



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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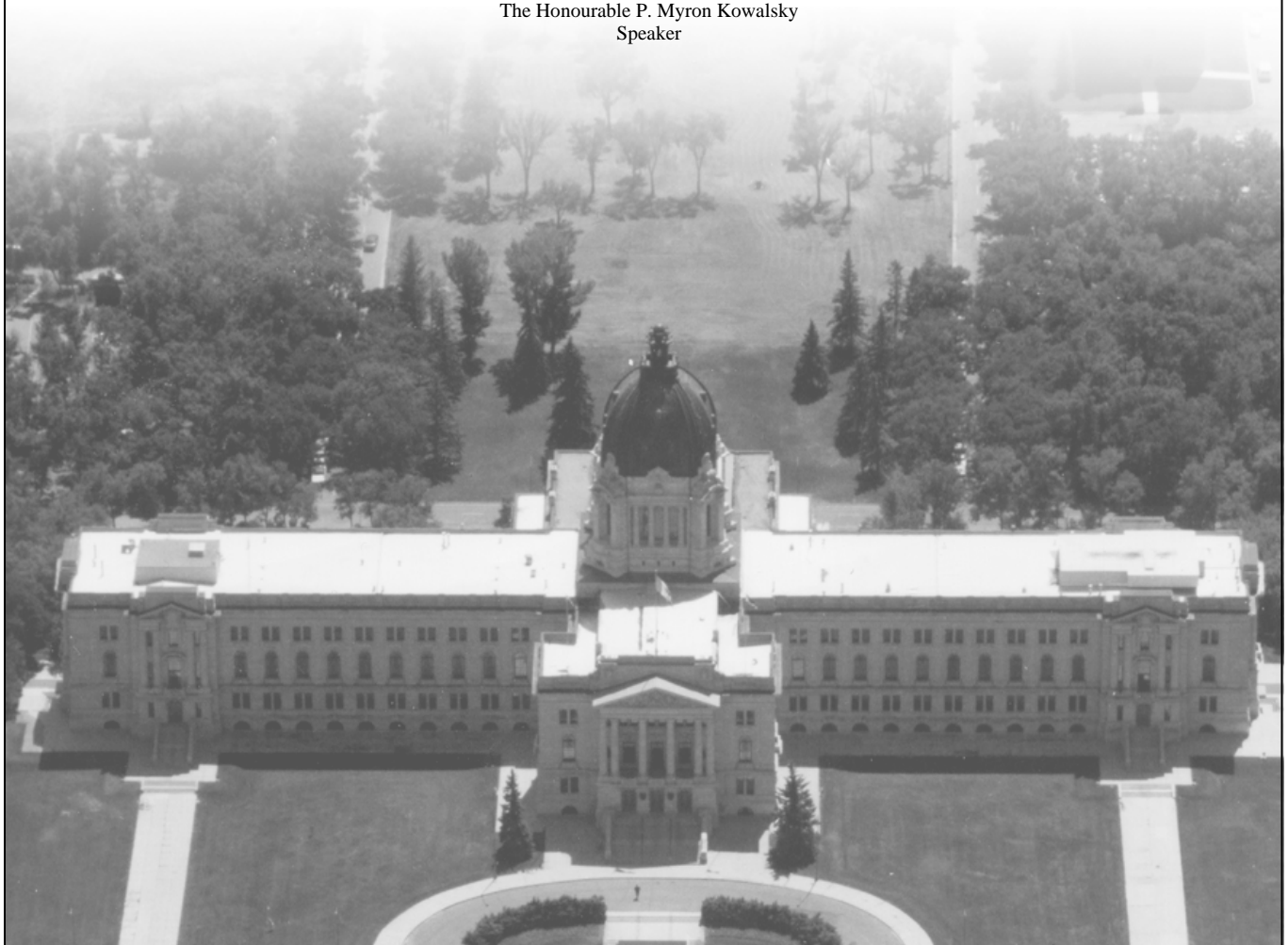
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

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The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



# MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantefoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Hon. Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
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, Hon. 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, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Martensville

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege again this afternoon to present more petitions from the communities of Broadview, Cowessess, and I see there are some signed here from Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Whitewood regarding dialysis services in the Broadview Hospital. And I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement the strategy that will see a dialysis unit placed in Broadview Union Hospital.

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

I so present.

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition once again with regard to the condition of Highway 18. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to 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, the signatories to the petition today come from the communities of Claydon, Eastend, and Frontier. I so present.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have petitions to present today on behalf of a constituent from Carnduff. 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 will ever pray.

These petitions come from the communities of Carievale, Storthoaks, Oxbow, Gainsborough, Alida, Wawota, Redvers, Antler. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the lack of provincial government 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 petition is signed by individuals from the community of Wolseley. I so present.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to do with the drug Avastin:

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.

The signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Wolseley and Sintaluta.

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be no surprise that today I rise again with a number of petitions with citizens that are concerned about the safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And to demonstrate how well-travelled this highway is, the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Watrous, Bruno, Humboldt, LeRoy, Saskatoon, Jansen, Guernsey, Wynyard, Lanigan, Viscount, Colonsay, Muenster, Englefeld, Hendon, Warman, Kelvington, Bradwell, Archerwill, Kamsack, and Winnipeg. I so present.

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with my colleagues on behalf of citizens concerned with the lack of funding for the cancer-fighting 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.

Signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, from the great

Southeast are from Carnduff, Oxbow, Glen Ewen, and Oxbow. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents of mine who have concerns regarding the Estevan Daycare Co-operative, and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to review the decision to deny the requested spaces for the Estevan Daycare Co-operative.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Estevan and Bienfait. I so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present another petition from citizens of Wilkie who are concerned about reduction of health care services. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Wilkie Health Centre and special care home maintain at the very least their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present another petition on behalf of 600 children under six years old and their parents in the Saskatoon Silver Springs constituency regarding a much needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek area of Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

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

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

The signatures today are from the areas of Collins Terrace, Peters Cove, and Beckett Crescent in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I bring a petition from citizens who are very concerned about the NDP's [New Democratic Party] two tiered health system. And the petition reads as follows:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed in total by the good citizens of Wolseley. I so present.

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

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan that are concerned about the NDP's two tiered health system, 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 in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signatures of this petition are from Grenfell, Broadview, and Wolseley. I so present.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to bring forward a petition from citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about the government's lack to fund the 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.

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good citizens of Regina, Wolseley, and also from Edmonton. I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition on citizens calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to upgrade Highway 20 to primary weight status:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that Highway 20 be upgraded to primary weight status to ensure the economic viability in the surrounding areas.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This particular petition is signed by the good citizens from Nokomis, Jansen, Lanigan, Drake, Muenster, and Hudson Bay. I so present.

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in the Assembly today and present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan concerned with the provincial government's failure 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 is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is all signed by the good citizens of Grenfell. And they have also printed their names, and we appreciate that.

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to rise in the House today to present yet another petition regarding this government's failure to fund the cancer drug Avastin. Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer for relief:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens throughout Saskatchewan. I so present on their behalf.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

**Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with my colleagues in presenting a petition calling on the government to fund the cancer drug Avastin. 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.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the people of Wolseley, Indian Head, and Sintaluta. I so present.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order petitions tabled at the last sitting have been received and under rule 15(7) have been read and received.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 4, The Education Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — And when shall Bill No. 4 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I would move that consideration in Committee of the Whole be waived.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave that consideration of Committee of the Whole be waived. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. Then when shall this Bill No. 4 be considered, read the third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 4 — The Education Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation (n° 2)

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — 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 Minister of Learning that Bill No. 4 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

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

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to give notice that I shall on day 18 move first reading of a Bill that would be An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act (Set Election Dates), 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 18 move first reading of An Act to provide for the Election of Saskatchewan Nominees for Appointment to the Senate of Canada. I'm pleased to present this.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 21 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation: has Saskatchewan Housing ever entered into a contract with L.W. Construction? And if so, when and for what purpose?

In addition I give notice that I shall on day no. 21 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: is SaskTel outsourcing any of its engineering work or any other work to India or any other foreign country? If so, what type of work is being outsourced and to which countries?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister Responsible for Finance: what is the provincial capital tax rate on railroads?

To the Minister Responsible for Finance: what is the locomotive fuel tax rate?

[13:45]

In addition, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: what is the book value of Ag Dealer when the initial investment was made in the year 2000?

And there are a number of other questions for SaskTel.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 21 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management: when is the projected completion date for the work currently being done in the foyer of the legislature?

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand again and give notice of written questions. First of all, I

give notice that I shall on day no. 21 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Highways and Transportation: for the fiscal year 2003-2004, how many days was the Riverhurst ferry not in operation?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for the fiscal year 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and for the year to date.

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that I shall on day no. 21 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Highways and Transportation: what was the cost of maintenance on the Riverhurst ferry in the fiscal year 2003-2004?

And again, Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for the fiscal year 2004-2005, 2005-2006.

And, Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that I shall on day no. 21 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Highways and Transportation: for the fiscal year 2003-2004, what was the cost of operating Riverhurst ferry?

Mr. Speaker, now I have similar questions for the fiscal year 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and for the current year to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning, the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to introduce to you and through you a group of young people seated in your gallery.

Mr. Speaker, these young folks are involved in Canada World Youth. Canada World Youth will be celebrating their 35th anniversary and will be taking part in over 50 projects around Canada this year alone, Mr. Speaker. Participants volunteer for three days a week in the community that they will be staying in, and then they have one day of education. Mr. Speaker, this group will be split in two. Part of the group will be staying in Gravelbourg, and the other half will be staying in my constituency of Moose Jaw.

Today they had a tour of the Legislative Building and a question and answer period, Mr. Speaker, with you over lunch. And then I had a quick visit with them. And I also understand the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Wood River also had a quick visit with them before they entered the House today.

Each group, Mr. Speaker, has nine students from Ukraine, nine youths from across Canada, and two chaperones, one chaperone from the Ukraine and one from Canada. Mr. Speaker, they arrived . . . They're looking wonderful after arriving very late

last evening. I don't imagine they've had too much sleep. They will spend three days here in Regina and then they will carry on to the communities where they will be for the next three, three and a half months, Moose Jaw and Gravelbourg.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in welcoming these young people to our legislature and also to Saskatchewan, and we hope you have a great three months. And I look forward to seeing some of you in Moose Jaw. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow and welcome our guests from Ukraine. I know you got in late last night, around midnight I guess, and probably feeling a little bit tired, but maybe we can get things livened up here in a few minutes and we'll keep you awake.

There is a group that's coming to Gravelbourg, which is in my constituency. And the supervisors for Gravelbourg are Lee Reaney and Luda Lushpie. And I'm sure you're going to enjoy the area around Gravelbourg. It's a pretty flat area but you go further south and there's lots of hills and rolling land and there's a fair bit to do as far as the outdoor activities.

And so I would like to welcome all of the guests from Ukraine to Canada and especially Saskatchewan, and welcome to our Legislative Assembly. And I'd ask members to please join me in welcoming them.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to welcome to the Legislative Assembly, seated in your gallery, some very special guests who each are involved in early learning and child care in their communities.

First of all I would like to introduce two who are also visiting our province, two from the province of Manitoba. And I would ask as I introduce if you would just give us a wave. From the province of Manitoba, Lorraine Myerion and Violet Merrick of the Long Plain First Nation in Manitoba. Lorraine and Violet are both employed by the Little Hands Head Start Program at Long Plain First Nation, and they're visiting our province as part of a community exchange program with the Yorkton Tribal Council.

Joining our Manitoba guests in the gallery today are Chief Norman Whitehawk of the Cote First Nation; Arlene Pinay, executive assistant, Yorkton Tribal Council; Bev Peel, children's program team leader, First Nations Inuit health branch, Health Canada; Yvonne Rusnak, early childhood program coordinator, Yorkton Tribal Council; Heather Bear, health portfolio councillor, Sakimay First Nation; Freda Musqua, Head Start coordinator, Keeseekoose First Nation; and, Mr. Speaker, Monica Whitehawk, Head Start daycare

director at Cote First Nation, who by the way, Mr. Speaker, happens to be celebrating her birthday today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I look forward to meeting with this dedicated group of individuals later this afternoon, and again I would ask all members to welcome them to the Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Premier in welcoming the guests just introduced to our gallery, our out-of-province visitors. Welcome to Saskatchewan. And I hope it's a productive time that you will have here in Saskatchewan. And especially a welcome to Chief Whitehawk, who is a resident of my constituency and the other members that the Premier has introduced also from my constituency. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, to you and through you to all members, I would like to introduce two very special constituents of mine. Seated in the east gallery are two of my four sisters, Edna Irwin and Audrey Thompson, and they come up and spend a couple days with me each session. So I would ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly an exceptionally good-looking group of students in the east gallery. I know that when most introductions are done, the members say that they are a good-looking group of students. But I've seen these folks when they came in, and they are truly exceptionally good-looking and wonderfully gifted students.

They are from Lakeridge School which is just down the block from where I live so I'm very familiar with the school, and I'm extremely pleased to see these folks here today. They are accompanied by Colette Delainey, Heather Hutchison, and Sarah Keshane and I think some other people whose names I don't have, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to having a visit with these students later on and I want to welcome them to their Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as well I'd like to acknowledge some other work that Heather Bear has been doing in our area, certainly working with the committee around dialysis and bringing that issue to the forefront, especially in how it affects her community. And I want to thank her for having had the privilege of meeting with her. And we certainly look forward to this ongoing discussion. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Multiculturalism Week

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from November 19 through the 25 it is multiculturalism week here in Saskatchewan.

Our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength" reminds us not only that Saskatchewan has always been a place of cultural diversity, but also that respecting cultural diversity and learning from and celebrating one another's cultural traditions will be a source of strength to us and to help all of Saskatchewan's people live together and move forward in harmony.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan can be very proud of the many firsts to which this province may lay claim. Among those firsts, in 1974 Saskatchewan became the first province to enact multicultural legislation. Recognizing the right of every community to retain its identity, language, and traditional arts and sciences for the mutual benefit of all was contained in that legislation and is contained in it.

1997 the Act was revised and a section of the Act states that the policy should preserve, strengthen, and promote Aboriginal cultures and acknowledge their historic and current contribution to the development of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a wide variety of events taking place throughout the province to highlight Saskatchewan's diverse cultures.

I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to participate and help to celebrate Saskatchewan multiculturalism week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Louis Riel's Poem for Robert Gordon

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I spent a day at the Batoche historic site and out of the friendships I made there and respect for these people today I read this poem.

Robert Gordon!  
I beg your pardon  
For so having  
Kept you waiting  
After some poor verses of mine.  
You know, my English is not fine.  
I speak it; but only  
Very imperfectly.

The snow,  
Which renders the ground all white,  
From heaven, comes here below:  
Its pine frozen drops invite  
Us all  
To white — keep our thoughts and our acts,  
So that when our bodies do fall,  
Our merits, before God, be facts.

How many who, with good desires,  
Have died and lost their souls to fires?  
Good desires kept unpractic'd  
Stand, before God, unnotic'd  
O Robert, let us be fond  
Of Virtue! Virtues abound  
In every sort of good,  
Let virtue be our soul's food.

Louis "David" Riel  
Oct. 27, 1885

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Recognition of Innovation Place Employee

**Hon. Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, Innovation Place, which I'm proud to say is located in the constituency of Saskatoon Sutherland, is one of the most successful and rapidly growing university-related research parks in North America.

Building on the strengths of the university as well as the federal and provincial agencies that are either in or immediately adjacent to the facility, the more than 100 companies and organizations that make their home in Innovation Place are from a wide variety of sectors including agriculture, information technology, engineering, resources, and the life sciences. Mr. Speaker, Innovation Place employs over 2,000 people and contributes over \$240 million a year to the economy of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. Innovation Place is a significant part of Saskatchewan's diverse and growing economy.

I'm pleased to say that Austin Beggs, director of corporate relations for Innovation Place, has been elected president of the Association of University Research Parks. This association includes some of North America's top-ranked research parks, including Research Triangle Park in North Carolina that serves Duke and two other nearby universities. Mr. Speaker, this is only the second time the North American organization has elected a Canadian as its president. Mr. Speaker, Austin Beggs is yet another example of someone pursuing a rewarding,



successful career right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Beggs and Innovation Place put Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on the global map of innovative research. I'd like to invite all members to join me in wishing him well in his new position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Saskatoon Arn Falcons Win Prairie Challenge

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Arn Falcons Pee wee Football Club are the Saskatoon Kinsmen minor football league and provincial champions. The team consists of many dedicated 11- and 12-year-old football players and parents from northeast Saskatoon, led by coach Jim Rusnak.

Not just satisfied with winning the provincial championship, this highly motivated team did what any team with true Saskatchewan spirit would do. They challenged their Alberta counterparts to a winner-take-all, Prairie bragging rights championship.

Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday in a warm-up for the Vanier Cup, Potash Corp. Park in Griffiths Stadium played host to the first ever Prairie Challenge. I had an opportunity to participate in the opening ceremonies and welcomed the Alberta champion St. Albert Raiders to our province.

The teams were evenly matched. The Saskatoon Arn Falcons were a perfect 10 and 0 in league and playoff action this year. The St. Albert Raiders, who did wear green and white, were 11 and 1 in league in playoff playing. An enthusiastic crowd of parents, relatives, and fans cheered throughout the well-fought match on a crisp Saskatoon morning.

[14:00]

And, Mr. Speaker, I know you want to know the score. The Saskatoon Arn Falcons, in true Saskatchewan fashion, beat the St. Albert Raiders 30 to 28. Both teams had supper together, and organizers say this weekend's activities built bridges between the two provinces. Admission to the game was only a toonie, and the proceeds — some \$1,000 — were donated to the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* Sporting Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all members to congratulate the initiative of Jim Rusnak and the Saskatoon Arn Falcons in staging this innovative sporting event.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

### Leo King Celebrates 100th Birthday

**Mr. Borgerson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great pleasure to wish one of my constituents a happy birthday, and

that person is Leo King of Paddockwood.

Leo was born on November 21, 1906, in the town of Watson. He had an impressive and varied work history starting here in Regina in 1927 at the Wheat Pool office and later at Wheat Pool offices in Dundurn, Delisle, and Lac Vert. He ran the Co-op in Moose Jaw, the John Deere dealership in Prince Albert, served as secretary-manager of the Saskatchewan Implement Dealers Association, and as secretary-treasurer of the Auctioneer Association.

Leo has always been active in his community. He is a charter member of the Prince Albert Lions Club, a 25-year member of the P.A. [Prince Albert] Elks Club, a nine-year member of the Paddockwood Elks Club, a nine-year member of the Paddockwood Hospital Board, and a volunteer for the Cancer Society for 29 years.

Mr. Speaker, Leo has five daughters, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. He and his wife, Eva, have been married for 50 years, sharing work, community service, and family time, and enjoying weekends at their Candle Lake cottage. Leo is an avid fisherman.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs our greatest joy comes from the people we are honoured to meet and those who become friends. For me this is certainly the case with Leo and Eva King, who I know will be watching this televised proceeding.

I thank Leo King for the part he has played in the good life of this province. I wish him all the best today and in the days to come, and I ask this Assembly to wish Leo King a happy 100th birthday.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Legacy of Nursing Mismanagement

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, former Premier Roy Romanow admitted that his government went too far with health care cuts. He admitted that the deep cuts of the 1990s were a mistake. He admitted that his government was wrong to slash nursing enrolments. In 1991 more than 500 nurses graduated in this province. But the NDP made the decision to cut back those seats, and by 1999 only 115 nurses graduated. And look at the mess we're in today.

Who was the associate health minister when this decision was made? None other than the member from Saskatoon's Riversdale, the very Premier himself. And what has he done since then? Well over a decade later under his NDP government, there were only 230 RN [registered nurse] graduates, and hospitals are closing as a result. Saskatchewan Union of Nurses has indicated that there are now over 445 full-time equivalent vacancies in this province.

Here's what Roy Romanow said, quote; "We pushed the costs out of the government's pockets and right into the pockets of farmers . . . business people and nurses." This government has almost \$1 billion election slush fund, and it still won't admit to

its destructive legacy of nursing mismanagement. The NDP government solution is a sprinkling of pixie dust while nurses and patients are left twisting, twisting, twisting.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### **Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie Opens**

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I had the opportunity to attend the opening of Karneval Season 2006-07 at the German Canadian Society Harmonie in Regina. Mr. Speaker, Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie has become a popular tradition in the city since 1970 when it was founded and is always a sold-out event.

Mr. Speaker, a new prince and princess are crowned annually to reign during the Karneval season. Outgoing Prince Kenton I and Princess Erika II handed over the reins to Prince Eckhard I and Princess Darlene I. And it's a Karneval tradition to poke fun at government, all levels of government, and there were plenty of political swipes taken. I'd repeat one or two of the more barbed comments, but of course that's not my nature.

Mr. Speaker, Karneval is for old and young alike. Four different dance groups as well as the Royal Guard performed for the capacity crowd. The large numbers of dancers in each group is a good and welcome indication that German culture and traditions are thriving in Saskatchewan. The annual national Karneval Gathering is being celebrated in Edmonton this year and . . . I mean at the end of January 2007 and promises to be a huge party.

Mr. Speaker, I had a wonderful time at the opening of Karneval, as I always do. And I want to thank and congratulate President Veronika Lekien and the Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie for all their hard work in hosting yet another fun filled and successful Karneval season. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

#### **Backup Emergency Plans for Rural Health Facilities**

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Can he tell this Assembly why the Vanguard Health Centre was closed on Friday, who was informed of the situation, and what alternate arrangements were made for the people in that area?

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member opposite that regional health authorities are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the hospitals within our province, Mr. Speaker. The regional health authority acts in the interests of the safety and security of the patients within

their care. Mr. Speaker, the regional health authority would have answered all of the questions that the member opposite has.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Myron Finley is a resident of Vanguard. On Friday he received a call from the school. Mr. Finley's 10-year-old son, Tyler, had broken his arm. The boy was rushed to the health centre, but there was a big sign on the door. It said closed; sorry for the inconvenience. Mr. Finley grabbed the emergency phone by the door, and it wasn't working.

Mr. Speaker, why are we continuing to see these rural hospital closures? Why aren't people informed? And why doesn't the emergency backup system work?

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, the regional health authorities are responsible for the day-to-day operation of health care throughout the province. Mr. Speaker, the regional health authority would have taken some action in this case. Mr. Speaker, under normal circumstances individuals, when a hospital is closed, are asked to call 911 and have the ambulance operators respond to the calls to ensure that they are taken immediately to the nearest health facility that has been primed to expect the care for those areas in the province where closures have had to take place.

Mr. Speaker, once again I indicate the regional health authorities are acting in the interests of the safety and security of the patients in their care. And, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Health supports the regional health authorities in this regard.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister seems to be passing the buck to the health authorities. He is the Minister of Health. He should be looking after these situations.

Mr. Finley started driving his son towards Swift Current after he found out the health centre was closed. When he finally, finally got into cell phone range . . . The minister talks about calling 911. Well if you're in your car and you have no cell phone coverage, how can you do that? So when he finally got into cell phone range, Mr. Finley called the Cypress Hills Health District. He described the nature of his emergency and asked where he should be taking his son. Lo and behold, the person on the other end of the line said take him back to Vanguard. When Mr. Finley said it was closed, that person said no, in fact it's open.

Mr. Speaker, why is there no procedure in place for communicating these hospital closures? Why is it that no one seems to know what's going on in the health care system?

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite is not being very specific about who exactly was communicated with within the health regions. There are always people designated to respond to emergency circumstances. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite understands — he's been in this position long enough — he understands that the regional health authorities have responsibility for the day-to-day operations.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan and Sask Health does have ultimate responsibilities but, Mr. Speaker, we ensure that policy and funding is in place to ensure that the regional health authorities can respond to issues like this. Mr. Speaker, the policy and funding issues are in place to assist the regional health authority in cases like this.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Speaker, I believe that the minister forgets that he is the Minister of Health, and he is responsible for health care in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the trip to Swift Current took 50 minutes. It's a trip Mr. Finley says he'll never forget. Tyler was screaming in pain. Mr. Finley says his son will survive, but what if it had been his father with a heart attack? What if it had been some other child bleeding from a large gash in the neck? Mr. Speaker, Myron Finley says he is "really disturbed" there is no backup emergency plan for Vanguard.

So I'll ask the same question to the minister: why is this happening? What happened to the NDP's action plan for Saskatchewan Health and the promise that no one would be anymore than a 30-minute drive from primary health care?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member earlier referred to Vanguard as a hospital. I think the member opposite is aware that it is a health centre, Mr. Speaker, and does have certain conditions and limitations in any case, Mr. Speaker, because of the ability of professionals to be able to service the area.

That having been said, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is aware that the health regions do have the day-to-day responsibility for delivering care to the people of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, the policy and funding is in place to ensure that the regional health authorities have the ability to do the work that we've asked them to do.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Speaker, whether it's a health centre or a hospital, it really didn't matter because the facility was closed. Mr. Speaker, here's a list of hospital closures in the last several weeks: Preeceville, Kamsack, Spiritwood, Arcola, Big River, Central Butte, Coronach, Bengough. Now we can add Vanguard.

Is this a deliberate program of planned rotating closures? Is this government once again trying to save money by offering second-rate services to rural Saskatchewan? When will the minister do his job and look after health care in this province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member asks if this is a deliberate action, and of course the simple, easy, and correct answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. But he also asks, when will I step up and do the job that I've been asked to do, Mr. Speaker. With my colleagues on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we have committed over \$300 million — now closer to \$400 million — this year, Mr. Speaker, in additional funding to assist the regional health authorities to do the work they've been asked to do.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've concluded negotiations with both the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses and the Saskatchewan Medical Association on recruitment and retention issues. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have only committed to cut the budgets of the health care system. Contrast those two commitments, Mr. Speaker, and you will see on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we are standing up for Saskatchewan people.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Recovering Wage Overpayments

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a recent Labour Relations Board judgment has told SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations] to renegotiate with unions to recover wage overpayments to individual employees. Let's review how this has happened.

The joint job evaluation process had been dragging on for years, so on the eve of the 2003 election the NDP circumvented the normal collective bargaining process and drew up an agreement for pay increases with unions. But the work was not complete, and pay bands weren't finalized, yet the government went ahead and paid money out. Now the NDP is saying it made a huge mistake and wants the money back. This could amount to \$5 million.

Mr. Speaker, how could this government ever be so irresponsible to now punish employees because of its own flawed process and disrespect for the collective bargaining process?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

[14:15]

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member opposite that all the hyperbole, the words that he's using to describe the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, there's no evidence to support almost everything that he said.

Mr. Speaker, this government, this government is completely committed to the joint job evaluation process. Mr. Speaker, the joint job evaluation process is exactly what it says it is. It's a joint process that involves government and unions, Mr. Speaker.

And secondly, Mr. Speaker, through that joint job evaluation process, there were agreements to pay some dollars out in advance of the process being completed because of the length of time it was going to take. And, Mr. Speaker, some overpayments were made. And, Mr. Speaker, this government and the unions agree, Mr. Speaker, that those overpayments are money that is due to the people of Saskatchewan and will be collected, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank the minister for confusing this issue. On the one hand, the government is trying to get \$5 million back from employees because it bungled an agreement on the eve of an election.

On the other hand, here is what section 76 of The Labour Standards Act says, and I quote:

No employer shall require an employee to return to him, or accept from an employee, the whole or any part of any wages, minimum wage or annual holiday pay that he paid to the employee . . . ”

Let me repeat. The Labour Standards Act specifically states that an employer, in this case the Government of Saskatchewan, can't seek repayment of wages already paid.

Employees are not at fault. They were told they were worth so much before the election. And now they're told, sorry, you're not worth it after all, and we want the money back. Why is this government breaking its own law?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I assume from the questioning and the way it was delivered that the member opposite believes that we should simply mediate this matter and not collect the overpayments, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if that is indeed what the member opposite is saying.

Mr. Speaker, this is a joint agreement. There's an understanding, Mr. Speaker, that these payments were subject

to reconciliation at the end of the process. Mr. Speaker, if there was overpayments, those overpayments would be repaid to the Government of Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this government believes the content of that. It takes it seriously, Mr. Speaker. Those overpayments are due the people of Saskatchewan, and we will ensure that those overpayments — negotiated, Mr. Speaker — are collected.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What actually happened, Mr. Speaker, is that on the eve of this election, October 4 with the writ being dropped on October 9, 2003, a hastily drawn together agreement, flawed agreement came into place. Health employees were promised pay raises and bonuses. And now the NDP government wants that money back — \$5 million.

Mr. Speaker, our office has heard from employees who have been told they must pay back thousands of dollars. Some of these people have already retired. And now the NDP government wants them to dig into their savings to pay for this government's mistake. Mr. Speaker, other employees have since died. What happens then?

If this NDP government had followed the collective bargaining process in the first place, we wouldn't be in this situation. Mr. Speaker, why is this government trying to break the law and to cover up its own bungled mess?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's obvious; the member opposite is saying that this money owed to the province of Saskatchewan should not be collected. It is the opposition's contention today, Mr. Speaker, that we should write off \$5 million in a negotiated, agreed upon process between this government and the unions, Mr. Speaker.

Bottom line in all of this, Mr. Speaker, is that the number of people for whom overpayments exist is less than 3 per cent of those who were affected by the joint job evaluation process, Mr. Speaker. We will discuss this matter with each of those individuals in that 3 per cent, Mr. Speaker. We will ensure that there is a fair process involved in ensuring that these repayments are made. And, Mr. Speaker, in circumstances where they can't, we'll take that into account.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that the Minister of Health has now used the number \$9 million if I heard him correctly. Mr. Speaker, the account of November 9 where SAHO has been told to talk to unions to get the money back says clearly it is estimated to be up to \$5 million.

Mr. Speaker, let's remember why we are in this big mess in the first place. This NDP government circumvented the normal collective bargaining process and rammed through an agreement on the eve of an election call. I'm sure you'll remember the pay hikes and \$1,000 bonus that was promised to employees. And that NDP government had the gall to say that if a Saskatchewan Party formed the government that they would take it away. Now isn't that interesting, Mr. Speaker? It's the NDP government that wants to take the money back because of the bungled process.

Mr. Speaker, what is the NDP government's plan? To recycle this money? To try and buy more votes on the eve of another election call?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again the member opposite either can't hear or is trying to mislead the members of the House, Mr. Speaker. There was no \$9 million mentioned in any of my comments.

Mr. Speaker, I indicated very clearly that we support the joint job evaluation process. Mr. Speaker, we are committed to the joint job evaluation process. There have been some overpayments made under agreements with the unions, Mr. Speaker. And we are in the process of finding the best way in which we can ensure that the overpayments that were made to employees are returned to the treasury, Mr. Speaker, so that within the health care system we can ensure we have additional dollars for recruitment and retention, for equipment, for improving circumstances in the workplace, Mr. Speaker, and ensuring that we provide better health care for the people of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Grant Process for Community Initiatives Funds**

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the community initiatives grant was supposed to allow communities to fulfill their dreams — dreams like building playgrounds for their children. In my constituency of Humboldt, two communities tried to fulfill that very dream and they succeeded. Both communities received approval for their grant applications. The village of Bradwell built a playground with their grant money, and so did Sunset Estates. Sunset Estates even called their project, Kids First. Both were extremely pleased that their children could now play in a safe place.

But, Mr. Speaker, these communities' dreams were dashed when they received correspondence stating that the NDP government wanted some of the grant money back. Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why he is clawing back money from the communities who simply wanted to provide playground equipment for their children?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture,

Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I think we've had a number of times that we've had issues brought to this House where the facts haven't been accurate. I don't have specific information about the case that the member purports to have here today. But, Mr. Speaker, when grants are put in place, then there are criteria that are put in place for those grants, and the grants are made on the basis of responding to the criteria that are put in place. And, Mr. Speaker, if those conditions are not met, then in the interests of accountability and proper expenditure of public funds, then in some cases repayments may be necessary to be made.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, both Bradwell and Sunset Estates applications were sent in and accepted, and the money was sent from that minister's government. In that time Bradwell's citizens banded together, and they built a playground, and so did Sunset Estates. More than a year later, this NDP government came back and say that they've had a change of heart, and they shouldn't have gotten that money. The government's own policy states that once the proposal is deemed eligible, the proposal will be evaluated against established criteria, and the minister said that again today.

How incompetent is this government that a year later it comes back to the communities and wants the money back after they've poured all of their efforts into building safe places for their children?

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why he accepted the applications from Bradwell and Sunset Estates if he simply planned to claw the money back in the near future? Why fill them with hope and have them put all that effort in to take it away a year later?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, grants are put in place in order to facilitate community activities. That's the intention. That's appreciated when it's done. And, Mr. Speaker, the Community Initiatives Fund grants are put in place; they're administered by an arm's length from the government . . . Now the hon. member, the hon. member begins to whine when I refer to this being administered by an arm's-length of the government.

Mr. Speaker, this is, this is done in the interest of fairness and accountability. And I'll tell you, it's a whole different circumstance from when this party and some of their members were in government before, when accountability, Mr. Speaker, meant sometimes we had, we had overexpenditures in the budget in excess of \$1 billion a year.

Mr. Speaker, those days are gone when it's managed when all

decisions are made directly by government. I stand firm by the fact that we will, in the interest of fairness to all communities, administer by arm's-length, conditions are put in place. If they're not met, then they are required to. And appeals are possible, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, it's getting very tiresome when that government keeps on passing the buck. They claw back the money and then pass the buck and say we're not responsible for it.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that Saskatchewan is the volunteer capital of Canada. People in this province sacrifice their time and their resources to do what's right, and it's the Saskatchewan way. And the member from Regina Wascana agrees. And here's a quote from *Hansard* on October 30, 2006, and I quote, "... community-based and volunteer organizations are the backbone of the high quality of life Saskatchewan families enjoy."

Mr. Speaker, the village of Bradwell used volunteer labour to build its playground equipment. They listed it on their application, their application that went through the process that the minister had talked about and was approved. Now the NDP wants money back. Donations in kind, contributions of volunteer time may not be claimed as an expense as no money was paid out. Mr. Speaker, how can this NDP government say that it believes in volunteer projects and values volunteers when it's trying to claw the money back from Bradwell?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many times I have to repeat this to make it clear. Grants are in place. There is a arm's-length committee that adjudicates the applications, whether they meet the criteria. The money is sent. The project is done. The final report is submitted. If the conditions for the grant are not in order, then resolution is expected. And in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, communities have the ability to appeal if they feel there has been an incorrect decision made, and I would encourage that these communities would do that.

But I know this, Mr. Speaker. I know this. When I think about the history of this group in government before, when their leader worked in the Grant Devine government and overexpended in the range of billions and billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, there was no appeal. There was no appeal. There was only one appeal. That was to kick them out, to change the government, and that's where it will stay because this is a government that believes in accountability, unlike the predecessors in that party opposite.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, that's a government that is all talk and no action. They pass the buck, and they are making it very difficult for these small communities in rural Saskatchewan to even provide playground equipment for their children. This government has put these communities in a terrible bind. Here's what Sunset Estate said in a letter to the minister on November 15:

Now, the Community Initiative Grant people are demanding [that] we return the money spent on the playground equipment (\$11435.11). We do not have that kind of money. In fact we are just breaking even now. If we had to pay this [money] back, we would have to fold and have the government or someone else take over.

Mr. Speaker, these people are just trying to provide playground equipment for kids. They made their applications, and it was approved.

Why is this government making it as difficult as they possibly can? They accept their applications and ask for the grant money back. What kind of heartless government is this? Will the minister reconsider and allow the communities of Bradwell and Sunset Estates to keep their funds for their playground equipment?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I would have thought at some point in the session up till now, we would have got around to the jobs question. But we are here, the last question again today and yet not another question on jobs.

Mr. Speaker, there are good things being done in communities by volunteers. It's appreciated. However, Mr. Speaker, the auditor, the Provincial Auditor . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order, members. Order. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I can understand why this group does not pay great heed to the requirements of accountability and the requirements that an auditor would have. An auditor would say, Mr. Speaker, that when you have grants and they have rules, they have to be followed. Surely that is not too much to expect, Mr. Speaker. When the things have to be resolved, they will be. And as I said before, communities can appeal. The good work is appreciated.

But, Mr. Speaker, I find it kind of interesting. I find it kind of interesting . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order please. Order please, members. We've had the question asked. Let's get the response. The member . . . Order. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, just a little short snapper question. How many over there either served or ran for election under the Grant Devine government? How many? Nobody is prepared to admit. Well that's . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### **Bill No. 37 — The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 2000 sur la Cour d'appel**

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 37, The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2006 be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 37, The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2006 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:** — Motion is carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### **Bill No. 38 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)**

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 38, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006 be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Environment that Bill No. 38, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment 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:** — Motion is carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

The Chair recognizes the Minister of the Environment.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Next sitting of the House.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### **Bill No. 39 — The Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Healthy Living Services.

**Hon. Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 39, The Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 39, The Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act 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:** — Motion is carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Addley:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting. Why is the member from Melfort on his feet?

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to move a motion of substitution on committees before orders of the day.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Melfort has requested leave to move motions regarding substitutions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member from Melfort.

### MOTIONS

#### **Substitution on Committee**

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Southeast, that the name of Don Toth be substituted for the name of Don Morgan on the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Opposition House Leader, the member for Melfort, seconded by the member for Saskatoon Southeast:

That the name of Don Toth be substituted for the name of Don Morgan on the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — On behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table responses to written questions 55 to 58 inclusive.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 35 — The Infrastructure Fund Act

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure to rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 35, The Infrastructure Fund Act.

Mr. Speaker, The Infrastructure Fund Act introduces a new funding arrangement for building and improving on the infrastructure of Saskatchewan. The purpose of this Bill is to establish a Saskatchewan Infrastructure Fund. This fund will receive monies in the '06-07 year from the General Revenue Fund surplus and in turn will provide monies for the provision and maintenance of infrastructure, initially recreation and cultural facilities under the building communities program.

Through this legislation the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Fund will provide resources for public infrastructure to achieve the government's long-term objectives of building and improving Saskatchewan communities, of building and improving capacity for social and economic development of the province, and for meeting the growing needs of Saskatchewan families.

The establishment of the Infrastructure Fund will allow government to set aside funds now for infrastructure purposes using the opportunities presented from the higher-than-anticipated resource revenues. These funds can then be expended over a multi-year period without lapsing in the annual budgetary cycle. Initially, Mr. Speaker, the fund will be established with an injection of \$100 million that will be used to fund infrastructures, programs, and projects under the building communities program.

The building communities program will provide capital funding to various cultural and recreation facilities across the province including museums, art galleries, and sports complexes. The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation will be announcing eligibility criteria and funding arrangements for the program in the near future.

Enacting legislation now to establish the fund clearly identifies government's commitment to this program. It also allows

communities time to plan and budget for the projects and subsequently approach the government for additional financial support when details are finalized.

In addition to demonstrating government's commitment to the renewal of public infrastructure, the legislation proposed in this draft Bill also provides for accountability and transparency with respect to the use of the Infrastructure Fund. Transfers to the fund will be allocated for specific infrastructure programs and purposes. Transfers from the fund must occur through the GRF [General Revenue Fund]. This means that specific use of the funds will be tracked and reported in departmental estimates and forecasts. Initially in this particular case, it'll be the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation that'll be accounting for the building communities program.

Additionally, all transfers to and from the fund and the fund's balance must be recorded in the public accounts. Mr. Speaker, the initial amount allocated to the fund will be for the building communities program commitment. However, flexibility has been provided in the legislation for the fund to receive future financial injections as other resources become available to address other infrastructure needs of Saskatchewan communities.

In closing I would say — as members of this Assembly are well aware — one of the cornerstones our government's focus for the year ahead is to ensure that Saskatchewan families benefit from our strong and growing economy. I'm pleased to say that this Bill helps to achieve this goal by introducing a new financial tool to support 21st-century public infrastructure — infrastructure that will contribute to the economic growth; infrastructure that will support job creation; infrastructure that'll build our communities and futures for young people right here in this province, right here at home.

As such, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 35, The Infrastructure Fund Act.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 35, The Infrastructure Fund Act be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill 35, The Infrastructure Fund Act. This Act certainly raises a lot of questions. I mean, the premise behind the fund seems to be a very good one. Obviously communities need those types of infrastructure or projects to be built.

But as we have seen in question period today, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, who has clawed back money from other types of projects . . . We have to ask the question: what is the criteria for acceptance of this fund? Is this fund going to be given to communities, the communities are going to build their projects, then six months or a year later are going to be asked to pay all or part of the money back to the government because the government has mismanaged the criteria and the application process and then claim to say that the money was given out in error?

So, Mr. Speaker, a lot of these things need to be clarified. And



the communities of Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan are certainly going to need to know exactly what they're getting into when they apply for and hopefully receive infrastructure money.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation certainly has a large project that he is working on in his area, and one wonders if this fund is just set up — this \$100 million is going to his particular ministry — we wonder if this fund is just set up just to fund his one project only. Certainly there's many very laudable projects around the province that need funding and certainly this money should be given out to all parts of Saskatchewan. Everyone should have a chance at receiving this fund to build their projects in their communities.

So, Mr. Speaker, certainly the criteria is a big question. We will study this Bill, we will talk to stakeholders in communities that have projects in planning and see if this infrastructure fund is what they need, Mr. Speaker. So at this time I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill No. 35, The Infrastructure Fund Act be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Bill No. 36 — The Income Tax Amendment Act,  
2006 (No. 2)**

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise and move second reading of Bill 36, An Act to amend The Income Tax Act, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2006 budget that I announced on April 6 in this Assembly, I was pleased to announce this government's plans to carry forward major reforms of the business tax system in the province. Our business tax reforms are indeed eliminating the general corporate capital tax. They're reducing the corporate income tax rate to 12 per cent. They're increasing the small-business threshold to \$500,000 and improving the tax incentives for manufacturing and processing.

More recently, Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure to announce in this Assembly a major two-point reduction in the sales tax rate. I've also been pleased to, on behalf of our NDP government, announced reductions to the small-business tax rate, changes to the dividend tax credit, and the full indexation of Saskatchewan's personal income tax system for 2007. We've announced all of these tax reductions in this past year.

These changes build on the most significant personal tax reforms announced in the province's history. And these changes result in lower taxes for Saskatchewan families. Our government is working hard to make sure that Saskatchewan is the best place to live, to work, and to raise a family.

Our record of tax relief in reducing sales taxes, corporate taxes,

income taxes, property taxes, small-business taxes, our record of tax reduction shows that we are indeed making life better for today's families and businesses. And we're building a better future for young people right here at home.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill introduces amendments that will implement the income tax changes I've announced over the past few weeks. It will reduce the small-business tax rate to 4.5 per cent. It will alter the provincial dividend tax credit to establish a new 11 per cent rate for dividends from larger businesses and set the dividend rate for small businesses at 6 per cent. It will also reduce the rate of the investment tax credit for eligible manufacturing processing assets to 5 per cent to match the new, much lower provincial sales tax rate.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to these amendments, this Bill also provides for some technical housekeeping amendments and for clarification of references to the federal Income Tax Act. I am very pleased to move the second reading of An Act to amend The Income Tax Act, 2000.

[14:45]

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 36, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill No. 36, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, the key word that the minister just said is their government's record of tax reductions. And as we know the history of the NDP, just before an election they reduce taxes and immediately after the election they raise taxes.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're going to break this cycle. After the next election, there'll be a Saskatchewan Party government, and we will continue to reduce taxes in the future for the good of the province and the economic health of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Party is on record speaking to reducing taxes in this province. We have for many years now. And finally now, when the NDP government are in desperate political straits, they are finally starting to implement some of our ideas on the tax reduction front. We certainly agree with reducing taxes, but I mean the motives behind the NDP government are certainly suspect.

But as I said, Mr. Speaker, after the next election, the Saskatchewan Party government will continue to lower taxes and grow the economy of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

## SECOND READINGS

## Bill No. 17

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 17 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Municipal Collection of Other Taxes) Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I count it an honour to be able to stand in the Assembly today and to address the issues surrounding Bill No. 17, the miscellaneous statutes Act that's before us.

Mr. Speaker, over the past number of years, we've heard this government talk a lot about how it's going to fund education. And we have continually seen this government erode that funding for education.

And as we observed last night in committee on a Bill brought forward on recommendations from the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the school boards themselves recognize that the government continues to underfund the cost of educating our young people which, Mr. Speaker, I find interesting given the fact that in this province over the past number of years — and as we look into the future — unless we have more young people move to the province or remain in the province and begin to have families, we have some real challenges facing school boards and schools across the province of Saskatchewan. Namely the fact that the number of young people in our schools continues to decline which means at the end of the day that the costs for education continue to go up, and in particular the continued dependence that we have on the property owner to fund education.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about property taxes and we talk about the funding of education, it would seem to me that as the Department of Education sets the standard and level of education that we expect our schools to provide to the youth of this province enabling them to look forward to their futures and their contribution to society when they complete their education — whether it's a post-secondary educational term at a university or at a regional college or even the SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] colleges in the province of Saskatchewan — we would assume that the province would indeed meet its and honour its commitments to fund education in the province of Saskatchewan. However, Mr. Speaker, we continue to see an erosion of that commitment and as a result, the continued dependence on the property owners. And thus the piece of legislation that we have before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the reason this legislation is before us today derives its . . . or is directly attributed to the move by over 100 RMs [rural municipality] last year to withhold taxes which was owing to the regional school boards. And the reason they did that, Mr. Speaker, is because the government continued to rely on the property owner.

Now the government would tell us that they put money into the hands of regional educational boards or RMs to offset the cost of that education and the dependence on the property owner. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, even as I have seen personally in my own agricultural experience and in our constituency, we have . . . Yes, we've got some individuals who actually saw a reduction on their property tax. But in many of the RMs, many property owners actually saw an increase in the cost of that education that was imposed upon them.

And one would have to ask, well if it's costing you more as a property owner, wouldn't you expect that you're going to actually see services available to you or to your children — if you have children in school — or even to your neighbours' children, the young people that are in your community? Wouldn't you expect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if there's an additional cost coming out of your pocket as a property owner, that you will see additional services? And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we're finding, and what most parents are finding, what schools are finding, not only in the Moosomin constituency but across the province of Saskatchewan, is that we're not seeing increased services. In fact in the last budget and in the budget of this past spring, many schools found that they were facing reductions.

And I can tell you in my constituency there were schools that faced reductions of two and three individuals in the area of teachers and the area of teacher assistants. Some schools had minor increases, but many schools had reductions. And so it's no wonder, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have RMs responding to the ratepayers when they come to pay their taxes, and saying, why should we be paying this level of care or a level of taxation when we see reductions in our own community schools?

Last night at committee meeting the chairman of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association gave me the argument that the school division he was chairperson of actually was a zero grant board. And therefore it was . . . they could actually fund their education.

I've raised the question about the fact that many communities are beginning to say that the money that we are taking in, that we are paying out as ratepayers and that is being taken in in our area from property tax and the funding that goes to education, could actually fund an education program in our communities effectively. And in some cases, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they could actually put . . . not only increase the number of teachers in the classroom but could actually put money back in the ratepayers' pockets.

And what Mr. Bean said, Mr. Bean says, yes, but we've got to share the like. Well that just, that sounds to me, that's socialist philosophy we have around here. Take from the rich to give to the poor. That's what I find interesting.

And the member from, the Minister of Finance now is entering the debate, and I certainly welcome his comments. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what Mr. Bean was talking about, opposite to what the Minister of Finance is saying, is Mr. Bean was just reflecting the realities of what they're facing as school board association because this Minister of Finance, this minister of Education, and this government, this Premier is not honouring its commitment to adequately fund education in the province of

Saskatchewan. And that's the need for this Bill. That's the need for this Bill. Thus the need for this Bill because the Minister of Finance is not prepared to put the money. . . What's he got right now? I think he was bragging the other day of almost \$900 million that he's got in his pocket. And oh, and the minister says it's one-time money. Interesting, one-time money.

For some reason every six months we find there's an additional allotment to the pot that says it's one-time money rather than making a firm commitment. And where's, and where's . . . While this may be his one-time money today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know and I know over the past number of years the province of Saskatchewan has been blessed with a pretty decent return from oil revenues. And that's not just one-time money. Maybe the million . . . the \$1 billion that the minister has available right now, some of that is one-time money as additional revenues have come in.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the unfortunate part, this government has had 15 years to honour its commitment to adequately fund education in the province of Saskatchewan, to adequately put money into the province of Saskatchewan. And then the Minister of Finance says, well how much more? Well maybe the Minister of Finance should take a look at where the money's going.

The Minister of Finance talks about ensuring that our young people . . . or the minister of Education actually. There's adequate funding to cover their education. And yet they keep . . . And you know I don't, some ways, Mr. Deputy Speaker, don't disagree with the Minister of Finance. I think maybe the Minister of Finance should take a careful, more careful look at where the money goes because he is putting more money in, except not enough. While they put more money in over the years, the costs of education . . . and then where's the money gone to?

One of the concerns I have raised, has the minister taken a look at the costs of running these large regional boards and the individuals that we have travelling back and forth from one community, in some cases an hour and a half, two hours to provide services that we in the past never really had before, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

So is that money actually being used to educate the youth of our province? Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would suggest no it isn't. It's not being used appropriately. And as a result, the dependence, the high cost, the dependence we have on the property owner and the revolt that the RMs last year entered into because of the fact that they were faced with higher costs from their property owner. And the property owner's asking, what are we getting for these dollars?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would think that there isn't a member in this Assembly who wouldn't have some major concerns with this present Act before the Assembly. The fact that, the fact that this government is now saying, no we're going to penalize you because we can't adequately fund education and therefore it has to come out of the property owner. If you withhold that money, we're going to penalize you. And that's exactly what this piece of legislation is doing. This legislation is saying to taxpayers in the province of Saskatchewan, it's saying to RMs that no, if you withhold your taxes, we will not allow you to do that. Well in

fairness, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — . . . break the law.

**Mr. Toth:** — And the minister's talking about breaking the law. Mr. Speaker, all the people of Saskatchewan are asking for is for this government to finally address that question and address that promise to adequately fund education in the province of Saskatchewan.

And if they were adequately funding education, I think they'd talked about getting back to that 40/60 split — 40 property owner, 60 per cent the province. I believe that's what they've been talking about. But for many areas, and certainly in my area of the province, we certainly aren't there, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And as a result, it's a burden to the property owner of Saskatchewan — whether that property owner lives on a farm in rural Saskatchewan, whether that property owner lives in a small urban community or a small town, or whether that property owner lives in one of our large urban centres in the province of Saskatchewan. And I'm sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that as MLAs, each and every one of us run into that question on an ongoing basis.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that there are a number of issues that I could continue to raise in regards to this piece of legislation and the reason it sits before us and the reason the government sat down and decided they had to do something. However I would suggest if the government really lived up to its commitment to the people of the province of Saskatchewan, it wouldn't need such a piece of legislation before us at this time. Therefore at this time I move to adjourn debate.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — The hon. member for Moosomin has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 17. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried.

### Bill No. 15

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 15 — The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was indicating before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's a number of concerns regarding taxation, regarding finances in the province of Saskatchewan. And we have before us at this time Bill No. 15, the municipal financial corporation Act.

And as I understand it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Act updates terminology allowing corporations to lend monies as a part of an agreement or in exchange for securities other than

debentures. What this Bill is attempting to do is make a few major changes. While it's a Bill with only five clauses in it, but there's some major changes. And the changes are to update the Bill and its terminology in the Act. And one of the major changes is to allow corporations to lend monies as a part of an agreement or an exchange for securities other than debentures as well as to dispose of these items.

[15:00]

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we have across the province is we have municipal governments that find themselves on many occasions having to go to other agencies to glean the financial resources they need to operate until their tax notices come in.

And so I believe what this Act is doing is allowing financial resources and municipalities to lend money . . . What this Bill is doing in section (f), it talks about lending money to municipalities within the province in exchange for municipal debentures and purchasing municipal debentures.

And what I've seen, Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the years, municipalities have had to look at other avenues and resources in order to meet the financial needs of their municipalities until they indeed have the financial resources available to them through taxation and the property owner actually paying that tax.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think there are a number of questions. While the Act itself seems to be fairly simple and straightforward, there are a number of questions that need to be raised and continue to be raised at this time, and therefore I move to adjourn debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — The hon. member for Moosomin has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 15. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried.

### Bill No. 13

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 13 — The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — I recognize the hon. member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my privilege and pleasure to stand and make some comments regarding Bill No. 13, the Act to amend The SaskEnergy Act.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in reviewing this Bill, I think that what this Bill is doing is making amendments to allow SaskEnergy to enter into the field of transporting other forms of energy such as ethanol, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen which, Mr. Deputy Speaker, may or may not be a good thing.

I believe in regards to the ethanol, I think this is something that

the province of Saskatchewan, citizens of the province of Saskatchewan has been looking for, for some time. And it begs the question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, regarding ethanol — have we missed the boat?

There's lots of opportunity in regarding ethanol, but it seems like this government lagging behind all the time. And to be honest, Mr. Speaker, the ethanol industry could be and should be a growing part of Saskatchewan, but unfortunately it is not. And we need to take measures to make it more profitable in the province of Saskatchewan. And by allowing the transporting of other forms of energies like ethanol, it is a good move.

The problem I have, or one of the problems I have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in regarding this, is the expansion of the role of the Crown corporations. Does it infringe on the private sector operators? And furthermore has the private sector operators been consulted in this regard? And I would have my doubts if they were. And if they haven't, why haven't they? The private sectors in this province are part of what makes this province grow. And it's up to the government to make the rules and regulations that will fit the infrastructure of this province. And in order to do that so that all parties benefit, these private sectors have to be consulted. And I would doubt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they were.

In regards to SaskEnergy, I lived in the town of . . . [inaudible] . . . for sometime, and I looked at my SaskEnergy billing every month, and it got to a point where — boy — I'm paying a lot of money. And it seems like every year SaskEnergy went up. It was just a given. It was going up. So I decided that it was time to sell the house and move to an acreage where out there I can look at other forms of energy. And right now I'm looking at possibly going to wood, simply because again this year the government is raising SaskEnergy again. Every year it goes up.

So to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what about the seniors that are on fixed incomes? How are they going to be able to pay for the increases to SaskEnergy? They're on fixed incomes. And there's many seniors in this province. In fact if you look around, with the amount of young people moving out of the province, there's more and more seniors. How are they going to pay for this? And yet the government continually raises SaskEnergy rates.

Also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what about the young people in the province of Saskatchewan? There's not very many of them, but there are a few. How do they cope with the cost of SaskEnergy going up every year? Instead of staying home and being with their families, the spouse then has to go out and work, so they're both out working which causes problems with families. All this adds to the frustration of growing a young family in the province of Saskatchewan. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they move to where they have a better standard of living which normally is into Alberta, so that's why our young people are moving out of the province and moving to places like Alberta. It's because of the added cost that the young families in our province are faced with. That is one of the stumbling blocks of not keeping our young people in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I mentioned, has the NDP consulted with the private companies on this Bill, and we know very well that the NDP have a long record of not consulting with stakeholders.

That seems to be their plan. Conquer and control. Push through things without contacting the people of this province who built this province. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is the rationale for this expansion? Why are they doing this?

SaskEnergy is a Crown and one of a valued Crown in this province, but why now for this expansion? Will this expansion of the corporation role keep rates low for people in this province of Saskatchewan? Is this why they're doing it? It doesn't mention it in here, but I would have my doubts if it does. If it goes that far to keeping the rates controllable in the province for seniors and young people as I have mentioned, then it is good. But I don't see it in this Bill, and I have my doubts that it will, and I believe that it's going to keep going up every year like it has been for the past number of years.

Also in this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's an amendment to expand the number of board members from 10 to 12 and I'm saying why. Why do we need two extra members more on a board to govern the control of a Crown? I would also want to make mention that I believe that two extra members coming to this board are probably some ex-NDP MLAs or officials that have worked with the NDP Party that will get these jobs. So it's kind of patronage to their party as to who will fill in this role, and is that a clear way of doing things? No it's not, so I wonder why we go to 12 members rather than staying at the 10.

Every time you add more board members you add cost to the Crown. I mean it's bad enough that we have some — what? — 90 Crowns in the province of Saskatchewan, and now we're going to add more members so that cost is more bureaucracy to the province of Saskatchewan which the taxpayers in this province have to pay for.

So when the citizens of Saskatchewan say we have too much government, well here's a perfect example, a perfect example of why the people of Saskatchewan are tired of the government, the NDP government, because every time there's a job creation, it's always within the government in administration. And that's why the time for an election is soon, and I'll tell you the citizens of Saskatchewan welcome that.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 13.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — The hon. member for Rosthern-Shellbrook has moved adjournment of debate for Bill No. 13. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried.

### Bill No. 25

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 25 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — I recognize the hon. member from Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill No. 25 is basically modernizing the legislation regarding the Legislative Assembly Act, and in most particular it's addressing the issue of bilingual translation, with some housekeeping changes.

Part of the modernization, Mr. Deputy Speaker, deals with the members of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council and the responsibilities we as MLAs have and certainly the duties of MLAs and the different positions within the Legislative Assembly.

I notice, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have something like 71 pages to this Act — much different than the previous Act that I dealt with which was basically one page of the Act. And so I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this might require just a little longer discussion and debate as we address the issues that are coming forward in this piece of legislation.

What the minister indicated was that the Act is just being modernized and being made more consistent with other jurisdictions and federal language laws. And however we all know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as well that there's some changes within this Act also address issues of how members of the Legislative Assembly, elected officials, work within their constituencies and work within the Legislative Assembly.

Having been a member of this Assembly for a good number of years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have seen changes take place through the years, some I would suggest have certainly been for the betterment of how the Assembly functions, how we as legislators meet the needs of our constituents, how we address and not only represent the needs of our constituents, but also representing our constituents in the broad picture, and how we represent Saskatchewan as a whole and stand up for issues surrounding this province.

And we all believe it certainly is a terrific province. It's, I would suggest, one of the best provinces in which to live. There were so many things going for us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and yet we continue to lag behind other jurisdictions in the country. And as I had indicated earlier, while . . . the changes are to bring us more consistent to other jurisdictions and federal laws. It's unfortunate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we're trying to be consistent, but we still lag behind in many areas.

This legislation deals with rule changes concerning committees operating simultaneously. And as I indicated earlier, as we looked at the evolution of the legislative process from the time I first entered this Assembly to today and the fact that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I believe as a member of this Legislative Assembly you've had the privilege of seeing many changes . . . you've been involved in some of the changes as well as I have.

We have moved from a process where the Assembly was called, and it could drag on for any period of days. In fact when I was first elected, we sat actually through the summer, and that certainly wasn't a good time for our families. It was a difficult time for our families to sit through a time when you would look to enjoying some time . . . the beautiful nature around us, the scenery the province has, the great outdoors that we have in the province of Saskatchewan. And yet many members in this Assembly sat through that period of time, sitting in this

Assembly within the confines of these four walls, and didn't have the privilege of actually enjoying the great outdoors that this province is known for.

And so we have seen that evolution from that time to a period where we're discussing more specific time periods in which MLAs are going to meet in the Assembly, and yet allows members the ability to address issues within their constituency. And I certainly agree.

I've been a strong proponent, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the fact that we should have a fall sitting, a legislative fall session — not at the whim of a government, but something that's been agreed to as we see in Ottawa. Ottawa has a fall session. They have a break over Thanksgiving, and they have a break at the Remembrance Day celebrations. But they have a fall session that is defined. And then they have a spring sessions that's defined. Then they have a summer session ... or a winter session, pardon me, and a spring session.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what this piece of legislation is ... certainly has moved to address some of those issues. And now we have, as I note in the legislation, we have a specific time that's been set out for us to sit in the fall. And we know that we're going to sit roughly a period of five weeks. We know when it's going to begin. We know that in the spring by a certain date we will be sitting at that time period rather than whenever the government felt it had its business in order and then they could afford to call the Assembly in because they were ready for the members to come and start addressing the issues.

[15:15]

So this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think is certainly beneficial. And I want to acknowledge at this time that it came about as a result of some hard work on behalf of members on all parts of the floor, on both sides of the Assembly. And I want to compliment the members who through the years have been involved in the evolution of the changes which at the end of the day will not only benefit the people, the taxpayers, and the electors of Saskatchewan but certainly make life somewhat more ... a lot easier for the sitting members.

And one of the other issues that I certainly want to acknowledge, that I think is long overdue, is the fact that while you and I, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are quite familiar with the fact that when the Speaker sends out notice to let the members know that the House is going to sit on a specific day seven days hence, the line that hits the media is, MLAs going back to work. We know that that's far from being true, that MLAs have been constantly on duty. However I'm not exactly sure why that headline specifically reads in that regard but what ... As MLAs, as we came back to the sitting this fall, we knew that when we came back here we'd be sitting Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday. And then Friday we'd actually have the opportunity to get back to our constituencies.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as an MLA that doesn't live all that far from Regina, to sit the five days and go back to the constituency mid-afternoon Friday wasn't necessarily a problem for me. But, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are

members in this House who have four-, five-, and six-hour drives just to get back to their constituency. And when you're sitting, to leave on a Friday afternoon basically you're on your way back on a Sunday. It doesn't give you that much time for family or for constituency matters. So the move to a Monday to Thursday, allowing for that Friday sitting ... opportunity through Friday and part of Saturday to meet with your constituents, I think was the right thing to do. And I want to compliment the committee members for having put forward that proposal.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that isn't much different than from what other jurisdictions are doing as well. And the public needs to be aware of the fact that, while the days may have changed a little bit, the hours of actual sitting time and the committee work in this Assembly really hasn't changed that significantly, hasn't changed whatsoever. The hours will be continued ... The members will continue to put the required hours in this Assembly through committee work and through the legislative process. And I think that's another issue that it's important for us as legislators to let the people of Saskatchewan know — that their voice will be heard in this Assembly, that there will be adequate time to address those issues.

So while this piece of legislation has so many other issues dealing with the requirements of members, the commitments of members to committee work, and the structure of the Assembly, and how the process is going to move forward, and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fact that it's in French as well, this piece of legislation specifically addresses that and ensures that there's the proper appropriate bilingual translation.

It's appropriate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the process that allowed for this evolution came about through the work of a number of dedicated members. Through consultation with other jurisdictions, provinces across this country, great country of ours. Through discussions with federal members. And even a couple members had the opportunity of travelling to other commonwealth jurisdictions to look at their process of legislative sitting and time in the Assembly, time out of the Assembly, committee work, and what have you.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's certainly appropriate that we've actually moved forward to address some of the concerns in this Assembly and how this Assembly functions to allow members to more adequately and appropriately address concerns of their constituents.

And having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know a number of other members would like to address this Bill before it's moved forward in committee. Therefore at this time I move to adjourn debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — The hon. member for Moosomin has moved a motion to adjourn debate on Bill No. 25. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried.

**Bill No. 26**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 26 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Consequential Amendments Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, just a few comments in regarding Bill No. 26, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. In fact I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I could almost give the same speech over again in regards to this Act but I will save the members having to listen to me give the same speech. But I think what it does is basically addresses . . . It's just a Bill that follows in conjunction with the legislative Act that was just, we just adjourned a moment ago.

And this one here, Mr. Deputy . . . Madam Deputy Speaker, is a much simpler Act in regards to the members' conflict of interest, government organization. It just sets up some new schedules in the Legislative Assembly and executive councils amendments Act. And therefore at this time, Madam Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Moosomin has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 10**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 10 — The Limitations Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to stand today and enter into the adjourned debates on Bill No. 10, Limitations Amendment Act. I'm . . . been made aware that . . . Excuse me.

This Act was before the legislature approximately a year ago and, because it wasn't . . . didn't cover all the bases that it was supposed to cover, we see it back here again in the legislature to be debated on.

I find it's always very interesting because we hear from members opposite, from the government side when Bills come forward and they want them to move through quickly, they say, don't worry; all the work has been done. There's no need to do any more scrutiny than what, you know, one or two adjourned debates on the Bill. And then we find out a year later that all the work hadn't been done.

And what comes to mind more often than not is The Cities Act. And I remember members from the government saying that this Cities Act had to be put through right away because it was the most important Bill that needed to be put through; all the homework had been done. And we found that not all the homework had been done. And eventually it passed but it's been . . . There's been a Cities Act that has been back before the legislature almost on a yearly basis as more amendments have to be made.

Well Bill No. 10, Limitations Amendment Act is similar to that. It's not nearly to the scope, of course, that The Cities Act was. Bill No. 10 is really quite a short piece of legislation dealing with limitations. The Bill makes changes to the period of limitations for decisions regarding property. In section 7 it enacts an ultimate limitation period of 15 years from the day of which the Act or omission on which the claim is based took place, Mr. Speaker. So it's setting into stone some guidelines, some limitations as to, you know, certain examples that I just mentioned.

I think if there is one thing that I heard actually today in question period, that there should be a limitations Act on how far this government can go back and blame other people on the state of the province. Now that would be a limitations Act that should be put in place.

I heard the member from Moose Jaw North . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I heard the member from Moose Jaw North and now the member from North Battleford talking about the 1980s. And just in case they don't realize, they've been in government for the last 15 years and the consequences that we're facing in the province right now are of their making, not of any other party's making.

And so it's interesting that, you know, as I'm talking about limitations and how far back in this situation, when we're talking about legal jargon, how far back they can go, the government certainly doesn't have any problem going back as far as it wants to to blame other people and other parties for the failings that quite frankly we see that this government is doing.

In this Bill, section 15 is being amended to refer to section 7.1 rather than subsection 7(3) which is being repealed. Section 21 is being amended simply to refer to section 7, making the last couple amendments in the Bill appear to be housekeeping amendments.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, as I said, for the most part this Bill is just dealing with subject matters that weren't dealt with in the Bill last year. It doesn't seem to be meeting with too much concern that we've heard of yet. But as with all the Bills, we want to make sure that the proper time has been spent before the Bill moves on so that any of the interested parties can have a look at the Bill and raise concerns that they may have. At this point we haven't heard a lot of concerns. But that doesn't mean there won't be any coming forward.

So at this time, Madam Deputy Speaker, so the interest groups and the parties that this Bill affects can do their work on this piece of legislation, I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Indian

Head-Milestone has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 18

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's my great pleasure to speak to this Bill, The Court Security Act, Bill No. 18. This Bill seems to allow for airport style security, including metal detectors, for courthouses. It allows sheriffs the power to frisk people and to evict individuals who have entered a courthouse and so on.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I worked for several years in justice in this city, in court services actually, and I know that security is and can be an issue in courthouses. Some of the people — a very small percentage of the people — but some of the people who are in courthouses are of the unsavoury variety and this can cause security issues coupled with the emotional nature of court proceedings and so on.

And I know that during my time as deputy local registrar of the Regina judicial district that I had to double as a security person a couple of times. And no real danger ensued but, just the same, I do understand the potential for issues surrounding security in our courthouses. At the same time, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have to balance security of those involved in the justice system and others in courthouses with the public's right to access to public buildings. And I think that's the balancing act that is the issue here, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a very sad state of affairs when a public building and public officials require such levels of heightened security. Maybe that's where we're at in this society. I'm not so sure.

In any event, Madam Deputy Speaker, we'll have to speak with the parties that are involved in the judicial proceedings these days as my experience goes back many years. And accordingly, Madam Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn this matter for now.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Thunder Creek has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 19

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 19 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up and discuss on this particular Bill, number . . . Bill 19, the security Act. It's quite a lengthy Bill at that end of it.

It's probably one of them Bills that when we change our committee structure, that it would fall into that quite handily. And the reasons are because it is lengthy. We're doing second readings in the fall, and this Bill probably won't pass till this spring. And you'll have time to get out the special interest groups. This particular Bill, it'll probably take a month to read it. That's why it's probably good that it's going to not go through till spring at that end of it. It's quite lengthy. It's quite a . . . many amendments on it.

[15:30]

And it deals with a very important subject. It deals with investment, people that are investing here in Saskatchewan and also throughout Canada, Madam Deputy Speaker. And we come to if you're going to be growing this province, that's one of the things we're going to be looking at is investment.

People should always feel that their investment should be safe. And I know sometimes a lot of people, they're not, Madam Deputy Speaker. They don't feel that their investments are safe. And they worry about that, especially older senior people. They feel that when it comes to their savings, they are very worried about it. They're very worried about their investments at that end of it. So any laws that we can change to make that a little safer and make more investment coming to this particular province, Madam Deputy Speaker, at that end of it, because that's . . . if we want investment to come to this province . . . and we need investment coming to it.

We haven't had much investment coming to this province under this present NDP government. And with that, we need to do whatever we can to make investors feel safe because right now under this NDP government, Madam Deputy Speaker, they don't feel welcome is the biggest thing. That's what part of this government should be looking at is actually trying to make investors feel welcome. They're very good at not making business people feel welcome. I can remember when the Premier sent out that letter. What did he call them? Greedy corporate huskers. I think that's what he called them. Greedy corporate huskers.

**An Hon. Member:** — Hucksters.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Huskers. He called them greedy corporate huskers in his letter that he sent out to raise money. Now how can you raise money that way and get people to come and invest in your province when you send out that kind of letter to business people?

Now I know I've talked to some of the people, the members opposite there, Madam Deputy Speaker, and you'll talk to a few of them. They think they're business people or they'll talk, they'll say we're friends of business. I know a couple members say, oh I get along really good with the business community,



with the restaurant community here in Regina.

But I think if they really went out there and talked to them and showed them that letter, I don't think that people feel, business people in this province feel that friendly towards the NDP government. They don't in Saskatoon. They certainly don't in Arm River-Watrous. They certainly don't in rural Saskatchewan. And it's coming that way in Regina.

That's why their polling is sitting at about 24 per cent right now and plummeting with that at the end of it. And that's why our economy isn't growing. That's why there's no jobs here in Saskatchewan. And there should be a lot more jobs with the investment coming in.

Madam Deputy Speaker, dealing with this particular Bill, it also ... there's a question or two you want to ask is, this government says it's working with other provinces with that. I wonder if it's leading or if it's following the other provinces when they're putting these regulations together. Because this government has a history of just following — of following, never being a leader.

And one of them is we talk about another Bill that's on the order paper, my biodiesel Bill, Madam Deputy Speaker. That is a Bill that probably should be pushed forward to show that this province is a leader in the biofuels industry. But no, this province always wants to follow, follow, follow, at that end of it.

And I think with this particular Bill, it's probably one of the last provinces to come in line, at that end of it, with the other provinces. Because I'm pretty sure, I think Alberta was a pusher of this, and it probably is a very good piece legislation. Because that's something that these provinces should be doing is working together. They haven't been doing that in the past, and this government is very bad for not working with its neighbours, Alberta and BC [British Columbia].

Right now there's a new West emerging. There's a new West out there emerging — a powerhouse of Alberta and BC. And Saskatchewan could be a piece of that if they really wanted to. But do this NDP government really want to be a piece of the new emerging West? We could be a power. This is where the power base could be. We have all the natural resources. We have the oil. We have the gas. We have uranium. We have the mining. And we have the people that want to work in Western Canada. We could be an emerging power.

But does this province want to work with Alberta and BC? No, no. I think in Alberta and BC I think they have joint cabinet meetings once a year. They also have what they call ... They're trying to work on trade, lifting trade restrictions interprovincial. Is this government sitting on that committee? I think we'd raised questions on it. And they said ... What did the Premier say, Madam Deputy Speaker? I think he said it would blur political lines if we tried to work with Alberta.

Well why not just trying to better the life of people in Saskatchewan except worrying about your own political future. And this is what this government has a history of — always worrying about its own political hide. And its hide right now is getting tanned out there, Madam Deputy Speaker, and it's going

to be kicked out next election at that end of it.

But that's one of the things that this government should be looking at. If they started with this working interprovincial, they should be working at that to lift trade restrictions or to work better with your neighbours.

There's different rules. I know that on the highways I had one guy call me. He said, you know, there's a weigh station on Saskatchewan side and there's a weigh station on the Alberta side. We had to build both of them. They were probably only less than 50 miles apart. He says, why isn't there just one on the border? Why don't we have the same weight restriction? Why don't we have the same rules and regulations across that to make the trucking move across? Because most of the stuff that's moving across interprovincial is moved by trucks. And it should be as easy, when it comes to trade, as easy as it can be to move at that particular end of it, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Because you have to remember that this particular government though doesn't like to work with its neighbours. It doesn't even like to work with the Manitoba government who is an NDP government, doesn't even like to work to them because that's even more left than the Manitoba government. Manitoba government is kind of in the centre.

These guys would love to drag you back to the Tommy Douglas days and maybe even further back to before that which was the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] and before that which is the *Regina Manifesto* which basically deals with eradicating capitalism. And that's what the roots of that party is. And you wonder why, Madam Deputy Speaker, that they can't work with any provinces at that particular end of it.

You know this government, when it comes right down to it, is basically an isolated bunch and the people of Saskatchewan are realizing it. Federally the NDP government, federally, is just a fringe party. It's not much more better than the Green Party right now. And these guys are going to be joining them before long. In a number of years, the NDP Government of Saskatchewan is just going to be a fringe party just about the same level as the Green Party. And I'll be looking forward to that, Madam Deputy Speaker, when that happens.

You know we're talking ... But I should get back to Bill 19 because when I start talking about political history, I just can't help but bring up the NDP's past at that end of it. We are talking about Bill 19, at that end of it, Madam Deputy Speaker, and with that ... But one of the reasons on that is because of the history of this NDP government of not working with the people and also not consulting. There's a number of people. I wonder if they really consulted with them at that end of it. I know that we're going to be checking with that.

This particular Bill needs a lot of scrutiny because I understand that they'd passed legislation that came in effect in June 1, 2006, and they are already making changes to the amendments already. It's been less than six months and they're already making amendments to this particular piece of legislation. If they'd have did their homework back then, I wonder if they would have to make the amendments. Are the amendments dealing because they made mistakes? Or is there further changes that have been made since then? And those are

questions I guess we'll be asking in committee and also passing out to interested parties.

Because getting back to the topic of investment, this is a very important Bill because you are dealing with people's money out there and they should feel, when they want to invest in Saskatchewan, they should feel safe.

And I know that my constituency office, I've had a number of calls and it's mostly from seniors talking about certain investments. We've heard about the scams in Moose Jaw where they were phoning from Nigeria. There were some people there. But I've had some . . . they've come and they've showed me some letters of . . . and they looked like pretty shady investments. I say, you know, I say take them to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] or take them to an investor's house and let them look at it, you know. Because we do get that here. There is unfortunately people that will prey on seniors when it comes to investing money at that end of it. So any rules that we can to make it safer and better, we should be looking at that. And I think this piece of legislation is moving in the right direction at that end of it.

Now I've made some points about this government and the direction it likes to move, which is slow. But on that particular end I think, I think they're moving in the right direction with this particular piece of legislation. But I also . . . like I think we should check with Alberta, BC, the neighbours because I don't think these guys check that much with them to see if they're totally in line with amendments that are being made to this particular piece of legislation at that end of it.

I think another thing that this Bill deals with, it's supposed to . . . They talk about a passport. And this also talks about dealing with territories, kind of a passport on the security, that the regulations will be basically broad-based. Now I know looking at it quickly there were some stuff here with it. That Ontario at first didn't join but now they've come to some kind of an understanding, and I think they are going to join.

It would be nice if all the provinces and territories could be on the same rules and regulations when it comes to investing and also when it comes to investor fraud because as we move into the Internet age, there's a lot of ways you can invest now. There's . . . you can . . . things you can do on the Internet that probably people may invest and may think that they are actually investing in a legitimate business and find out later on that they were . . . it wasn't and they ended up losing their money.

So that, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on this particular Bill so that we can send it out to the appropriate parties and also that it can be looked at. Like I say, it is a very extensive Bill with many amendments on it. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Arm River-Watrous has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

## Bill No. 22

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 22 — The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill is about the third most favoured group in society. We have lawyers, used car salesmen, and politicians that rank one, two, three on this issue. And this one deals with the legal society, Madam Deputy Speaker.

It deals with a number of areas. The first one is confidentiality or privilege of the information that they have access to. I think everyone has assumed that when you deal with a lawyer, you have client-solicitor privilege, that you have confidentiality of the information that is provided, and that that confidentiality also covers the staff in the legal offices, covers the staff as well within the court systems and the prosecutors' office that are dealing with any legal matters or any legal information that may pertain to the individual.

So while there are changes being made to this Act, I just wonder what is precipitating the necessity for that change. Has there been a breach at some point that has caused this to happen? Or what is the reason for the change in this particular piece of legislation dealing with the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential?

So I think the minister, I'd like to propose to him that when he comes before the committee at some point, that he be ready to explain what is generating this need for this particular change in privilege and confidentiality rules. Has there been a . . . I read his comments in *Hansard*, and I didn't seem to pick up that there was an answer there on that particular issue.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, that'll be one of the questions which I'll be proposing, or my colleagues will be, to the Minister of Justice when he comes before the committee to explain why there is a need for change. Has there been a breach in the past that this is trying to correct? Or is it foreseeing a potential breach in the future and that they're trying to head it off before it actually happens, Madam Deputy Speaker?

One of the other areas that this Act deals with is legal trust funds, lawyers' accounts, where they would put monies that have been entrusted to their, to their hands — let's say in a real estate transfer which is probably one of the most common, or perhaps estates, those kind of issues, Madam Deputy Speaker — where a lawyer's office would have a trust fund set up where funds would be deposited into that account to be held for a period of time until a certain transaction has taken place.

So when that money is put into the lawyer's account, the question then becomes, what happens with it? What are they doing with that money? If it's in a straight chequing account, one in which there is no interest paid, well then there would be no money accruing to either the legal fund, to the lawyer, to the

person whose money is on deposit. No one would be gaining.

But if the lawyer's legal trust is say a chequing account that has a savings component or an interest component to it, well then it could be generating some revenues. And to whom does that interest accrued belong? Does it belong to the person who has their money on deposit with the legal fund, with the legal trust? Does it belong to a lawyer? Does it belong to the government? Does it belong to some other entity, Madam Deputy Speaker? And that is what this particular Bill is dealing with. Up until now any accrued interest — it's my understanding — was paid if they couldn't identify clearly to whom that money belonged, e.i., the person who has money being held by the lawyer in a legal trust, then that money was then turned over to the government.

[15:45]

What this Act proposes to do is to turn that accumulated interest over to the law society and the law foundation account for their purposes. And I guess one of the things that is of interest to people is, what are those purposes? And the minister outlined some of them in his presentation on this Bill, and I'm not sure if that constitutes the entire total that the law foundation funds would be utilized for. But some of the things that he listed were legal education, legal research, legal aid, law libraries, and law reform.

And I guess the question will need to be asked to the minister. And I'm sure most members of the legal profession would have some answer for this, but I'm not familiar with a number of these areas in relationship to the legal foundation.

When you take a look at legal aid, legal aid is provided by the province through the Department of Justice to provide assistance to those individuals in society who cannot afford the services of a solicitor mainly in dealing with criminal cases. It used to be broader than that, but now it seems to have been narrowed down in the main to use during criminal proceedings.

In fact is this summer, the situation out at Whitewood with the kidnapping, the individual who has been charged with that was looking to Saskatchewan to provide the funding for his solicitor which he wanted from Ontario. Well this is Saskatchewan. We have legal aid lawyers who are employed by the province. We also have a good many other law firms across the province that could provide services for that gentleman in his case. So there was no need for legal aid to provide that assistance for someone out of province.

But I'm not sure when the minister talked about legal aid in his speech dealing with this Act, if he meant the Saskatchewan Legal Aid that provides that service or some other form of legal aid through the law foundation. My suspicion is that what he was talking about in terms of the law foundation is not what people in Saskatchewan normally think of as legal aid, but some other form of service to lawyers perhaps or to . . . I'm not even sure if it would be to the general public, Madam Deputy Speaker.

So I guess that's one of the areas that the minister will need to clarify, as well as the costs for legal education. The legal education of whom? Does the law foundation provide some

assistance for legal information to the general public, or is this information being provided to the legal services in Saskatchewan — to the lawyers and the law firms? Again that's an area that I think needs to be explained and needs to be researched.

Now when you . . . He mentioned law libraries. Well certainly law libraries, if they have access to the general public, are a worthy, worthy enterprise, a worthy action to be sustaining because quite a number of times people need an explanation as to first off what the statute is, secondly what it means, and third how it has been interpreted in legal cases. And that would be available in law libraries. And precedents are there going back many, many years if the law library is fully provided for. And so those would be of valuable assistance to anyone who has given some consideration to their own legal statuses and the actions they may or may not be involved in.

I guess in one area though, sometimes a little bit of knowledge can be dangerous, and we see people who come forward to try to represent themselves before the courts and struggle a great deal. And in those areas a very good law library might certainly assist them in providing that. And I know the old advice is that when someone represents themselves before a court of law, they generally have a very poor lawyer. So I think that's something that we should all keep in mind when we're contemplating any actions before the court that we might want to represent ourselves in.

One of the areas in this though, Madam Deputy Chair, when you look at the amount of funds generated, I would wonder what's the volume of dollars that we are discussing here. Are we talking hundreds of dollars? Are we talking thousands of dollars? What are we talking about when we're looking at this kind of change in the Act? How much money would be going from the lawyers' legal trust funds into the law foundation?

And I think that would . . . Well that money at some point in time could belong to someone who's a client to a law firm. It may not be a significant amount, enough money to warrant tracking, but I guess the question comes in, when should it be tracked and paid out to the individual who has money on deposit with a trust and when would it not be tracked and turned over then to the law foundation? I think those are some of the areas that there are questions in this particular area.

Also this Act deals with solicitor-client privilege. And from looking at the Act, it would seem to be a situation where a law firm or a lawyer is no longer practising and what happens to those records that would belong to the lawyer and to the client but may have a need to be accessed once that law firm or that lawyer is no longer practising. And so who controls those records? How are they accessed? Who makes the determination under solicitor-client privilege that that information should become public and available to someone else? And when is that information not available?

And the Act talks about making changes to that, Madam Deputy Speaker. So that's another area that I think needs to be scrutinized very carefully to determine when the courts should make the decision, and based on what criteria are they going to make the decision to restrict access to the information or to provide what has previously been confidential information or

privileged information under solicitor-client privileges.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, these are some of the issues that we are still awaiting further information on from stakeholders throughout the province; therefore I would move at this time that we adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Cannington has moved to adjourn the debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 23

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 23 — The Securities Transfer Act** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to stand today and talk on Bill 23, transfer of securities. We've looked through this Bill and really do feel that there's much more scrutiny that needs to be taken with the stakeholders and allowing the stakeholders to have input in this piece of legislation.

The government at times says that they have consulted with different groups and that they're all onside with pieces of legislation. But, Madam Deputy Speaker, from my experience in this House that quite often once you take the Bill out to different stakeholders they say, well we hadn't heard anything about it. A classic example of that would have been a Bill that came through last year regarding gaming, video gaming, and a major stakeholder — whose business relied on, you know, whether this legislation passed or didn't pass and some of the issues around that — had never been consulted, not even once by the government.

The only way they found out about this piece of legislation was happening to watch the CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] news and found out that this piece of legislation was directly going to impact them. And that's when they became involved and certainly worked through our caucus and had the Bill held up long enough so that they got to do their due diligence and work with the government to make necessary amendments to that piece of legislation.

So once again, when we look at Bill No. 23, we feel that is . . . It may not be to the same extent as what that gaming legislation was last year, but it certainly is our job to hold up these Bills to make sure that the stakeholders have input into them.

This is the second securities Bill that has entered the legislature in this fall sitting, Madam Deputy Speaker. This Bill will bring us in line, the province of Saskatchewan in line with other international conventions, as well as other provincial regulations in Canada.

Currently law is inadequate. The law's inadequate to deal with the sophisticated, multi-jurisdictional transactions, and needs to be reformed. So whenever you hear that it deals with sophisticated, multi-jurisdictional transactions, you know it's a fairly in-depth piece of legislation and needs the proper scrutiny.

I think many provinces are looking into legislation like that or have implemented this type of legislation. This will add a formal legal transaction process. It will control final risk and achieve finality of settlements which, Madam Deputy Speaker, when you hear the importance — what I think is fairly important of this piece of legislation — it begs the question as to why this legislation is coming to this legislature now and why it hadn't been looked at over the past number of years to try and formalize across Canada and internationally the process of transferring securities.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when you look at the way things are now in this province and around the world, it really has become a global place, and dealing multi-jurisdictionally is not an uncommon issue. I can just speak from experience with commodities, farm commodities where, you know, it's interesting. We had the debate earlier in this legislature about the Canadian Wheat Board, but how, you know, the government feels that the only people that can market the grain properly would be the Canadian Wheat Board.

And I can just speak from my perspective that, through our farm, we haven't grown wheat board grain for about 8 or 9 years, and yet every kernel of grain that we have grown — whether it's lentils, flax, canola, peas, canary seed — every kernel of grain that we have grown has been marketed without the wheat board.

Well the member from Cannington is saying successfully. For the most part it's been successful. I haven't always hit the top prices that I've wanted to hit, but the point being I've had the opportunity to market the grain as I wanted.

And the point of that is, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the world has become accessible through punching keys on your computer — or as the Premier would say, dialing in the different websites around the world — and you can find out what is going on around the world. And when you look at this piece of legislation that's talking about transfer of securities and multi-jurisdictional, that's what it's all about. And that's certainly becoming more commonplace every year that we're dealing in a global market, Madam Deputy Speaker.

So there is some concern as to why this piece of legislation hadn't come to this House earlier. We do know that, now that it's here, we need to do the proper due diligence and consultation with many of the stakeholders to make sure that this does bring us in line with other jurisdictions. I would hate to go through the work of passing this Bill and only to find that we aren't in line with a number of jurisdictions and have to revisit this piece of legislation again next year — such as the Bill that I had talked about earlier, the limitation statutes.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, we want to make sure that, if we're going to put this Bill forward, that it deals with the issues that it talks about and that it brings us into a standard that is

relevant across jurisdictions, be it provincial or internationally. So until that work is done, Madam Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Indian Head has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 5

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cline that **Bill No. 5 — The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Recognize the member for Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Oil and Gas Conservation Act I think is a very important Act, particularly in my constituency as we have . . . a good number of the oil wells in Saskatchewan are in the Cannington constituency in southeast Saskatchewan. There's a number of other areas as well. Estevan has a good many of those wells, as does the Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency and some place up in the far, far northern part of the province, somewhere around Lloydminster. They also have a number of wells, Madam Deputy Speaker. That's a long ways away from Cannington.

[16:00]

Madam Deputy Speaker, in the newer areas of the province where drilling is taking place, orphan wells may not be a big problem yet. But in the mature oil patch, orphan wells are indeed a problem. What happens is that a well is drilled, produced for a period of time, it gets sold a number of times, and finally someone abandons the well. And hopefully they do the proper work to clean that up, but it doesn't always happen. Sometimes an individual owning that particular well that's no longer productive simply walks away from it and someone else is therefore left to pay the fees, to pay the costs of the environmental cleanup that is involved.

And the Minister of Justice is talking about those greedy corporate hucksters. Well the minister . . . What happens in these cases is generally an individual, not a corporation, that is performing those. But there are those kind of individuals and those kind of corporations throughout society, in every walk of life, of every political stripe. No one has a corner on those kind of individuals, Madam Deputy Speaker. If they did not exist, if those kind of people did not exist, there would be very little need for lawyers and there would be very little need for laws because we would treat each other equitably and fairly. Unfortunately, lawyers proliferate and so do laws because of the individuals that we face in society.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in dealing with orphan wells, there is an environmental cost to cleaning these up when they are abandoned. In most cases they're looked after by the owner of

the property — the oil company, the individual who owns that production, that previous production, looks after. But sometimes it doesn't happen.

So that means if it's on private property, in a good many cases, the individual — generally an agriculture producer, a farmer or a rancher — is left to hold the bag when it comes to paying for those environmental costs. Even though they as an individual have got very, very little economic return from that, they're left with what could be a very substantial cost for the cleanup.

So a number of jurisdictions — Alberta and Saskatchewan, both — have implemented orphan well legislation, which is what this is mainly dealing with, to protect the landowners and the government from those onerous costs. Because when an individual can't afford to pay for that, then it falls back onto government to recover the property and to clean it up.

And we see this happen not just in the oil patch, but we see it happen as well within communities. We see it happen with service stations. We've seen it happen up in Prince Albert with the treatment plant that was there for railroad ties. I believe it was a tar site of some kind. So there are a number of those sites across the province, and this particular Bill deals with those involved in the oil and gas production area.

Now the government is changing this Act to move the charge, the cost away from wells that have been abandoned or ceased. The word abandoned isn't used. It's inactive. So they have moved, they're moving it from inactive wells to active wells. There are a lot more active wells across the province than there are inactive wells and so they're changing the charge.

So I guess the real questions need to be asked. What was the charge previously on an inactive well? And what's the charge going to be on an active well? If they're equal, there are a lot more active wells than there were inactive wells, so the government is then charging a significant increase fee to the oil and gas production sector of the province. And you might say that this particular charge, it's not a charge based on the amount of production you've generated. It's not a charge based on the value of your assets. It's simply a capital charge on the fact that you own the property or lease the property and own the equipment sitting on it. So it's really a form of capital tax.

So the question comes down to, what is a fair amount of capital tax to charge for this kind of service? If each well, each facility is charged a percentage, if it's charged a flat fee, well then what is the total cost? What is the government going to generate for this charge? And what are their expenses incurred in both developing that structure and how much money are they accumulating? And what are they doing with it in the meantime before it's actually used, when it ever may be used, to correct the situation of an orphan well?

One of the things I think that the government should do — and I don't see this in the Act or in the legislation anywhere — that since they're changing it over to active wells, it should be scaled based on the number of wells and facilities that any particular owner has. It should also be capped at a certain amount so that whether you own 100 wells or whether you own 1,000 wells, there is a relative cap in there someplace — whatever the appropriate number would be — rather than

simply having it open-ended as another tax.

So I think there's a lot of things that need to be discussed with this. There's a lot of input still needed from the stakeholders. And I'm not sure how many of them are aware of the changes from inactive sites to active sites, which is a critical change, so they need to be made aware of this. They need to have an opportunity to understand what the government is proposing.

Overall there is a need for orphan well protection. There is a need for the industry, and the government benefits greatly from this industry. They collect very, very substantial royalties so if . . . You know, the government benefits probably almost as much as any company does from this. So they need to certainly be a part of this.

So before this is finally decided, Madam Deputy Speaker, there needs to be consultation with the industries involved. There needs to be consultation with the landowners and their associations such as the Surface Right Association before this moves ahead. So at this time, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Cannington has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### **Bill No. 14**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 14 — The Environmental Management and Protection Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to enter debate on the Bill that's before the House at this point, Bill No. 14, An Act to amend The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002. And according to the usual procedure the new Act will be identified as The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2006 .

This particular piece of legislation I think could be best described as a housekeeping measure with a little bit of a twist, Madam Deputy Speaker. Because while it seems pretty straightforward and uncontroversial or non-controversial, the legislation does have some provisions in it that I think need discussion in the House today and probably the review of some interested third parties that, whether or not they've been made aware of this particular piece of legislation, they need to bring their views on this legislation to us so that we can represent them adequately. And we'll be doing that over the next little while, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I want to refer to the legislation though, sort of piece by piece, so that individuals who might be reading *Hansard* or watching this presentation on TV will have a better understanding of

what is done in this particular piece of legislation before us today. It talks of, primarily of the repealing of certain sections in the legislation — most of which are redundant. But I think for the record we'll probably identify why the redundancy exists and what the government is doing to move on.

In this particular Bill, sections 24, 25, and 26 are repealed. Now section 24 is repealed for the following reason as provided by the Department of Environment. It says in their notes to this particular legislation that section 24 deals with the registration of permit notices and easements for land governed by The Land Titles Act, and this Act was repealed effective August 24, 2002 making the section obsolete and creating potential confusion for applicants. So what we've got here is housekeeping that is necessary because a certain Act was repealed previously and has made this particular section completely redundant.

Section 25 has also been repealed and, according to the notes provided by the department, this section requires the minister to register permits to construct and permits to operate waterworks and sewage works for land governed by The Land Titles Act, 2000. Now given that the interest registrations only provide notice of construction or operation of work on a large portion of land that is outside of the legal survey requirement, Saskatchewan Environment believes that this process is of little real value and should therefore be repealed. So what we've once again got is a section of the Act that has been made redundant by elimination of The Land Titles Act, 2000.

Then when we get to section 26, this part is repealed effectively once again because of the removal of The Land Titles Act which was replaced by the later edition Land Titles Act, 2000. So there we have basically the justification for these repealed sections.

Now we do have new sections. We have a new section 27 and a new section 28 replacing sections 27 and 28 that exist in the current legislation, The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002. And when we look at that, Madam Deputy Speaker, that's the area where this particular piece of legislation becomes somewhat more interesting.

According to the department, section 27 as it now stands needed to be repealed. Because this section of the Act requires the minister to register permits for waterworks and sewage works on land governed by The Land Titles Act, 2000 so that an easement is created. Now proposed changes would narrow the application of this new legislation from any and all waterworks or sewage works to just newly constructed sewage works and . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Order. The background conversations and noise is not allowing the member on his feet to really give the debate that is deserved. I would ask members to keep their levels of debate down so we can hear the member on his feet. Thank you. The member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I was referring to the fact that section 27 as it now stands is to be repealed and a new part of the Act will be inserted under that section number. But the existing section 27 allowed for applications to be applied to any waterworks or sewage works.

But now the new section 27 will limit the requirement for this type of permitting to newly constructed sewage works, especially those that discharge effluent across or under lands owned by other persons. And we're going to talk about that a little bit later, Madam Deputy Speaker, as we move forward in this particular discussion.

But I think that what's interesting here is, if I can read this correctly, if the information given us by the department is accurate, none of this legislation will have a retroactive application. It will be for new projects from this day on or from the day that the legislation is given assent, and so the retroactivity doesn't need to concern people.

But there is a rather interesting change that comes into effect here. If I may, Madam Deputy Speaker, I'd like to read the new provision of section 27 into the record just for clarity on this. Section 27, part 2 states:

If the minister is satisfied that any sewage works will adversely affect any land other than that on which those works are to be constructed or are situated, the minister shall provide a written request to the permit holder requiring the permit holder to:

- a) obtain from the registered owner of the other land an easement, in the prescribed form;
- b) obtain from any other person having a registered interest in the land . . . consent to the granting of the easement; and
- c) apply to the Registrar of Titles to register the easement against the titles to the affected lands.

So while we're looking at a new permitting process moving forward, Madam Deputy Speaker, the emphasis changes significantly because the responsibility is moved from the minister to achieve the permitting of these new projects to the promoter or the individual who's actually going to undertake the construction of this project. And while that may not seem like a big deal, it might seem quite reasonable under the circumstances I think that what we're finding here is not just a transfer of responsibility but clearly a transfer of cost now to the individual who's looking to build this project — this waterworks project, this sewage works project, or whatever.

[16:15]

And what you would find in this situation, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the individual having to, having to apply for this permit and having the easement registered with ISC, the Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, if you remember back a few years ago, investment services corporation was a \$100 million government boondoggle. And frankly the only way that investment services corporation has been able to get itself anywhere near sound financial footing is to increase the costs of registration for whatever title requirements might exist to the individuals involved.

The costs of it went up significantly and for a time there, there was real consternation on the part of people — both lawyers and builders and people who were transferring title in real estate transactions — very concerned about the exorbitant cost of title

registration. And here what we've got now is a new way to generate revenue for investment services corporation.

Now it might not, it might not amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. It might not even amount to millions of dollars. But nevertheless it is a way to generate additional cash moving into investment services corporation to help them keep their financial house in order. I might, I might mention, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the cost of that particular project . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Why is the member on her feet?

**Ms. Morin:** — With leave to introduce guests, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Regina Walsh Acres has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Great, carried.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly seated in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon a group of people that are visiting Saskatchewan and the Agribition this week. They are a group of farmers that are here from northern Germany. They are accompanied by a tour group, that is Wilhelm Haarenberg, and also by the former honorary counsel for Germany and Saskatchewan, Dr. Guenter Kocks — maybe he could give a wave — and also my former boss when I worked there. And I just want to say . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . well that's true. And I want to say:

[The member spoke for a time in German.]

And I ask all my colleagues to please welcome them to Saskatchewan and that they enjoy a good week here.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### **Bill No. 14 — The Environmental Management and Protection Amendment Act, 2006 (continued)**

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Before I get back to the very important subject at hand, maybe I could concur with the welcome that was just given by the member to our guests in the gallery today from northern Germany. I had the distinct pleasure of visiting northern Germany as part of a parliamentary exchange a few years ago. It's beautiful country, and if I could remember just a little bit of my German heritage,

I'd say, "Wie geht's?" That's the extent of it, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm sure they know what I said.

In this particular piece of legislation we see the cost of registration and the burden for registration moved from the minister to the proponents of projects, either the waterworks projects or the sewer works projects. And as I was indicating, while that might not generate a lot of additional revenue for the ISC people and the entity that registers titles, certainly I'm sure they will welcome the additional cash that this new burden will be placing on individuals undertaking these kinds of projects.

The legislation as it exists, Madam Deputy Speaker, is going to affect not just the construction of new plants, whether it be water treatment plants or water plants themselves, but it will also apply to ditches. If somebody wants to discharge sewage from a project that will flow through a ditch to a lagoon for instance or that type of runway, water runway of some sort, or even pipelines, if those kinds of means by which to move water or sewage is crossing any other piece of property, not only is the permit holder required to take extensive action but he is responsible then to get an easement approved on the piece of land that is also being affected.

So you could have a situation, Madam Deputy Speaker, where if the piece of land affected was divided by a road and a railroad track and maybe a subdivision, a small subdivision of some sort, or a piece of property that's been subdivided out of the quarter section, the individual could have a very significant effort in front of him or her in trying to get the easement approved by all of the individuals that might be affected one way or the other by this particular project.

So I'm sure, Madam Deputy Speaker, that members of this legislature are familiar with the fact that now that we do our land titles registration through ISC, any party that's got interest in a piece of land has to sign off on these projects. And that is sometimes much more complicated than it would seem. And of course, if you have a right-of-way through a piece of land for a road or a railway or some other development, each of those individuals are expected to give approval to the project. And while on the surface of it that would seem to make sense, it will also complicate and make project development much more expensive in the long run.

So while we are careful to protect environmentally these property holders and want to make sure that everything is done in an appropriate and careful manner, we need to give some consideration to the impact that this will have on the people who are doing the project, who are proposing the project.

I want to just read, Madam Deputy Speaker, a couple more items in the new piece of legislation into the record that I thought was a little bit of concern to me particularly, and maybe to some of the stakeholders that we have yet to talk to. But in section 3, subsection (3) I guess it is, of Section 27, it talks about:

[The] . . . permit holder who has received a written request pursuant to subsection (2) shall comply with that request, and notify the minister of the registration of the easement, within the time specified by the minister in the written request.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, that's pretty open-ended. That phrase within the time frame specified by the minister is not identified in any way in the legislation. It might in fact be identified more specifically in regulations that are to follow. But without knowing exactly what that means, it seems to me that virtually all the authority and all the approval granting process resides in the minister at his or her discretion.

And there's no certainty associated with this particular piece of legislation, no deadlines, no requirements of the government in any respect. And so in that situation I think that it puts the applicant or the permit requester at a disadvantage, and he or she has no certainty that the minister will respond in a timely or appropriate time frame for the advancement of the project.

And lots of times, Madam Deputy Speaker, these projects are very important to a community or maybe a whole new subdivision that's being built. Maybe it's a matter of expansion of sewage treatment facilities in an urban environment. Whatever the situation might be, Madam Deputy Speaker, it looks to me like this is so open-ended it has a potential to create problems for communities or individuals who are trying to get a project done in a timely and appropriate manner.

And as we know, with today's construction costs ballooning at unfortunately high rates, any delay, any unnecessary delay can multiply the cost of a project many times over. And I think that we want to be careful that this doesn't produce unintended consequences for the proponents of these types of water work or sewage treatment projects.

And then, a little further on in this legislation, it would be subsection (5) of 27, it says:

No easement registered pursuant to this section shall be discharged without the written consent of the minister.

And so once again we have a situation where the minister has the final authority to discharge any easement that has been registered as a result of the development of this project. So I think we're aware of the fact that this authority does reside with the minister. But it always begs the question, I think, will the minister respond appropriately in these kinds of situations?

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have yet to have an opportunity to take this legislation to the stakeholders that may be impacted by it. I think it would be important for us to talk to both SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] because obviously they could possibly have some real concerns with this legislation, and chambers of commerce throughout the province because there is a business impact by the changes that this particular piece of legislation will bring to the normal course of commerce.

And finally I think that realtors ought to be requested for input on this particular piece of legislation because when you have easements running across land that cannot be discharged, they stay in place in perpetuity, that affects the value of the land. It affects the resale opportunities that might be associated with that piece of land. And so realtors, I think, ought to have some input into this particular piece of legislation and we have yet to obtain that.



So, Madam Deputy Speaker, while we are interested in seeing strong environmental legislation and appropriate environmental legislation, it's appropriate for us to make sure that all the stakeholders affected by this are consulted and we have yet to do that. So in the meantime, I would move that we adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Cypress Hills has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 31

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 31 — The Regional Health Services Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Mr. Chisholm:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure this afternoon to provide my comments on Bill No. 31, An Act to amend the Regional Health Services Act. This Bill attempts to formalize the provisions for services provided by affiliates and other health care providers that are not designated as health organizations. The most obvious example that comes to mind would be the ambulance service providers, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Provincial Auditor has asked for formalized agreements in the past that will improve performance, clarify responsibilities, and ensure performance standards. These formalized agreements would also provide the terms and conditions of the remuneration to be paid for these contracted services.

We certainly concur with the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor in the requirement for adequate formalized agreements. Formal agreements should ensure performance standards and at the end of the day ensure that the personal health . . . regional health authorities and in turn Saskatchewan Health are accountable for the services they contract with these providers. In this respect, Madam Deputy Speaker, and in light of the Provincial Auditor's repeated recommendations, that is the requirements for formal agreements. This legislation is long overdue.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one of our duties in examining and debating proposed legislation is to assure that the interests of the affected stakeholders have been addressed. If we find that this is not the case, then we take seriously the role of consulting with the stakeholders that we can identify.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is our understanding that one such association, the Saskatchewan emergency measures services association, SEMSA [Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association], does have some concerns with this legislation and that discussions are ongoing with Saskatchewan

Health at this time.

[16:30]

We would expect that these outstanding issues would be resolved prior to the passage of this Bill, either as it presently reads or, if necessary, in amended form. In our contact with SEMSA, the concerns include the following.

Firstly, the fact that one year's notice can be given without cause is a concern in that it makes it difficult for operators to secure financing. Understanding the relative large capital investment required to get into the ambulance business, I think this certainly becomes evident that it's a concern that the banker may say there's no long-term business plan to warrant a business loan.

Likewise once notice is served to terminate the contract, there are provisions for the regional health authority to buy out the operator at fair market value. However I'm sure you can appreciate, Madam Deputy Speaker, that if you only have a one-year contract guarantee, fair market value of your ongoing business is certainly limited.

And lastly, the provision that gives 14 days notice to remedy any service disputes followed by cessation of payments is problematic. Operators feel that there needs to be a longer period to resolve these disputes before payment is ceased.

We understand that discussions are moving along and that work is in progress. However it would be best that these outstanding issues be resolved before this Bill is passed. Therefore, Madam Deputy Speaker, in order to allow for these issues to be resolved and in order to confer with others that will be affected by this legislation, I would move to adjourn debate on this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Cut Knife-Turtleford has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 20

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 20 — The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

**Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. And it's a privilege to rise in my place and to speak on Bill No. 20, An Act respecting the Mandatory Reporting of Gunshot and Stab Wounds Act.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this legislation would compel health professionals to report patients that report to hospitals or other health care facilities with gunshot wounds or stab wounds. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, when you look at the Bill as it's

presented, it's a fairly short Bill. There's not a whole lot to it. And at first glance, it looks like it would be a good idea, but when you look at the details, there could be some issues with this Bill.

I know that the Bill was requested by the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, but I do know that there are some people that have some issues with this particular Bill. For one I believe that there's concerns with health care professionals. And I can see why they would have concerns with this. Not only are they . . . They're already overworked. And we're talking about doctors and nurses, and they're understaffed in our health care facilities and our hospitals. And so you know they're already busy doing their jobs, and so this just adds more work and more pressure.

But also I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, there's an issue of safety, of what consequences that reporting a gunshot wound or a stab wound to the authorities would have if the patient that they're dealing with is perhaps of organized crime or a criminal in some manner. So there are those concerns to look at.

When I look at the Bill, section 3 of this Bill, mandatory disclosure says that every hospital, and I'll quote this, Mr. Speaker:

. . . Every hospital or facility that treats an individual for a gunshot or stab wound shall disclose the following to the local police service: [And it reads]

- (a) the fact that an individual is being treated, or has been treated, for a gunshot or stab wound;
- (b) the individual's name, if known;
- (c) the name and location of the hospital or facility; [and]
- (d) any other prescribed information.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to me . . . and the heading of that reads that it is a mandatory disclosure. Yet in the Justice minister's second reading comments he said, and I quote, that they would later, and I quote, ". . . refine through regulation in what circumstances a stab wound will properly require reporting . . ."

So there's a bit of a discrepancy as to whether or not that a stab would have to be disclosed if it would be mandatory disclosure when you look at the Bill and then when you look at what the minister has to say. So there are some concerns on that area.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the points . . . And it's interesting to note that there is some concerns with this Bill, and one of the people that is concerned is the provincial Information and Privacy Commissioner. And the members of this Assembly received his comments this afternoon. And so, you know, I think it's worth noting what the concerns are with the commissioner. And one of them that I did notice, that the commissioner is not aware of any public consultation with this Bill. And that seems to be a pattern with this government, is that stakeholders don't seem to be consulted when legislation is pending before this Assembly.

I do know that, from the comments, that the Association of Chiefs of Police had requested this, but I wonder what, other than the law enforcement — and the commissioner does mention certain health information trustees — but what health care professionals were consulted on this matter. And so I think that more consultation is needed before this Bill goes any further.

Mr. Speaker, the commissioner raises some concerns about the constitutionality of this Bill, whether or not . . . and I mean that is an interesting question. How do you, you know, what is the proper way of balancing the right to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure as put out in the Charter and also information that would be deemed necessary by the justice system? And so those are some concerns, whether or not it would meet a Charter challenge. And I think that's something that the government needs to look at.

I would quote into the record an interesting quote from a law professor at the University of Alberta. And this comes from the commissioner's commentary. This is from Wayne Renke, and he says that in the Health Law Review and I quote:

. . . mandatory reporting undermines important differences between the health system and the legal system. Medical services focus on the health of the patient. Whether the patient is good or bad, innocent or guilty, a witness or a perpetrator, is largely beside the point. The challenge is to preserve the individual's health and respect each individual's dignity and autonomy; hence, for example, the medical emphasis on obtaining patients' informed consent to procedures.

And it goes on further to say:

Advancing interests of the punitive apparatus of the criminal justice system is not part of the mission of the health system. One might say that the health system is "not in the business of justice."

He goes further to quote, and this is Professor Wayne Renke:

We see the good sense in the following passage from the 1980 Krever Report on the Confidentiality of Health Care Information . . . [where he said that]:

'the primary concern of physicians, hospitals, their employees and other health care providers must be the care of their patients . . .'

And he goes on further to quote, and I think that's a good point too, that we need to be mindful that health care professionals are in the business of providing health care, not facilitating the justice system to this extent. And that's one of the concerns that the commissioner has raised, and I think it's something that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill, if it's passed in its form, would go further than any other law in Canada. I know that Ontario has a similar Bill, similar law but it's only for gunshots. It doesn't include stab wounds. And also several states do have similar legislation for reporting.

Mr. Speaker, the commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner does note that this Bill . . . It has no purpose clause, but in their comments, in the Justice minister's comments he did say why that the government needs or wants this, thinks that this should be passed. And he talks about fighting organized crime which, you know, the government to this date hasn't done a very good job at. And you can understand why police officers and law enforcement officials would be frustrated with this government.

And he also talks about the overall goal of crime reduction, of minimizing harm and danger, and the public interest. But he does raise the concern — and this is again the Information and Privacy Commissioner — of whether or not this Bill would be effective at minimizing violence. And I think the point that he raises is that even though this would . . . If somebody that has been involved in some criminal activity that has resulted in a gunshot wound or a stabbing wound, and they do come to a clinic, they do come to a clinic or a hospital, but how many . . . But it doesn't really, it doesn't help those who . . . because they are of a criminal element, they don't report to a hospital, they don't come to a health centre to get, seek attention of a doctor or a nurse.

And so there's also concerns, Mr. Speaker, on whether or not it will reduce crime, and the Information and Privacy Commissioner quotes the executive director of the University of Alberta Health Law Institute, saying that there's little evidence that mandatory reporting actually results in a reduction in gun-related violence.

Now the Minister of Finance asks why we're delaying this Bill, and I believe this is only the second time that a member from this side of the House has had a chance to comment on this legislation. And you know, we're doing what the government should be doing. We're consulting with groups that should be consulted, rather than this government, and we have seen . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Why is the member from Saskatoon Massey Place on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Chamber for leave to introduce guests.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Massey Place has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also thanks to the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy for allowing me to interrupt what I'm sure is a very entertaining and informative speech.

Mr. Speaker, in our Chamber today in your gallery, and I'd like to introduce to you and through you to other members of the Assembly, are some very important guests for our province and its future, I believe. As everyone knows, one of the exciting

possibilities in our province is the development of the very large kimberlite formation east of Prince Albert in Saskatchewan.

And of course Shore Gold and the joint venture have been working very hard for some time and recently they've been joined by Newmont Mining, which is the world's largest gold producer and is headquartered in Denver, Colorado in the United States.

[16:45]

And it's my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to introduce several people both from Shore Gold and Newmont. First of all someone who will be known to many members of the Assembly, I suspect, Mr. Ken MacNeill who is the president of Shore Gold which is headquartered in Saskatoon. Also Pierre Lassonde who is the president of Newmont Mining which is headquartered in Denver. And I had the pleasure of visiting Newmont Mining this summer in Denver. And also David Harquail is here, the executive vice-president of Newmont Mining, who I also had the pleasure of meeting earlier this year. Mr. Steve Enders, the senior vice-president of exploration for Newmont, and also Mr. Harvey Bay who is the CFO [chief financial officer] of Shore Gold in Saskatoon.

And I know that all members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, on both sides of the House, and the people of the province, are very excited about the prospect of adding diamonds to the already vibrant mining sector we have — potash, uranium, and other. And so I know all members will want to join with me in providing a very warm welcome to these business people from Shore Gold and Newmont Mining. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — And why is the member for Melfort on his feet?

**Mr. Gantefer:** — To join the minister in welcoming guests, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. The member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I join the minister in welcoming the esteemed guests to our Legislative Assembly today. And as much as I agree with virtually everything that the minister said, there is just one small matter that is in error, Mr. Speaker. And I know you would appreciate it.

Actually the kimberlite deposit and Shore Gold's deposit and Newmont Mining's deposit is not particularly east of Prince Albert, but almost vertically directly north of Melfort. It's been my pleasure to have toured the facility on a number of occasions. Mr. MacNeill and Shore Gold have been very, very generous with their time and their patience in explaining to dry landers all the nuances of mining and the very great prospects

and enthusiasm they had for the kimberlite deposit.

I also am very, very pleased to see that Shore Gold has joined forces with Newmont Mining and they bring their expertise in open-pit mining to this project. And we really think that nothing but good things will happen from this amalgamation and the joining of very, very positive expertise from not only Canada but North America.

So we wish you great success in the project. Our province is going to benefit mightily by it. And I know that you will look forward to doing much of your business with the major community directly south of your deposit. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### **Bill No. 20 — The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act (continued)**

**Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I forget I know the Minister of Finance was saying why don't we . . . why are we holding this up? Why is the opposition . . . And you know it's a pattern from this government. We've seen it with other legislation. They ram it through this House, they want to get it through and then they forget or they make mistakes on it and then we've got to come back in this legislature and fix the mistakes of this government.

So we're just going to take a bit of time to study what the legislation is, to consult people like the Information and Privacy Commissioner who obviously this government has not consulted with, and some other stakeholders before we move it along.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's the issue of The Health Information Protection Act and how this legislation would augment that piece of legislation. But the interesting comments about that from the Information and Privacy Commissioner is that health care professionals already have this tool at their disposal. They have the discretionary power to report anything that would be of a clear and present danger to the health and safety of any person. So with this, other than the mandatory aspect of this, if a health care professional — a doctor or a nurse — believes that a person, say who's being treated in an emergency room for a gunshot wound or a stabbing wound, if say that they're at risk of somebody say coming to the hospital, or afterwards after they leave the hospital, of trying to . . . I guess it would be called finishing the job of what they wanted to do when they were shooting or stabbing this person, that they already have the ability to contact law enforcement.

And he does make the . . . Mr. Dickson does make the point that if health care professionals are not aware of this discretionary power that they already have, that this issue needs to be

addressed by further education and, he says, not further legislation.

And that's, again that's something that we've seen from this government is that . . . proper protocols. And we've seen it in the Health department that there hasn't been proper communication between the government and the department and health care professionals. And this is another indication of that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, just going further with some of the comments that were put out by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, there is a concern that somebody who is injured, that has suffered a gunshot wound or a stabbing, that they might be deterred from seeking medical attention because of fear that law enforcement would be brought into the situation. And I think that when you look at, say, Ontario's legislation, it's been just over a year since it's been enacted and so there may not be enough time to really judge whether or not that it's been successful in achieving the purposes of what it's doing.

Mr. Speaker, you know, I can understand why police officers in this province would want a piece of legislation like this. Clearly they're frustrated with this government, what this government's been doing.

I remember, I wasn't an elected official, but I was in university when the government in an election campaign in 1999 promised 200 new police officers. Something that . . . We're going on seven, almost eight years later, and there's still something that they haven't been able to achieve. So I can understand why police chiefs across the province would be concerned with, would be frustrated with what this government is doing.

Mr. Speaker, there's also really . . . And I think one of the things that, when we're discussing this Bill further and as it's in the committee stages, I think there needs to be more information provided by the minister in terms of what happens, what happens with this information, this information that's collected by law enforcement professionals. What happens if they do investigate and it turns out that it wasn't a criminal . . . there was no illegal action, there wasn't a gunshot or a stabbing that came about as a criminal activity? What happens to that information about the person that's being collected? Does law enforcement need to keep that on file? Who do they keep it on file with or do they destroy it? And how does that happen, and who do they report that to? So there are issues around that.

Mr. Speaker, there is the issue of who this information, who it falls under in terms of freedom of information and who the health care professional reports the information to — whether it's a local municipal police force or RCMP — Because the different freedom of information laws govern each different branch whether it's municipal or whether it's the RCMP. So I think there are some areas as to the freedom of information Act that need to be pursued further by the minister and when we continue with consulting different stakeholders on this Bill and when it moves to committee and when the minister has a chance to answer some questions on it.

Mr. Speaker, I think that that area needs to be looked at further when it does go to committee. But clearly the police . . . And actually, you know, I think people of this province are pretty

frustrated with this government when it comes to law enforcement. I've already spoken about the promise to hire 200 new police officers which we're still waiting for. In fact it seems the Minister of Justice can't get an accurate number on how many they have actually hired and whether or not it was new positions or whether it was backfilling old positions. And you know, so there's an issue of that, but also our crime statistics.

You know, it's got to be frustrating as a province. It's certainly frustrating when we're known as having the highest crime rates here in the capital city and in Saskatoon. And in fact I'm looking here and this pertains to this piece of legislation because it's homicides involving firearms. And I notice the numbers from 2004 to 2005 in fact more than doubled, Mr. Speaker. And so certainly it seems that with this Bill though, what the government's more interested in doing is making it look like they're actually doing something when they haven't delivered on other promises to our law enforcement agencies.

But I think it's important that the government needs to consult further on this piece of legislation. They obviously haven't done so. So I know that members on this side of the House would like to speak further on this Bill and put their comments on the record, which we all have the opportunity to do. And I'm very pleased to take my chance to do that.

And I think before I come to my own conclusion on whether or not this is a good piece of legislation, I know that I want to speak to my local . . . not only law enforcement officials, but also people that work in the hospital in Weyburn and in other health care facilities around my constituency. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy that the debate on second reading of Bill No. 20, The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate this evening the good work of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies as well as the Standing Committee on the Economy, I move this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:58.]

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