when this spring this past year, I was able to nominate Urban Donlevy and Bob McGrath for the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I wasn't able to come down. It was terrible weather and I actually tried coming down and got about 3 miles and had to head back . . . 5 kilometres, sorry. And so, Mr. Speaker, I put in an emergency call to the Legislative Secretary on voluntary secretary initiative, our member from Regina Wascana Plains. And she and the Lieutenant Governor were able to attend Telemiracle and present the Centennial Medal to Bob McGrath. And she did a fantastic job and I was watching from Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, Telemiracle has raised in the 30 years since then \$68 million — that's three decades of miracles. And they've helped thousands of families and people throughout Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the many men and women from the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation from across Saskatchewan, all of the people that donate every year, that fundraise every year, that push beds from Saskatoon to Regina every year, or Regina to Saskatoon every year in fundraising to help other people.

Mr. Speaker, this year Telemiracle 30 raised \$3,491,538. And those are dollars that are going to help many people in Saskatchewan. These are generous donations from the people of Saskatchewan. And with this Bill we will be recognizing those generous donations and the hard work and commitment of all the people that organized this event and continue to organize this event.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of heart goes into Telemiracle, and we know Saskatchewan is made up of heart. And we're very proud to be part of this Bill which is going to be honouring the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation and Telemiracle from here on out. And we wish them many, many years of good luck and continued good fortune in raising funds to help families. And I know all members on the government side will be enthusiastically supporting this Bill. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and best wishes.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Rosetown-Elrose that Bill 204, The Recognition of Telemiracle Week 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.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 204, An Act to recognize Telemiracle in Saskatchewan, be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Rosetown-Elrose that this Bill 204 be referred to the Committee of the Whole. 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 Committee of the Whole. The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave to consider the Bill now.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave to consider the Bill at this time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. We'll go into Committee of the Whole so that this Bill can be considered.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Bill No. 204 — The Recognition of Telemiracle Week Act

The Chair: — The item before committee is Bill No. 204, An Act to recognize Telemiracle in Saskatchewan.

Clause 1, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.]

[Preamble agreed to.]

The Chair: — Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 204, An Act to recognize Telemiracle in Saskatchewan. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Chair, I'll move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — Report the Bill without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Sorry. I'll ask that the committee report the Bill without amendment. That too.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That we would report Bill No. 204, An Act to recognize Telemiracle in Saskatchewan, without amendment.

Favour of the Assembly? All those in favour, say aye?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — And now I'll move that the committee rise and report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — The Government House Leader has asked the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[11:30]

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the committee to report item no. 3, Bill No. 204, without amendment and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Now, Mr. Speaker, with leave.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The member may proceed.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 204 — The Recognition of Telemiracle Week Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Rosetown-Elrose that Bill No. 204, The Recognition of Telemiracle Week Act be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Deputy Clerk: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair so the Assembly can go into Committee of Finance.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund Agriculture and Food Vote 1

The Chair: — The first estimate to be considered before the committee is Agriculture and Food found on page 33 of your book. Subvote 1, central management and services.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Carried. Subvote (AG05) in the amount of \$6,033,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote no. 3, farm stability and adaptation, (AG08) in the sum of \$98,776,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (AG06) in the amount of \$13,261,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (AG07) in the amount of \$20,857,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (AG12) in the amount of \$3,542,000. Oh the amount to be voted . . . excuse, committee. The statutory amount is \$3,337,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Carried. Subvote (AG04) in the amount of \$3,587,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (AG03) in the amount of \$7,327,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (AG09) in the amount of \$4,244,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (AG10) in the amount of \$100,875,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets. Any questions from the committee? If not, call the vote on \$144,000 . . . And now for committee resolution no. 2 for Agriculture and Food in the amount of \$264,587,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 1 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Lending and Investing Activities
Agriculture and Food
Vote 146**

The Chair: — The next item before the committee is on page 162 of the Estimates book. Page 162 in your booklet, vote 146 in the amount of \$400,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2007, the following sums for Agriculture and Food, \$400,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. That now concludes the estimates for the Department of Agriculture and next we will move to the estimates for the Department of the Environment.

[Vote 146 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Environment
Vote 26**

The Chair: — Turn to page 55 of the Estimates book. Central management and services, subvote (ER01).

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Environmental protection and water management, subvote (ER11) in the amount of \$25,002,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote, forest services (ER09) in the

amount of \$14,382,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote, fire management and forest protection, (ER10) in the amount of \$93,716,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Subvote (ER15), resource stewardship in the amount of \$7,985,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Subvote (ER04), parks. The amount to be voted is \$14,580,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (ER08), compliance and field services in the amount of \$15,253,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (ER14), planning and risk analysis, \$7,768,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (ER07), Fish and Wildlife Development Fund in the amount of \$3,372,000.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of \$5,545,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. The resolution for the department:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2007, the following sums for the Environment, \$200,822,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 26 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Executive Council
Vote 10**

The Chair: — The next estimates before the committee will be that of Executive Council, found on page 61 of the Estimates book. Subvote central management and services (EX01) in the amount of \$4,051,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Premier's office (EX07) in the amount of \$532,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Cabinet secretariat and cabinet planning unit (EX04) in the amount of \$1,390,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (EX03), chief of communications office \$1,844,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. House business and research (EX08) in the amount of \$402,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Members of the Executive Council (EX06) in the amount of \$690,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Statutory. Amortization of capital assets. Any questions? Seeing none:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2007, the following sums for Executive Council, \$8,219,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 10 agreed to.]

[11:45]

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates
Executive Council
Vote 10**

The Chair: — And the next vote for Executive Council is in your Supplementary Estimates booklet, page 3, subvote . . . Executive Council, vote 10 for \$290,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2007 . . .

Oops. Thank you for your kind guidance through committee. It's:

for the 12 months ending March 31, 2006, the following sums for Executive Council, \$290,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 10 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Health
Vote 32**

The Chair: — We'll be ready for quite a few votes in the Department of Health, starting on page 81 in the Estimates booklet. Central management and services (HE01), in the amount of \$14,981,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (HE04), provincial health services in the amount of \$143,717,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (HE03), regional health services in the amount of 2 billion . . . \$2,172,733,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (HE06), medical services and medical education programs in the amount of \$579,995,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote drug plan and extended benefits, (HE08) in the amount of \$257,863,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote early childhood development, (HE10) in the amount of \$9,013,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote provincial laboratory infrastructure project, (HE05) in the amount of \$11,096,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Any questions of amortization of capital assets in the amount of \$806,000? Seeing none, go to the resolution.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2007, the following sums for Health, \$3,189,398,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 32 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates
Health
Vote 32**

The Chair: — In your Supplementary Estimates booklet, page 4, Health vote 32, regional health services (HE03) in the amount of \$3,000,000. Is that agreed? Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2006, the following sums for Health, \$3,000,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 32 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Learning
Vote 5**

The Chair: — Our next estimates before the committee would be the Department of Learning, main estimates, page 113, subvote no. (LR01) central management and services in the amount of \$11,684,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote pre-K to 12 education, (LR03) in the amount of \$600,257,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Early learning and child care, (LR08) in the amount of \$30,113,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (LR10) curriculum and e-learning in the amount of \$4,498,000. Is that agreed? I'm sorry. Again, less the statutory amount to be voted on is \$4,473,000. Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Literacy, subvote (LR17) in the amount of \$2,520,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (LR15) provincial library in

the amount of \$9,365,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (LR09) education property tax relief in the amount of \$107,850,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Teachers' pensions and benefits, (LR04) in the amount to be voted, \$25,378,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Any question on amortization of capital assets? Seeing none, we will move to the resolution.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2007, the following sums: for Learning, \$791,640,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 5 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates
Learning
Vote 5**

The Chair: — In the Supplementary Estimates booklet, Learning, vote 5 on page no. 6 in the amount of \$10,851,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — And that was vote (LR03). Carried.

A motion for supplementaries, would be:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2006, the following sums for Learning, \$10,851,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Vote 5 agreed to.]

The Chair: — We have reached the final votes of estimates and supplementary estimates before the committee. And we will now move to the appropriation resolutions. Before the committee would be resolutions for final appropriations. And I would invite the minister to introduce the first resolution.

Motions for Supply

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I

move:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$77,618,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the minister. Is that agreed? It has been moved by the Minister of Finance:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$77,618,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I would invite the minister to introduce the next resolution.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I move:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, the sum of \$5,766,986,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, the sum of \$5,766,986,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I would invite the Minister to introduce the third and final resolution.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I move:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008, the sum of \$117,818,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — Moved by the Minister of Finance:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of

the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008, the sum of \$117,818,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I will now invite the Minister of Finance to ask the committee to rise and report the resolutions.

[12:00]

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I do move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — Is the motion agreed to?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed? Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions. It has instructed me to report the same and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — When shall the resolutions be read the first time?

The Speaker: — When shall the resolutions be read the first time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the resolutions be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First and second reading of the resolutions.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Later this day, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Later this day. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 66 — The Appropriation Act, 2006 (No. 2)

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly, I move that Bill No. 66, The Appropriation Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — Is leave of the Assembly granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 66, The Appropriation Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly and under rule 57(2), I move the Bill be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — Is leave of the Assembly granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 66, The Appropriation Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now read a second and third 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.

Deputy Clerk: — Second and third reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — Would they call in the members for a standing vote on the Bill, Bill 66?

[The division bells rang from 12:05 until 12:10.]

The Speaker: — Order. The question before the Assembly has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 66, The Appropriation Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now read a second and third time. Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 29]

Calvert	Hamilton	Lautermilch
Van Mulligen	Hagel	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Sonntag
Wartman	Forbes	Prebble
Crofford	Belanger	Higgins
Thomson	Nilson	Beatty
Taylor	Junor	Harper
Iwanchuk	McCall	Quennell
Trew	Yates	Addley
Morin	Borgerson	

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion, please rise.

[Nays — 25]

Wall	Toth	Elhard
McMorris	D'Autremont	Krawetz
Draude	Hermanson	Bjornerud
Stewart	Wakefield	Chisholm
Hart	Harpauer	Gantefoer
Eagles	Weekes	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Allchurch	Kirsch
Brkich	Merriman	Morgan
Kerpan		

Deputy Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 29; those opposed, 25.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Deputy Clerk: — Second and third reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — Order please. I wish to . . . Order please. I wish to advise the Assembly that Her Honour is here for Royal Assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 12:15 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed several Bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour and to which Bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Deputy Clerk: — Your Honour, the Bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 32 - The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels
- Bill No. 37 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006
- 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)
- Bill No. 31 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 41 - The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 35 - The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi d'interprétation de 1995
- Bill No. 47 - The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 40 - The Income Trust Liability Act
- Bill No. 49 - The Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day Act
- Bill No. 60 - The Evidence Act/Loi sur la preuve
- Bill No. 61 - The Evidence Consequential Amendments Act, 2006
- Bill No. 39 - The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 53 - The Economic and Co-operative Development Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 64 - The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 63 - The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 46 - The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 59 - The Education Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation
- Bill No. 44 - The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006
- Bill No. 42 - The Respiratory Therapists Act
- Bill No. 43 - The Medical Radiation Technologists Act, 2006
- Bill No. 54 - The Cancer Agency Act
- Bill No. 51 - The Regional Health Services Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 62 - The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 45 - The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 52 - The Meewasin Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 55 - The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act
- Bill No. 56 - The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006
- Bill No. 57 - The Residential Tenancies Consequential Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006
- Bill No. 30 - The Film and Video Classification Amendment Act, 2006
- 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)
- Bill No. 38 - The Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act/Loi sur le règlement des différends internationaux relatifs aux investissements
- Bill No. 12 - The Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 48 - The Parks Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 28 - The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 204 - The Recognition of Telemiracle Week Act

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly accorded the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 66 - The Appropriation Act, 2006 (No. 2)

to which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly respectfully requests your presence for a historical photograph.

Her Honour: — I would be pleased.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 12:22.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

House Adjournment

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, in a moment I would like to move a motion of adjournment which will be seconded by the Opposition House Leader, but before proceeding to that I would beg the indulgence of the House to very briefly express some appreciations.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, to you and your office, the staff of your office, for your rulings and your guidance and the support provided to all members of the Assembly in a non-partial way. Secondly, to the Clerks of the Assembly who always serve us well and always make us and our Assembly look the best when compared with all the others and the rest of the nation. And they have been efficient as always.

The Sergeant-at-Arms and the security personnel who provide us not only security but look good doing it and we appreciate that. To the Pages, who are always effervescent in the performance of their duties and who we've come to become quite fond of over the course of the term. To the Hansard personnel who ensure that the democratic principle of knowledge of the public to what goes on here is accurately recorded and who work tireless hours.

The Opposition House Leader and to his staff, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge that it has been for me, during the course of this session, an honour to work together with the Opposition House Leader who I consider a gentleman with whom a handshake seals an agreement. And I want to also acknowledge the good work of his staff working together with the Government House Leader's office as well.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say to the House that I will look forward to working together with the Opposition House Leader over the course of the summer as we consider ways that we will continue to modernize and make more efficient the operation of

the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

And in that context, I want to express appreciation to the Standing Committee Chairs and the Vice-Chairs and the work that they have done to demonstrate the effectiveness of the new system of committees that we have used throughout this session and will continue to use.

To the government and opposition caucus offices, for the staffs who support us, as well as to the interns who are located within them and will be a part — an important part — of the future parliamentary democracy in our province.

Also, I want to express thanks to the staff who serve the ministers of the Crown as we prepare to do our duties, as we come to this Chamber to bring them for consideration and ultimately in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

To the cafeteria staff who feed us well and sometimes too well, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate that, as well as the good work of the staff for Property Management who keep this building in good order and humming.

Also to members of the legislative press gallery, who ensure that the carryings-on and the doings of this Assembly are reported to the public and who ensure that democracy is alive and well as a result of that.

Second last, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend our best wishes of the government members to the hon. member from Martensville who unfortunately has been to the House all too infrequently. We've been pleased that we've seen him on occasion and our thoughts and our prayers are with him and we wish him a speedy and healthy recovery.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to express appreciation to all of our families. All of us recognize that when we come to this Chamber that the greatest sacrifice for virtually all members, if not all members, is the time that is lost with those who are most special to us. And we deeply appreciate the support that they give us not only during the session, but in an ongoing kind of way.

I also want to express thanks to broadcast services, who ensure that this signal is carried to all the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the House Leader of the Opposition:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this day today, it shall stand adjourned to the date and time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government, and that Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice if possible of such date and time.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader, the member for Moose Jaw North, seconded by the Opposition House Leader, the member for Melfort:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of the sitting

day today it shall stand adjourned until the date and the time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government, and that Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice if possible of such date and time.

The Chair recognizes the Opposition House Leader, the member from Melfort.

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise with the Government House Leader and express some gratitudes at the end of the session. First of all, I would like to thank all members of this Assembly for their co-operation and determination to make democracy work. At times I know people get an impression that everyone is not similarly dedicated to the principles of democracy and the freedom of expression that this place allows for and encourages. And, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to thank every member for their participation in that process.

I would like to in particular thank the members of my caucus for their co-operation and support in making sure that the challenges that have been placed before us were met and done so in a timely, efficient way, and in particular the opposition leader who entrusted me with this responsibility.

I would also like to join the Government House Leader in recognizing and expressing our best thoughts and prayers and wishes for the member from Martensville. Members know that he is a veteran member of our Assembly and is very much missed in his absence from this Assembly. And we certainly wish him and his family the very best.

The Government House Leader has been very cordial and very professional in our dealings. And I look forward to the continued good work that has been begun by those that have gone before us in terms of the renewal and rejuvenation of the rules of our Assembly, that we will have further progress to report when we meet in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't join the Government House Leader in thanking all of those people from the legislature to our caucuses that he mentioned in detail, and thank them as well from the official opposition for their support in making our jobs not only bearable, but very interesting and always very professional.

And finally I would like to end as well by spending and paying special tribute to our families. Mr. Speaker, each member knows no matter if they live in the city of Regina or very remote from it that this office and this position and the work that we all do as members of this legislature puts tremendous stress not only on ourselves, but I think even in a particular way on our families.

Very often when we're here in this Assembly and we're conducting the affairs of the province, we sometimes can easily forget that our spouses and families are at home and are meeting the public and meeting our constituents in the communities. And quite often they end up pinch-hitting for us in so many ways. It always seems to me a particular sacrifice for those that have young families, and they miss special occasions because of the duties of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in agreeing and seconding this adjournment, I would like to express that everyone has a very safe and happy and relaxing summer period in the bosom of their families and also in communication with their constituents because that's what this job is all about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[12:30]

The Speaker: — I would like to take a minute to associate myself with the remarks of both House leaders with respect to the thank yous for everyone that's involved, in particular in my case to thank you to the Clerks, all the departments within the Legislative Assembly Office, and my personal staff in the office.

And I do want to take a minute to recognize the MLAs who work here diligently and the attention that they pay to the business on behalf of their constituents. MLAs have a very heavy schedule and a very intense session with long hours and committees and other obligations. And MLAs don't get thanked very often. They don't expect to get thanked, but they deserve to get thanked because the work of the MLAs goes far beyond just what the people often see through the media.

I have the privilege of seeing history being made before my eyes here daily. And I can say that the leadership, the research, the scrutiny and the debate, and watching MLAs consider all factors on very complex issues and the consensus making and the voting, it's the MLAs' action in this that keeps our democracy functions and safeguards our freedoms. And the MLAs deserve credit for that, and families of MLAs certainly deserve recognition for the support that they give to their MLAs.

And very specifically I wish to give special credit to the House leaders and to the members of the Standing Committee on Human Services for blazing the trail by applying a new provision from the rules of the Assembly and with respect to the consumer protection Bill. This Committee on Human Services broke new ground when they opened the doors for public comment after first reading of a Bill.

The result was legislation endorsed by all in the House where no law existed previously at all, and a lot of satisfaction from that process. So congratulations go out to the Chair of the committee and all committee members for piloting this public consultation. And I project your success will be replicated by much more opportunities for the public to comment upon legislation in this Chamber in the future.

I too wish all members a pleasant, productive summer along with some rest. And to the MLA from Martensville, God speed your recovery.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Moose Jaw North, seconded by the member for Melfort:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the ending of sitting day today it shall stand adjourned to the date and the time

set by Mr. Speaker upon request of the government, and that Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such a date and time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until the call of the Speaker. Pardon me. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, we've just decided what we're going to do when we adjourn, so why don't we? I move this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — I thank the Government House Leader for using his experience as a former Speaker, and he has just moved that this House do stand adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Now this House stands adjourned until the call of the Chair.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:35.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Lorne Calvert
Premier

Hon. Graham Addley
Minister of Healthy Living Services
Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Pat Atkinson
Minister of Advanced Education and Employment
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Public
Service Commission

Hon. Joan Beatty
Minister of Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Buckley Belanger
Minister of Community Resources
Minister Responsible for Disability Issues

Hon. Eric Cline
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Saskatchewan Inc.
Minister Responsible for Information Services
Corporation of Saskatchewan

Hon. David Forbes
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Glenn Hagel
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation
Provincial Secretary
Minister Responsible for Gaming
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance

Hon. Deb Higgins
Minister of Learning
Minister Responsible for Literacy
Minister Responsible for Liquor and
Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Eldon Lautermilch
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Minister of Property Management
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for the
Forestry Secretariat

Hon. John Nilson
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for the Office of
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Hon. Maynard Sonntag
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Minister of Finance
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Hon. Mark Wartman
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Hon. Kevin Yates
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety