



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

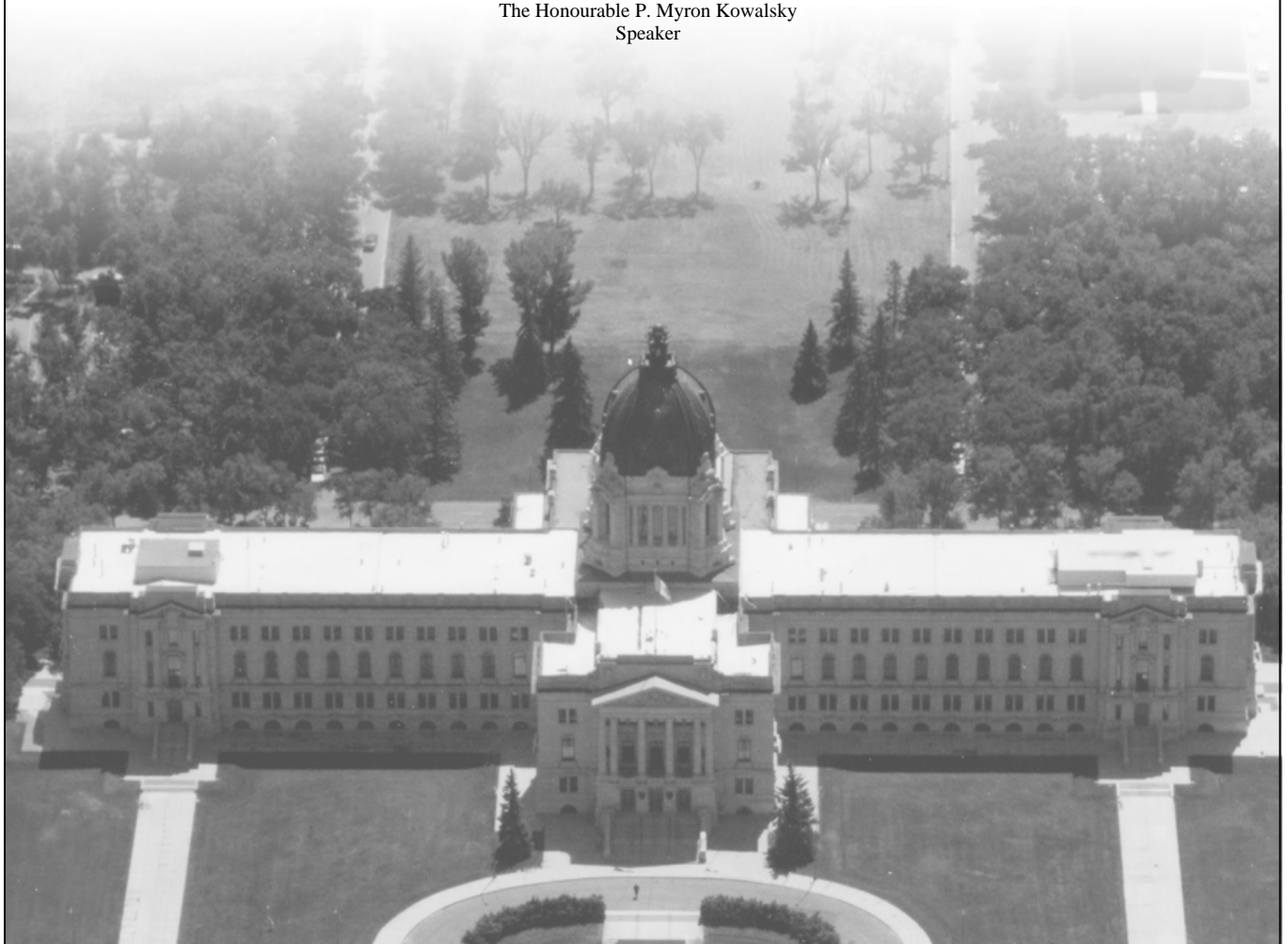
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornrud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
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 pleasure again to present a petition signed by the folks from the communities of Broadview and Whitewood. And this is in regards to dialysis and the cost that is incurred and faced by many people who have to travel for their dialysis services. And I read the prayer of the petition:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement a 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 presenting a petition once again, this time on behalf of my colleague, the member from Moosomin, and individuals from the community of Wolseley. The issue is the government's unwillingness to fund 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have petitions to present on behalf of citizens of the province regarding the lack of this government funding the 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 actions to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from Carievale, Carnduff, Oxbow, Carlyle, and Carnduff. I so present.

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

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

These petitions come from the communities of Carnduff, Carievale, Oxbow, Estevan, Redvers, Wakaw, Bellegarde, the whole Southeast, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of residents also concerned about the government's unwillingness to fund the cancer drug Avastin. The prayer of their 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, today the petitioners all hail from either Regina or nearby Balgonie. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise on behalf of people who are concerned about Highway No. 49. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 49.

The people who have signed this petition are from Okla; Lintlaw; Preeceville; Russell, Manitoba; and Kelvington. I so present.

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

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

The communities involved with the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are Regina and Craven.

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.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Carnduff and Alida. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again today I have several petitions of the 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 the signatures, Mr. Speaker, will come as no surprise. They are — it's a fairly widely used corridor — they are from Prince Albert, Colonsay, Humboldt, Cudworth, Quill Lake, Broadview, St. Denis, St. Lenore, Quill Lake, Martensville, Archerwill, Wadena, Kelvington, Dana, Rose Valley, Muenster, Canora, Naicam, Saskatoon, Bruno, Buchanan, Battleford, and Provost, Alberta. I so present.

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

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of citizens concerned about the government's reluctance to fund 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 today, Mr. Speaker, are from Regina, Weyburn, Pilot Butte, Meath Park, and I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise today with a petition from people who are very concerned about this government's refusal to fund the cancer drug Avastin. And the prayer reads:

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

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

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to present a petition to revisit the effects of the TransGas Asquith natural gas storage project. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately address the concerns of all individuals affected by this project, pay 100 per cent of the costs involved to rectify disruptions to water supplies, produce an environment assessment study encompassing a larger area outside the scope of the project, disclose the project's long-term effects on these areas, and consider alternative sources of water for the project.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Grandora, Asquith, and Vanscoy. I so present.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present a petition today surrounding the truly tragic circumstances of the death of Doug Bonderud and the lack of acceptance of responsibility by this NDP [New Democratic Party] government:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to reimburse the Bonderud family for out-of-country treatment costs and improve the future communication and coordination of cancer services for all cancer patients.

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

Today the petitioners come from the provincial constituencies of Saskatoon Silver Springs and Saskatoon Sutherland. I so present.

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens who are very concerned about the NDP's two tiered health system and the petition reads as follows:

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

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good folks of Alida, Carnduff, and Glen Ewen. 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 with the government's two-tier 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 implement a strategy that will see a dialysis unit placed in the Broadview Union Hospital.

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

Mr. Speaker, signatures to this petition are from Grenfell and Cowessess. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to read a petition to urge tougher sentences for sexual offenders against children. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take all steps available to speed up the public disclosure process so that communities are alert to the presence of known sex offenders in their communities as soon as possible.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this one is entirely signed by the good citizens of Cudworth. I so present.

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

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

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

As in duty bound . . .

This particular petition is signed by the good citizens from Watrous, Manitou Beach, and Dalmeny. I so present.

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

Mr. Dearborn: — Mr. Speaker. I am proud to stand in the Assembly today and present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan concerned with the funding of cancer medication. 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 in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this petition is signed by citizens of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and they've left their street addresses for us to identify them. I'm proud to present.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud today to rise on a petition that this is the first time in the province's history that the government has denied coverage of a cancer drug recommended by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to rise in the House to present a petition to reimburse the out-of-country medical costs of Doug Bonderud. Mr. Speaker, I will read the prayer for relief:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to reimburse the Bonderud family for out-of-country treatment costs and improve the future communication and coordination of cancer services for all cancer patients.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from the city of Saskatoon. I'm pleased to present it on their behalf. Thank you.

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

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased today to rise in the Assembly to present a petition calling on the government to fund 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 people from Martensville, Saskatoon, Aberdeen, and Camrose, Alberta. I so

present.

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are very concerned about the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to continue to actively and strongly support the position that it is the right of all western Canadian farmers to decide the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, not the federal cabinet.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signatures to this petition come from Ituna, Regina, Southey, Lemberg, Assiniboia, Watrous, Churchbridge, Sovereign, Macrorie, Atwater, Riverhurst, Eyebrow, and Swift Current, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are very concerned about the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to continue to actively and strongly support the position that it is the right of all western Canadian farmers to decide the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, not the federal cabinet.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report these petitions come from Indian Head, Codette, Semans, Raymore, Herbert, and my birth town, Kyle. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are concerned about the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to continue to actively and strongly support the position that it is the right of all western Canadian farmers to decide the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, not the federal cabinet.

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present, Mr. Speaker. The petition signatures are from Wawota, Avonlea, Regina, Coderre, and Maymont, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the Assembly a group that is visiting our Legislative Assembly today. It's a group of 26 very good looking grade 8 students from the Regina Christian School that are seated in your gallery. They are accompanied by their teacher, Geoff Glasspell, and by Mrs. Merna Oppeboen. I look forward to meeting with this group after question period, and I would ask all members to join me in extending them a very warm welcome today, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure as well to introduce a group of students, and we say welcome to the students from the Regina Christian School.

But also we have a group of students who have travelled here from the Kahkewistahaw Community School north of Broadview. They're here with their principal Don Thompson, nine grade 11 and 12 students.

Mr. Speaker, we want to welcome the students. I look forward to meeting them for a few minutes following question period, and I ask all the members of the Assembly to welcome the students to this here, their Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this hon. Assembly, Ms. Lynne Bast seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, seated beside Lorne Ridgeway. Lynne is Lorne's significant other and Lorne's a great supporter and I believe that Lynne is too. And certainly the term better half never applied more than it does in Lynne's case. I hope that all members will welcome Lynne Bast to this Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very

pleased to welcome to the legislature this afternoon, sitting in the west gallery, a woman whose headline this week says that she makes history, Mr. Speaker.

I am very, very pleased to welcome to the Assembly Ms. Judy Kobsar who this weekend, one, was successful in winning against a slate of four candidates, the New Democratic Party nomination for Regina Rosemont. Mr. Speaker, I'd like you to welcome Judy and all members to welcome Judy to the gallery in anticipation of her taking a seat in the House.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join with the Premier in recognizing my old friend and colleague Judy Kobsar and as well members of her campaign team. If they'd like to stand as their names are mentioned: Barb Dedi, campaign manager; we have Flor and Efren Linantud who are in the gallery with us; Carlos Petit-Homme; and Virginia Dela Cruz. And thank you very much for coming to the Assembly today, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Results of Leadership Conventions

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were two leadership conventions held this past weekend. On behalf of the official opposition I want to congratulate both of the winners.

The new leader of the Alberta Conservatives and therefore the new Premier of that province is Ed Stelmach. It was a bit of a surprise for political pundits. Mr. Stelmach came from third place to defeat two other very strong candidates in a hotly contested race. So we say congratulations to the Premier designate, and we look forward to working with him as Premier of Alberta in the new West.

Also this weekend the federal Liberals held their leadership convention in Montreal, and the finish surprised perhaps a few with Stéphane Dion emerging as the new Liberal leader. We also want to congratulate him on his victory on the weekend.

But I also would like to say this of the convention, Mr. Speaker: we are troubled. I am troubled by the disproportionate amount of focus there has been in recent weeks in our country for one region, for one province within Canada. First there was the debate federally over recognizing Quebec as a nation. And then watching the candidates' speeches at the Liberal convention, you would hardly know that the West existed, Mr. Speaker. I saw an unofficial count that among the four leading candidates, they mentioned Quebec 121 times and mentioned our province or even the West just 12 times, Saskatchewan not mentioned

hardly at all.

Mr. Speaker, while Quebec is a very important part of Canada, so is the new West, so is the province of Saskatchewan. We want to remind that party and the other federal parties that we deserve a better equalization deal for our province, Mr. Speaker. I hope this is not lost on the new leader of the Liberal Party, nor the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Health Research Week

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, this is Health Research Week in Saskatchewan. We have some of the best and the brightest in health research field right here in Saskatchewan. This week provides us the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate their accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to building and sustaining a vibrant and growing research sector to address health care issues facing our province. Support for the Innovation and Science Fund and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation are part of that commitment.

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation provides research funding on government's behalf to agencies and individuals conducting health research in a variety of disciplines. The leadership and vision provided by the foundation has encouraged and facilitated a dynamic health research agenda for this province. We also support health research through funding to the province's universities and to key infrastructure projects which are supporting the future growth of health research.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation will hold its Santé! Awards dinner to present their prestigious top research awards. I ask all members to join me in congratulating these bright and innovative researchers in acknowledging the contributions of Saskatchewan's health researchers. Their work benefits not only the area of health but the province as a whole, and we salute them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ambassadors for Community and Province

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of December 3 as International Day of Disabled Persons, I would like to present two Estevan stories.

First, Albert Ribling was diagnosed with Down's syndrome, and he has overcome many obstacles in his lifetime. He has demonstrated with a positive spirit so many things are attainable. Outgoing, friendly, considerate, constructive, and optimistic — Albert motivates us all.

Albert began his transition into employment with his work experience in high school. Today he is working as part of a team alongside a chef, assisting in the kitchen duties that are in high demand in that industry sector. The employer testimonial is how Albert could teach everyone a lesson as to how much attention and detail he displays in the workplace. His sister's testimonial is about the impact he has had on his family and how they are very close because of the number of hurdles they've had to overcome. Albert's testimonial is how he loves his job.

Second, Mr. Speaker, is Stuart Minchin. Stuart is another young man diagnosed with Down's syndrome at birth. And he has graduated from high school, overcoming many obstacles and tribulations. Shortly after graduation from high school, he registered and received his certificate in safe food handling from the local Southeast Regional College, a definite skill set needed to be a viable and competitive employee. His employer's testimony is how dependable and meticulous he is, and Stuart's testimony about himself is how he is proud of himself.

And they are just wonderful ambassadors, Mr. Speaker, for that community and for the whole province and how they deserve the same rights and responsibilities as other citizens to be included and participate fully in society. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

International Day of Disabled Persons

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, December 3, was proclaimed International Day of Disabled Persons in Saskatchewan. Established by the United Nations in 1982, this is a day dedicated to promoting, understanding, and support for disability issues. The goal is to help achieve full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, this is echoed in the Saskatchewan council's disability action plan and the province's goal of full citizenship for people with disabilities. And we've made significant investments to provide the opportunity for people with disabilities to participate fully in the life of the province.

This year's report of the *Multilateral Framework for Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities* shows that employment rates for people with disabilities in Saskatchewan continues to climb and surpass the Canadian average.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to making life better for today's families and building a better future here for our youth. This is a commitment to all Saskatchewan people. This is a commitment to people with disabilities. This year, an additional \$12.5 million is being invested to improve the lives of those with disabilities. There is more work to be done, Mr. Speaker, but this government has a goal of full citizenship for people with disabilities. And we will continue our efforts to ensure people with disabilities are included in the social and economic life of our great province. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

A Shining Example of Persistence and Purpose

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, December 3 was first proclaimed by the United Nations as International Day of the Disabled Person in 1992. This day is recognized to promote understanding and awareness of disability issues and to mobilize support for the rights and well-being of people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one individual from my constituency, Shannon Hoffmann. Diagnosed with conversion disorder, Shannon has persevered despite the obstacles she has faced while maintaining a busy household of her husband and her five growing children.

Mr. Speaker, Shannon works as a contractual custodian. It's work that she finds very rewarding. She loves her job. She finds it very challenging and is flourishing with the feedback of her employer. Mr. Speaker, her employer has noticed her work — the fact that she is taking pride in it — and feels that she's a great asset to the team.

Mr. Speaker, Shannon is a shining example of what one can overcome and achieve with persistence and purpose. She's an example of self-determination, community inclusion, and full citizenship. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Shannon for the example that she has set for her peers and to her children, for showing that with hard work, dedication, and perseverance much can be overcome. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

New Democratic Party Nomination for Regina Rosemont

Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well the big smile on my face will be explained during the statement. Last Thursday night was stormy and cold, and the wind was blowing. But despite the storm, Mr. Speaker, the wind blew hundreds of New Democrats together to share in the warmth of renewal and progress, and attend the nomination meeting to find my successor as the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Speaker, over 200 voting delegates and over 100 guests and observers braved the weather to cast their vote. And in a decisive victory on the first ballot, the choice was made. Mr. Speaker, my successor in this Assembly will be Judy Kobsar, and she is an excellent choice.

Judy has served several years on the board of the Regina & District Food Bank, on the board of directors of the Regina Police Race Relations Advisory Board. Judy is the president of Saskatchewan Caribbean-Canadian Association, former president of Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan, and has volunteered in church, human rights, and service organizations too numerous to mention.

[14:00]

She'll bring a sense of hard work and dedication to serving the people of Regina Rosemont as their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. And, Mr. Speaker, Judy has not only been a strong voice for promoting equity issues, she has a vision for making Regina Rosemont an even safer and more stable community with a zero tolerance approach to crime and the causes of crime.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Judy on her victory and look forward to working with her to make life even better for the people of Rosemont and Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Support for Biofuel Production

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last year at this time, rural Saskatchewan was faced with a lot of negative news. Ag commodity prices were at or near their 25-year lows, Mr. Speaker. And the only bright spot on the horizon at that time was the perspective of the tremendous potential that biofuels had for our province and especially rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Both our provincial government and the federal government, and major political parties at the federal level, recognize the potential that biofuels could have and they supported it. In fact, they supported the producer involvement in this industry, Mr. Speaker.

But what has happened in the last 12 months, Mr. Speaker? Well a couple of things have happened. Private industry has moved forward and are building the biofuels industry. We've had the opening of the Husky ethanol plant, the announcement of the Belle Plaine plant, a mega plant in Alberta, Mr. Speaker.

But what has happened to facilitate producer and community involvement in this industry? Well I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker. Nothing has happened, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Premier led a delegation to Ottawa recently and was told that the federal government wasn't ready to make an announcement yet. We don't know when that will happen, Mr. Speaker.

And so what did we hear from that minister, Mr. Speaker? Ottawa, we've got a problem; you've got to fix it; and there's nothing I can do with it. Well with a billion dollars squirreled away in an election surplus fund, that minister certainly can do something, Mr. Speaker. And it's time he did.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Runaways from Red Willow Centre

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Community Resources: why are so many children running away from the Red Willow Centre in Saskatoon, a government assessment centre for children age 16 and under?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, I would certainly agree that the numbers of young people that do run away from the Red Willow Centre is high. There is no question that we accept that this is a problem and that this is something that we are certainly tracking. And we are trying to understand why the children are running. We do know that the numbers, as I mentioned, are high and this is not acceptable certainly to our government.

And what we are trying to do is work very closely with the facility to determine the trends, the patterns, the reasons why they're running. As people know, sometimes children run away from problems; sometimes they run to options that sometimes aren't very healthy. But I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, that quite clearly the numbers are high. We are investigating. We are trying to determine what the causes are and there is a lot of work being done to assess that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again a pattern, Mr. Speaker — we ask the questions on it; now we're going to look into it. This pattern's been going on for three years, Mr. Speaker.

In 2006 up to November 17, 23 children have run away from the Red Willow. One was gone for over 52 days, another for 40, and another for 20 days. In 2005 more children ran away from the Red Willow. And in 2004, 29 had run away from this facility.

Mr. Speaker, Red Willow accepts 50 children a year. Why are over half of them running away on multiple occasions?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, we must never diminish the fact that children are running from facilities. We have to make sure that we make every effort to investigate some of these trends.

I would point out that this is not a youth penitentiary. We don't lock up these youth. These are places where we try to make the youth as comfortable as possible. Some children, Mr. Speaker, run away for as few as a couple of hours, for as short as a couple of hours. Others run, as mentioned, sometimes for days. We take the issue of children running away very seriously. We make sure that there are . . . the police are notified and that the

proper authorities are certainly contacted, and that the staff there make every effort to try and locate these children, and that there is a continual effort to find them.

Mr. Speaker, as we mentioned, the numbers are high. We accept that. What is not acceptable is the fact that we want to see what causes them. And, Mr. Speaker, a lot of good work is being undertaken.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this facility is supposed to be a sanctuary for children. The numbers are staggering and depressing and a pattern of concern is going.

Mr. Speaker, I went on the website today. There are 16 children in that facility at any one time — eight young boys, eight young girls. They have a staff, sir, of 64 people. How can we possibly have these type of numbers of kids running away — 23 out of 50 kids? Mr. Speaker, that's a disgrace.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, what's important is that this is a very serious matter. And I should point out to that member, many of the children that do leave don't actually take off from the facility. What happens is they go to school, they have outings, they visit malls, Mr. Speaker, and that's when they make their effort to run away, Mr. Speaker — some for as short as a few hours, others for a number of days. And what I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, is that we want to make sure that we do all we can to support these children. This is not a penitentiary for children. This is a youth service that we're trying to work with these high-risk children, Mr. Speaker.

And what is important is that, if that opposition is not taking off in the middle of some very important committee work that talks about children being exploited in a political huff, or they're not criticizing the civil service, or they're not attacking some of the people who work with the youth, Mr. Speaker . . . They have done nothing positive, Mr. Speaker, to help with the children of this province. And this government and the people of Saskatchewan know that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Centennial Plan at SaskTel

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of SaskTel. Can the minister provide the Assembly with details of the centennial plan that was implemented in March 2005? Can she tell us the purpose of this plan and the total cost?

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I did not hear the plan that the member inquired about.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan was the centennial plan implemented in March 2005.

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I don't have any details with me so I'll take notice of the question.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be more than willing to help the minister out. The centennial plan provided each SaskTel employee with a bonus equivalent to six days pay. Many people worked through the centennial and did not receive that kind of bonus. Public servants should be paid fairly for their work. Saskatchewan's pay scale should be designed so that we can attract workers to jobs that are hard to fill. And no one would argue that bonuses should be tied to some kind of performance targets. Why on earth should you get a bonus for simply showing up for work during the centennial year?

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, when we look anywhere across society today, one of the hot topics is labour market, and shortages within the labour market. And if any of the members across the floor read *Maclean's* magazine you will see that SaskTel has been named one of the top employers in Canada over the last five or six years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's a reason for that. SaskTel believes in treating its employees well. It has high productivity. It provides good service for the citizens of Saskatchewan, and part of that is providing good jobs for citizens in the province of Saskatchewan and supporting other Saskatchewan businesses by buying their goods and services at home. It all adds together for a good package for Saskatchewan and a very good employer and business in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Since the minister is so anxious to defend this for SaskTel and none of the other Crown corporations had this bonus, can she tell us the cost of this bonus to SaskTel and how many employees receive the bonus?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is another blatant example of how the opposition hops from one side of the issue

to the other. Mr. Speaker, they will stand in the House and vote for a piece of legislation that protects the Crown corporations in Saskatchewan purely because they got their . . . they got kicked on it last, they got thumped on it last provincial election, Mr. Speaker. So now all of a sudden they're onside with the Crowns.

But they continually stand and criticize. They continually . . . And we have examples of members of the opposition travelling around the province criticizing the Crown corporations. Mr. Speaker, they should decide where they stand on this issue and for once they should stick to it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the cost was \$5 million, \$5 million for these employees just to show up to work just like all the other employees did during the province. Mr. Speaker, \$5 million is a lot of money any way you slice it. It's enough to provide Terry Rak and other colorectal cancer patients with Avastin. It's more than enough to compensate Crystal Bonderud for her trip to the Mayo clinic to try and save her husband's life. It's enough to provide some drought assistance to the producers in the Southwest. My colleagues tell me that \$5 million would provide 10 new cell towers.

Mr. Speaker, why would this government choose to spend this money on a bonus for SaskTel employees without any performance targets or other criteria to tie this bonus to?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the opposition has any number of ways that they would like to see money spent — and the same dollars over and over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, one of the priorities of this government is to maintain good employees and to maintain good services here in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to do that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the minister should understand that it's all about choices. And this NDP government keeps making the wrong choices. They keep doing it again and again. There is no justification for spending 5 million to pay one group of employees a bonus for simply showing up for work during the centennial year. It's not fair to the other members of the public service. It's not fair to the other working men and women of the province.

Mr. Speaker, why do some workers get a bonus for showing up

for work in a province where we don't have enough money for new cancer drugs and we have the longest waiting list in the country? It's about choices, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, as the Minister Responsible for SaskTel and as a citizen of Saskatchewan, I take offence that the member opposite figures employees just show up. Like there has been constant disregard from that side of the House as to what these employees contribute to the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we hear . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order please. The Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we believe in public service and we believe in public employees and we believe in the good service that the employees and the Crown corporations provide to the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we see over and over that labour force attachment, recruitment and retention is huge, right across North America, not just in Saskatchewan, not just in Canada. They complain about the lack of work we're doing for labour force and recruiting trained people. SaskTel is ahead of the game. They have a good employee base and will maintain it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

Investment in Clinicare

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems that the Minister of SaskTel has a favourite Crown compared to all the rest when it comes to pay.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister Responsible for Investment Saskatchewan. According to a *Leader-Post* article published on October 18, 2006, Clinicare was supposed to open an office in Saskatoon and have a minimum number of six people working by December 1 this year. Mr. Speaker, that December 1 deadline has come and gone. Can the minister tell the Assembly today the status of the Clinicare office in Saskatoon and the number of its employees working in this province?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out to the House that Investment Saskatchewan is an independent, arm's-length board that was created by this government in order to depoliticize investment decisions. And I invite that member, Mr. Speaker, as I invited his colleague last day, to stand in this House and tell the House and tell the people whether they support the concept of the Investment Saskatchewan board and

Victoria Park Capital making these decisions, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of government.

On this side of the House we do support that process, Mr. Speaker. And if the members opposite do not agree with that process, I invite them to say so, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Investment Saskatchewan is so independent of this legislature that they have over \$400 million of this province's money to work with, Mr. Speaker, including \$50 million to invest in the last year. Investment Saskatchewan put 3 million of those dollars of equity financing into Clinicare, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, Investment Saskatchewan's investment philosophy and guideline says business plans must be evaluated by, and I quote from their sheet, "... must result in job creation and increased economic activity in Saskatchewan." Mr. Speaker, it's déjà vu of Pangaea all over again. Can the minister explain why Investment Saskatchewan put \$3 million of taxpayers' money into a Calgary corporation that is breaking Investment Saskatchewan's own guidelines?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for Investment Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the House that the opposition has a practice of saying things in the House that are not quite accurate. And we will see what the facts are, Mr. Speaker.

But I want to say this. This is the same member, Mr. Speaker, who in the early 1990s advised this government to sell the shares of Cameco for \$12 a share — that member, Mr. Speaker — when those shares were sold for \$72 a share, Mr. Speaker.

That is the same member that told this House that the Government of Saskatchewan should sell its interest in the Husky upgrader for 7 cents on the dollar, Mr. Speaker, 7 cents on the dollar. And what was recovered? 100 cents on the dollar, Mr. Speaker, 100 cents on the dollar.

And now this member is going to lecture everybody about how to manage investment? I don't think so, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister wants to fight the 1991 election all over again because

they won that one. But they're not going to win the next one, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, Investment Saskatchewan should know quite a bit about Clinicare's operations and why there is not an office open or employees in Saskatoon.

The *Leader-Post* article goes on to say, and I quote, "... the company is giving up an equity stake and a seat on its five-member board as part of its agreement with Investment Saskatchewan."

Mr. Speaker, Investment Saskatchewan has a seat on the board. Then it should know why there is no office open in Saskatoon. Why did Investment Saskatchewan invest \$3 million into a company it knew wasn't going to fulfill its deal? Why are Saskatchewan families on the hook for another \$3 million of Saskatchewan money?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for Investment Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, that member said in his last question that the assets of the people of Saskatchewan had been turned over to Investment Saskatchewan. I want to say to that member, to the House, Mr. Speaker, that is not the case. Those assets belong to the people of the province, Mr. Speaker.

What has been turned over to Investment Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is the management of those investments and the ability to divest of investments and the ability to invest, Mr. Speaker. And Investment Saskatchewan has made that decision. Investment Saskatchewan will also defend that decision. And we will see what the facts are, Mr. Speaker.

No, I'm not interested, Mr. Speaker, in fighting the 1991 election. But I am interested in pointing out that that member advised this government to sell the Cameco shares at \$12. That member advised this government to sell the Lloydminster upgrader at 7 cents on the dollar. And the people need to know that's the kind of advice you get from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To quote from Investment Saskatchewan's own investment philosophy and guidelines, one, "To enhance Saskatchewan's long term economic growth and diversification through . . . investments." And two, "must result in job creation and increased economic activity in Saskatchewan." Not in Calgary, Mr. Speaker.

Why has Investment Saskatchewan invested \$3 million in Clinicare for jobs and economic development in Calgary when clearly the arrangement was to have it in Saskatoon? Where are the jobs in Saskatoon, and what is that board member doing?

They should be informing the government why those jobs are not here and why that business isn't open in Saskatchewan. What's happening?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for Investment Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well you know, Mr. Speaker, the member says, where are the jobs in Saskatoon? I'll tell the member where are the jobs in Saskatoon. According to the CJWW, it says the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce says it's reached the 8,000 new-jobs target it had been seeking.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — The chamber says 8,000 jobs per year is the number needed to keep young people in Saskatoon.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — The chamber says, "... the job creation is proof that with the right government policies in place, both the City and the province have an amazing potential." That's where the jobs in Saskatoon are, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Funding for Synchrotron Research

Mr. Wall: — Well I'm glad the hon. minister quoted the entire transcript from the CJWW, Mr. Speaker, because the entire transcript quite rightly highlighted out what the proper government policies can do for this province's policies in terms of business tax reform, which came from this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has been asking my colleague, the member for Cannington, what about the position of the Saskatchewan Party. Well our position with respect to taxpayers' money is that it ought not to be used to pick winners and losers in mature industries, in companies. We ought to stop that investment, Mr. Speaker.

Rather, rather, Mr. Speaker, the government could be focusing on research and development. Last week Saskatchewan's innovation sector got a healthy injection in federal research dollars from the Canada Foundation for Innovation — the three synchrotron projects awarded 25.8 million towards a total cost of 64.5 million. For these beams, for this activity there needs to be matching dollars. Is the government considering ... Will the government match these dollars and leverage this important research and development and innovation at the synchrotron in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for Advanced Ed and Employment.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well as the public will know, it was the NDP government that brought the synchrotron to this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — It is because of the support of the NDP government that a number of other beamlines have been built. And, Mr. Speaker, I could assure the public and members of the House that it will be an NDP government that continues to grow research and development jobs in the city of Saskatoon. So we truly will reach the potential of the city of Saskatoon.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the minister. The government clearly has \$3 million for a Calgary-based company that doesn't look like it's going to be investing in the province of Saskatchewan. Will they be matching these dollars and leveraging important research and development and innovation at the University of Saskatchewan synchrotron in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for Advanced Ed.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Given that an NDP government brought the largest scientific project in the history of this country to Saskatchewan and given that we have continued to invest in additional medical beamlines, I can assure the House that we will continue to attract and recruit scientists to the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In an article from *The StarPhoenix* from Wednesday, November 29 regarding this funding resource coming to the synchrotron and the importance for matching dollars, here's a quote from the article, and I am quoting, Mr. Speaker:

While landing the CFI dollars is a big step, researchers must secure funds to cover the remaining 60 per cent cost of the new beams. In the past, the provincial government has pitched in for some University of Saskatchewan projects that garnered CFI funds.

Advanced Education and Employment Minister Pat Atkinson said Tuesday four U of S teams who received CFI funds this year will have to apply for matching funds ... [in next year's] budget.

Mr. Speaker, they've got standing amounts of money — 25 million a year for SPUDCOs [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], for companies out of Calgary, for

investing in mature industries. But researchers, people who want to pursue an innovation agenda, they have to apply and hope for the benevolence of the government. When will it offer a true vision and a proactive plan for innovation in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I know how the Leader of the Opposition likes to create his policy on the fly as he reads *The StarPhoenix* or the Regina *Leader-Post*. In fact I clearly remember that they have decided to get rid of tobacco money going into Sask Party coffers after he discovered that they had taken tobacco money from the industry in 2005.

I want to assure the public that it is this government that brought the largest scientific project in this country to Saskatchewan. And it is this government that has significantly increased research money into our two universities. All you have to do is go to the U of R [University of Regina] and U of S [University of Saskatchewan], and see the construction and the equipment and the scientists. And I can assure the public that we will do everything to ensure that that continues.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Electronic Waste Recycling Program

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that, effective February 1, 2007, Saskatchewan will have a province-wide, industry-led electronic waste recycling program — the first program of its kind in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — The term e-waste describes a wide variety of electronic products that have come to their end of life. This term, Mr. Speaker, applies to both consumer and business electronic equipment.

Under normal usage, electronic equipment poses little or new hazard. However many electronic products do contain materials such as lead, cadmium, and mercury which, if not handled properly, could have environmental impacts and cause health and safety concerns. Mr. Speaker, Environment Canada estimates that up to 71,000 tonnes of electronic wastes were discarded by Canadians in 2005. Although some of Saskatchewan's e-waste is being collected and reused by local recyclers, much of our e-waste ends up in our landfill.

[14:30]

Beginning February 1, 2007, Saskatchewan consumers will have the green option of taking their end-of-life materials to any

one of the 71 SARCAN depots across the province. Mr. Speaker, this program will initially collect personal computers — both notebook and desktop — computer monitors, televisions, and desktop printers. Additional electronic materials will be added as the program develops.

The Saskatchewan waste electronics equipment program — or SWEEP — board and the SARCAN have finalized their contract and are now in the process of completing final preparation for implementation of the e-waste collection and recycling program. Many electronics products contain valuable materials that can be recovered and reused in the manufacture of the next generation of electronics, helping to conserve natural resources such as copper and steel.

Mr. Speaker, the new recycling program will also bring with it a direct increase in the opportunities for employment for those persons with disabilities, served through the SARCAN system.

Mr. Speaker, this program is another fine example of government, business, and community working together to build a bright, strong, green future for Saskatchewan families, making Saskatchewan the best place for young people to work, live, and raise a family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Environment for providing me with a copy of his remarks earlier today. It certainly is helpful when responding to his statement.

Mr. Speaker, we certainly, on this side of the House, have no problems with the program that the minister announced. It is a step in the right direction. We need to segregate these electronic computers and equipment, Mr. Speaker, and keep them from going into the landfill sites. As the minister said, there are compounds in those electronic devices that could have long-term effects to the environment. And if we have a program in place where we can recycle them and reuse them, Mr. Speaker, that is certainly a step in the right direction.

The one concern that we would have, Mr. Speaker, and I would have is that what we are seeing from this government is a piecemeal approach to many of these issues when they said two years ago that they were going to have an overall master plan, and they called it the green strategy, Mr. Speaker. We see this government announce programs that deal specific issues within the environment and other areas, but we don't see the master plan, Mr. Speaker. And there was considerable work done by the former minister and his officials where they consulted with various groups across this province, Mr. Speaker, and to this date we really haven't seen any tangible results. I suspect that this may be a part of the overall results, but I think we need to see the overall plan before we . . . in conjunction with these specific programs, Mr. Speaker. But having said that, Mr. Speaker, we certainly feel that this is a step in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

HealthLine Adds Mental Health Crisis Support to its Services

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many of us in this Assembly will be aware, Saskatchewan residents have benefited since 2004 from HealthLine, Saskatchewan's confidential health advice telephone line, 1-877-800-0002. Mr. Speaker, this innovative service has been one of our province's most effective and important means of improving access to health information and health services, making health advice from a qualified registered nurse just a phone call away.

In the spring of 2005, Mr. Speaker, as part of the Premier's Project Hope, HealthLine services were enhanced to provide support and information around the clock for individuals in a crisis situation related to substance abuse and addiction. This is a simple way for people in crisis to quickly find the help they need.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased and proud today to speak of yet another important enhancement to HealthLine, an enhancement that demonstrates this government's commitment to building a better future for all of our citizens. As of Friday, December 1, HealthLine now has mental health professionals available on a 24-hour basis and trained to assist callers in crisis due to a mental health concern or illness. This is a tremendously important service, Mr. Speaker, for anyone in an urban or rural community who needs help coping with mental health or addictions concerns. Now when these individuals contact HealthLine, they can speak to a professional registered psychiatric nurse or social worker trained to handle crisis calls and provide referrals.

This is not only an important and valuable addition to the services offered by HealthLine, Mr. Speaker, it also honours a commitment made by this government with other Canadian provinces and territories in 2004 to enhance community mental health crisis response. And, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to offer dedicated mental health crisis support through its telephone health advice line.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I ask all members present to join me in congratulating HealthLine for its excellent work in facilitating this service enhancement and for its continued valuable service to the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to stand and respond to the ministerial statement. I thank the minister for sending his remarks over in this bright pink folder. I couldn't miss them. So thank you for that.

It's interesting that we're talking about mental health today and

the situation with this new mental health line that people can phone. As I was kind of surfing through some channels last night, I happened to go by a story that was on SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] regarding the mental health facility, Souris Valley in Weyburn, and it's interesting because they were trying to figure out what to do with that building right now. But it talked about the history of Souris Valley and the issues around mental health. And, you know, as growing up fairly close to Weyburn, I kind of remember the facility, although I was interested in how it was starting to look at moving its patients out into the community, you know, 40 to 50 years ago.

But I was amazed and struck by the fact that there had been a population of over 2,000 people in that facility and hence that's why the size of the facility. But how we've come a long ways from watching that show, and I was watching that show and just, you know, thinking of the impact that the changes in mental health and dealing with people so much better now than what we did 50 and 60 and 70 years ago. It's just an amazing progression, you know, for the best for sure, as to how we are dealing with people with mental health issues.

I know though, speaking to a number of people in this area, whether it's psychiatrists or psych nurses, that many of them have a real concern that we just don't have enough professionals. Whether it's psychiatrists or any other of the professionals that deal with people with mental health issues, they feel that we are short-staffed in so many situations.

Now this help line will move towards alleviating some of that, I guess, as people can phone from wherever they are in the province. But I really would stress to this government that it doesn't take, it doesn't take the place of or substitute for professionals in the field dealing with people that are having mental health issues. And so although this is a step and, as the minister said, falls in with some of the guidelines from 2004, there are many more steps that need to be taken. As I said, this is no substitute for having professionals, the proper complement of professionals, to deal with people dealing with mental health issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I would like to table the annual report for the Saskatchewan Legislative Library for the period ending March 31, 2006.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I will table responses to written questions no. 204 through 221 inclusive. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 204 to 221 inclusive have been submitted. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate the work of all four of the standing committees — the Standing Committee on the Economy, Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure, Human Services, as well as the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies — I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:39.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Lorne Calvert
Premier

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

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

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

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

Hon. Eric Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources
Minister Responsible for Investment
Saskatchewan Inc.
Minister Responsible for Information Services
Corporation of Saskatchewan

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

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

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

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

Hon. Warren McCall
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

Hon. John Nilson
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for the Office of
Energy Conservation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Frank Quennell
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

Hon. Clay Serby
Deputy Premier
Minister of Regional Economic and
Co-operative Development

Hon. Maynard Sonntag
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
of Saskatchewan

Hon. Len Taylor
Minister of Health

Hon. Andrew Thomson
Minister of Finance
Minister Responsible for Information Technology
Minister Responsible for
SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen
Minister of Government Relations

Hon. Mark Wartman
Minister of Agriculture and Food