



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

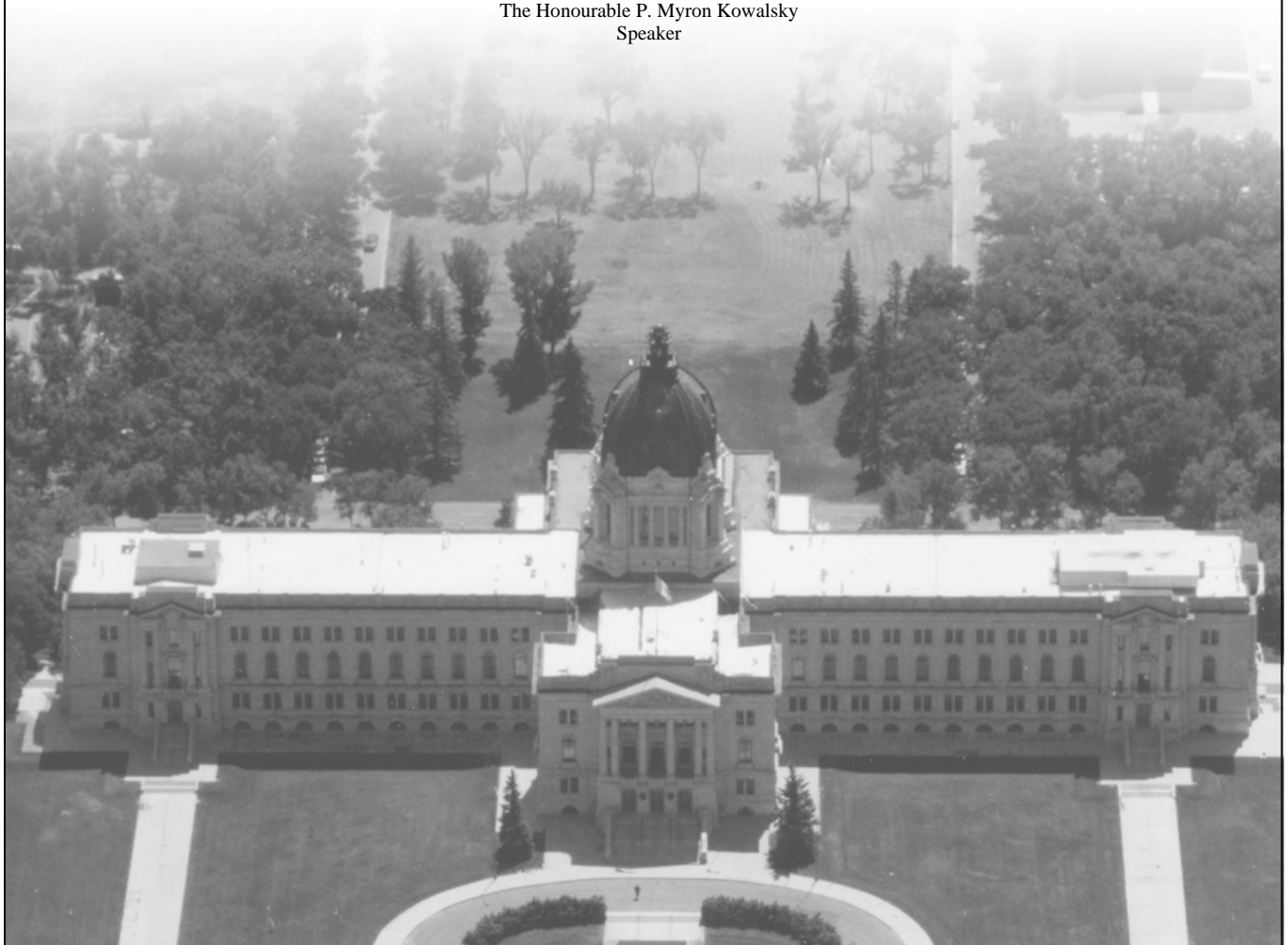
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Hon. Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Hon. Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, 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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I wish to welcome all to the resumption of the third session of the twenty-fifth legislature, and I also wish to recognize the Government House Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 42 — The Martensville Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, it's good to be welcomed and good to be back here with you and looking forward to an eventful spring session.

Let us begin, Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move that Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill shall be read a second time now, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave for second reading at this time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The member may proceed. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 42 — The Martensville Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the

question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question has been called. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be now referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave that the Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be now then considered in the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested that the Bill be now considered in the Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I therefore leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Bill No. 42 — The Martensville Constituency By-election Act

Clause 1

The Chair: — The item before the committee is Bill No. 42, An Act respecting a By-election in the Constituency of Martensville. The first item before the committee, clause 1.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 6 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 42, The Martensville Constituency

By-election Act. Is it the pleasure of this committee to accept that?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

THIRD READINGS

The Speaker: — Order. The Chair of committees is recognized.

Bill No. 42 — The Martensville Constituency By-election Act

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 42 without amendment and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — 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 Government House Leader that Bill No. 42, the Martensville by-election Act be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I wish to advise the House that His Honour the Administrator will be here shortly for Royal Assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 13:39 His Honour the Administrator entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bill.]

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed a Bill which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour unto which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the Bill is as follows:

Bill No. 42 - The Martensville Constituency By-election Act

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to the Bill.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 13:41.]

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I would, with leave, request a recess that the member may take her place.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested a recess so that we can proceed with the swearing-in ceremonies. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. This House stands recessed until immediately after the swearing-in ceremonies have been conducted.

[The Assembly recessed for a period of time.]

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: — The House will now come to order. I hereby inform the Assembly that pursuant to an Act of this Legislative Assembly respecting a by-election in the constituency of Martensville, which was assented to on March 7, 2007, Ms. Nancy Heppner is authorized to take her seat as member for the constituency of Martensville.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Ms. Nancy Heppner, member for the constituency of Martensville. She has taken the oath, signed the register, and now claims the right to take her seat.

The Speaker: — Ms. Heppner, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. I hope that your time here will be one that serves to be a record of honour to yourself and to your constituents. Let the hon. member take her seat. Congratulations.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A new issue has arisen in Cypress Hills that I'd like to present by way of petition today. Residents of the community of Shaunavon and the areas surrounding are very concerned about the potential closure of the SaskPower office in the community of Shaunavon. 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 keep the SaskPower office in Shaunavon open to provide full service to the community and surrounding areas.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I present today two pages of petitions out of the more than 600 so far signed.

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

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

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Carrot River, Colonsay, Humboldt, St. Brieux, Muenster, Annaheim, Watson, Lake Lenore, St. Benedict, Carmel, Lanigan, and Lake Lenore. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present another petition from citizens concerned about health care services in Biggar and district. The prayer reads:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Perdue and district. 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 today on behalf of people across Saskatchewan, who for the past seven years have been lobbying this government for a dedicated children's hospital within a hospital in 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 in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

The petitioners today live in the constituencies of Saskatoon Silver Springs and Saskatoon Sutherland. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 31 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Environment: what was the sum paid to Tom Waller for wages in accordance with his contract to be CEO of the Forestry Secretariat, signed March 21, 2006?

In addition:

To the Minister Responsible for Environment: what was the length of the contract between Saskatchewan Environment and OWZW Consulting Inc., signed March 21, 2006?

And finally, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister Responsible for the Environment: what was the sum paid to Tom Waller for travel, meals, accommodation, and approved business expenses, with a breakdown for each in accordance with his contract with the department to be CEO of the Forestry Secretariat, signed March 21, 2006?

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a series of questions to present today. And I give notice that I shall on day no. 31 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: how many harassment-related complaints were filed in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

Mr. Speaker, I have six similar questions for the years 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that I shall on day no. 31 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: of the harassment complaints filed in the 2000-2001 fiscal year, how many were verified?

And, Mr. Speaker, I too have the same six questions for the fiscal years up to and including 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that I shall on day no. 31 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: how many government employees were charged with harassment for the fiscal year 2000-2001?

And again, Mr. Speaker, similar questions for each of the fiscal years up to and including 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that I shall on day no. 31 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: how many government employee harassment cases resulted in convictions, disciplinary action, or firings in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

And, Mr. Speaker, a similar question is asked for each of the six years up to and including 2006-2007.

And, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 31 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: how much money was paid out as a result of firings related to government employee harassment in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

And I have the similar question for each of the six years up to and including 2006-2007. I so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Chair: — The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you some very special people seated in your gallery today.

Patrick Bundrock, a very good friend of mine who has been a tower of strength in the last few months for me. Dave and Ethel

Wiens from Waldheim, who have been great supporters. Dave is one of the best sign guys in the business. He made sure that you couldn't drive down one block in Waldheim without seeing a whole bunch of Nancy Heppner signs, so that was great.

Anne and John Friesen who are on my . . . Anne is on my executive and is also the aunt of the Leader of the Opposition; Laurie Kosior, a good friend of mine and fellow political junkie.

Whitney and Rebecca Friesen. Whitney was my father's constituency assistant, my campaign manager, and will now be my constituency assistant. And I would like to thank both of them for their patience and dedication and understanding the last few months.

And last but certainly not least, my mom who is probably my biggest fan, biggest supporter. And thank you for being here. Please help me welcome them here.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join with the hon. member for Martensville in requesting leave of the Assembly and permission that you would allow us to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly the guests that Nancy has already introduced.

I won't go over their names again. I will just say this, Mr. Speaker, I will just say this: there's a greeting that is used in low German, in Plattdeutsch. There's a number of them, but one in particular that I like goes like this:

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

Which simply means, how's it shining? And the response often is:

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

Which means, it's shining from above. And you know, Mr. Speaker, that's particularly appropriate today. Not just because most of the guests can actually speak that language far better than I can, but also because, Mr. Speaker, this day is truly shining from above for the Heppner family, for the new member from Martensville.

It was obviously a very difficult time over the last number of months for the family and for their friends here in this Assembly, and throughout the constituency. And so I do want to welcome them in a very special way to this Assembly, to this very happy occasion, and a well-deserved time of celebration for the family and the daughter, and the new member, of our friend Ben.

Mr. Speaker, if you will permit I would also want to acknowledge my uncle and aunt who are here, my dad's sister Anne and my Uncle John, both long-time residents of that constituency. Uncle John, just an excellent example of an entrepreneur, has created many jobs for not just his family, but

others in that constituency. He's an inventor. And I'm certainly proud that they're also able to be here today. Mr. Speaker, I join with the member and I ask all hon. members to again welcome our guests from Martensville constituency.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, is sitting in your gallery, Jarita Greyeyes. Jarita is my intern for this session through the legislative intern program.

Jarita has a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in psychology and a minor in politics from the University of Winnipeg. In 2006 she received the Business Council of Manitoba Aboriginal Education Award in recognition of her involvement in community activities.

Mr. Speaker, Jarita has a lot of enthusiasm for this position and in my work with her, Mr. Speaker, Jarita is most certainly a great ambassador for the legislative intern program. So I ask all members to welcome Jarita to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's an honour today to join with the member opposite in introducing three interns that are with the official opposition for their first few months here at the legislature.

Working with me is Lucy Pereira and she's in the . . . all three are in the Speaker's gallery. Jonathan Selnes is working with the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood, and Justine Gilbert is working with the member for Rosetown-Elrose. And I ask all members to welcome them to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also with the Saskatchewan legislative internship program is Kiley Frantik. Perhaps she can stand so we can see where she is because I can't even see her at this point. Thank you.

She was born in Leoville where she graduated from high school and won the mathematics award. She's a woman of many talents, Mr. Speaker. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in political studies from the University of Saskatchewan in 2005 and is currently completing her requirements for a Master of Arts degree. She appeared on the dean's honour list through her undergraduate years and was subsequently awarded a graduate teaching fellowship at the University of Saskatchewan. She received an explorer bursary from the federal government in 2005 to study French in

Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

At the University of Saskatchewan, Kiley was an active member of the Political Studies and Public Administration Students' Society. She has been a member of the society's executive serving as secretary. She has also served as general news reporter for the university's student newspaper, *The Sheaf*. Recently she has been a tutor to a special needs student at the University of Saskatchewan. She has been an active member of her community and enjoys playing sports in her leisure time and reading novels and keeping up with current events.

She has already provided me with excellent assistance with her research capabilities as well as her own thoughts and opinions. I'm very fortunate to be able to be working with Kiley, and I'm grateful to Ken Pontikes and the Saskatchewan legislative internship program for the dedicated work that they do in providing us with this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we begin a new spring session, we all know that we're here with the support and love of our families, and we begin that journey. And I'm very proud to introduce my son David who's a thoughtful, bright young man and takes after his mother, of course. And so if he could just give a wave. And I'd ask all members here to welcome my son David to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I see seated in your gallery Gil Dobroskay, a realtor from Saskatoon, a commercial realtor. He is a member of the Dobroskay family, a prominent business family who has been active in community events and business events in Saskatoon for many, many years. And I suspect he's here on other business today but would like to welcome him to his legislature. I would like to ask all members to join in welcoming him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Commitment

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, on this side of the Assembly we're social democrats, and we're committed to the conviction that economic progress must result in social progress and that social progress means real benefits for real Saskatchewan people. It's a relatively simple proposition, Mr. Speaker, but it's an important one to us. It reflects Saskatchewan values, and over the past 60 or so years it's served Saskatchewan remarkably well. I am proud to be a part of that continuing tradition.

As for the members opposite, their only commitment is to getting their hands on the public purse, and their only loyalty is to their right-wing ideology. Look how they stand, shoulder to shoulder with Harper and the federal neo-conservatives against the interests of Saskatchewan people.

If anyone was uncertain about where the loyalties of the Sask Party lie, all they have to do is look at the opposition's shameful performance on equalization, the wheat board, literacy, child care, and the Kelowna accord involving First Nations. All areas targeted by their federal, right wing, ideological buddies. All issues that adversely affect Saskatchewan people. All issues where the Sask Party stood against the Saskatchewan people and took the federal government's side. The Sask Party is afraid to bite the hand that pats them on the head. They are simply a branch office of the federal Conservatives . . .

[14:15]

The Speaker: — The member's time is elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Martensville By-election

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night the people of Martensville constituency delivered a crushing blow to the NDP [New Democratic Party] government when they elected the new member for Martensville with 77 per cent of the popular vote. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it looks like the member from Cannington has some catching up to do in the next election.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP received just ten and a half per cent. And in fact, in 22 of the 41 polls the NDP were in single digits, including three polls where they didn't earn a single vote.

Mr. Speaker, not only did the NDP get trounced in this by-election, they lost significant ground. Ten and a half per cent is the lowest percentage of popular vote received by the CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] in any provincial constituency since 1944.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Martensville also delivered a simple yet strong message that Saskatchewan people are tired. They're tired of this old, tired NDP government that doesn't share their values and are ready for positive change in the form of the Saskatchewan Party. It looks like even some of the NDP's own supporters are starting to see that the NDP doesn't share their values any more, and they stayed home.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to invite all members to join me in welcoming the new member from Martensville to the Assembly. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Revitalizing Neighbourhoods

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, thanks to a strong economy and increased revenue, this government can afford to make significant investments where we know the need is great. And because we know that caring communities, safe, affordable housing, and access to education and training all have a tremendous effect on the well-being of our youth, our families, and our communities, we're implementing a \$100-million plan to revitalize Saskatchewan neighbourhoods with the greatest need.

The plan includes 60 million to provide the single largest expansion of HomeFirst for affordable housing for families in northern communities and inner cities of Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and North Battleford.

Mr. Speaker, a further 40 million will support inner-city initiatives in Regina and Saskatoon, focusing on education and skills training and the development of healthy, vibrant neighbourhoods. Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to making life better for Saskatchewan people by promoting caring neighbourhoods and providing better access to education and skills training.

Now what's the Saskatchewan Party's take on all this? It's predictable, Mr. Speaker — usual Saskatchewan Party negativity. Do they have an alternative? No. How could they? The Saskatchewan Party doesn't spend time on policy. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party's only interested in what's good for the Saskatchewan Party. They're not interested in what's good for Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Telemiracle 2007

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past 31 years Telemiracle has grown into a provincial institution recognized at home and beyond for the wonderful and selfless work they do each and every year. Only through the continued efforts of more than 1,000 Kinsmen and Kinette volunteers, the TV production volunteers, the generous spirit of our people, and many more groups, can this amazing fundraiser happen each and every year.

The total amount raised for Telemiracle 31 is a record-breaking \$5,604,682 which was accomplished with a population of less than 1 million people. It is now commonplace for large amounts of money to come in to Telemiracle as bequests. What a great legacy to leave. This brings the total raised to date to more than \$74 million. Not only does Telemiracle help raise needed funds for those Saskatchewanians in need, it also promotes our local talent, brings Saskatchewan people together, and demonstrates the compassion of this province. Who hasn't been inspired by listening to the chant — ring those phones — and see each phone light light up with an eager and caring donor. Telemiracle is a fine example of the wondrous volunteer spirit that exists in this province.

I would like to thank the member from Rosetown-Elrose who last year introduced a private member's Bill to declare the first week of March as Telemiracle week. And finally I would like to ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking all the dedicated volunteers and kind-hearted contributors who helped make Telemiracle 31 a record-breaking year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Environmental Initiatives

Mr. Borgerson: — Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to point out just a few of the good things that we are doing to build a green and prosperous economy here in Saskatchewan.

This government has been at the forefront of innovation when it comes to alternative energy. We are partnering to create the world's first clean coal generating facility designed right here in Saskatchewan. We were the first province to mandate the use of ethanol and we are leaders in the nation in energy generated from wind power.

Mr. Speaker, we are also working to take the lead in carbon sequestration. We are developing a comprehensive plan for biofuels and we have just recently received a report from my colleague from Saskatoon Greystone that provides an excellent blueprint for further conservation and renewable energy initiatives. When it comes to the climate crisis, Mr. Speaker, this government will lead the way with real practical and visionary solutions.

And what does the Saskatchewan Party have to say about all this? Well, Mr. Speaker, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Estevan has told us that, quote, "Scientists can't assure us that there is a trend to global warming." The MLA from Thunder Creek has told us, quote, that "The scientific community [can't] even agree as to whether or not any global warming is occurring." The MLA from Moosomin wonders if the, quote, "whole idea of the ozone layer and the environment is not one big hoax."

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite can deny and ignore the science behind climate change if they want. For our part on this side of the House, we are moving ahead.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Congratulations to Clerks

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity this afternoon to rise and acknowledge some important changes at the Clerks at the Table. Mr. Speaker, on January 1 of this year Mr. Greg Putz was named to be the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Certainly Greg brings to this office a tremendous amount of respect and experience. He joined this Legislative Assembly in 1987. He was born and raised in Saskatchewan and received his

graduate degree from the University of Regina, a master's degree from the University of Western Ontario. For the last 12 years he's been responsible for the administration of House and committee services. And on a personal basis, he certainly was very instrumental in assisting many opposition members in their roles as Chair of Public Accounts Committee and some important precedents were set in those efforts over the year.

Mr. Speaker, as well I think it's important to recognize that Greg has been very instrumental in providing the technical and expertise that is required for us to make the legislative reforms and changes that this legislature is now experiencing. And I think it's important to recognize Greg's contribution to this institution and to thank him for the services rendered and wish him very much success in the future in his new role.

In addition to this, Mr. Ken Ring is at the Table as the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Ring has been serving as Law Clerk in the past and certainly on behalf of the official opposition we'd like to recognize the great contributions and assistance that Mr. Ring has given to opposition members in the past number of years as he has assisted us in preparing legislation, private members' legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all the members of the Assembly to wish the institution of the Law Clerks great success and best wishes for the future.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Increase in Minimum Wage

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's a clear contrast in this Assembly between the members of this side of the House and the Saskatchewan Party opposite. The Saskatchewan Party focus is on what's good for the Saskatchewan Party. On this side of the Assembly we're focused on making life better for Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, on March 1 Saskatchewan's minimum wage went up for the third time since June 2005. This does not sit particularly well with the right wingers opposite. The member for Rosetown-Elrose once cautioned that a minimum wage increase of 40 cents could devastate the Saskatchewan economy. The member from Indian Head-Milestone is of the opinion that letting the market take care of itself would address a lot of the problems when it comes to a fair wage policy. And apparently the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs is completely oblivious to the role minimum wage plays in the lives of students and young people. He's on record asking who an increase to minimum wage even benefits.

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the Assembly we are committed to making Saskatchewan the best place for young people to live, work, and build their futures. We're committed to ensuring that everyone benefits from our strong and prosperous economy. What's the Saskatchewan Party committed to? A training wage, a two tiered minimum wage — anything's possible from the party who said they'd go to war on labour.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Government's Settlement with Murdoch Carriere

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this tired, old NDP government has lost, completely lost its sense of right and wrong. Last week this Premier and this NDP government awarded 275,000 taxpayer dollars to a man who was fired for harassment and convicted of assault.

Mr. Speaker, this decision was and remains obviously wrong. It was wrong to the people of Martensville who handed the NDP its worst loss in 63 years. It's wrong to the taxpayers of this province. It's wrong to everyone in Saskatchewan, most assuredly wrong to the nine women who are subject to the harassment. Mr. Speaker, it's wrong to everyone in Saskatchewan except for this NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier stand in his place today and explain this outrageous decision? Why did the NDP government provide \$275,000 in a payoff to a man who was fired for harassment and convicted of assault?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When the Government of Saskatchewan made the decision to terminate Mr. Carriere in 2003, we knew that that decision would likely result in some form of payment to Mr. Carriere. Did we tell the public that this was a likely case? Mr. Speaker, we did.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, Arlene Julé, the member of the opposition that called on us to fire Mr. Carriere, indicated at the time that should the previous minister of the Public Service Commission be subject to any court case and should the opposition become the government that they would pay her legal fees. Mr. Speaker, I think we all knew.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the NDP government gave \$275,000 to Murdoch Carriere. The nine women who accused him of the harassment received \$15,000 each — \$15,000 for the victims; \$275,000 from that Premier and that government to the man who was later convicted of assault.

Mr. Speaker, when the victims get \$15,000 and the harasser gets \$275,000, Saskatchewan people are disgusted about the decision of this government. They are disgusted with the fact that this tired, old government has so badly become out of touch with their values.

Mr. Speaker, what was the Premier and the government trying to hide? Why didn't they want this to go to court? Why won't they explain what happened behind this decision and would rather pay \$275,000 in taxpayers' money as hush money to keep something hidden, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I can certainly appreciate, as a member of this Legislative Assembly, the public sentiment that a set of dollars went to the complainants and another set of dollars went to Mr. Carriere. I can understand that, Mr. Speaker.

There are two separate issues. One, Mr. Speaker, under The Public Service Act, it is the permanent head of the department that administers and hires and fires most public servants. The elected, our job is to set public policy direction. We — all of us — should be mindful that it's not our job to get involved in the day-to-day hiring and firing of a professional public service, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

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

Mr. Wall: — This particular employee was convicted of assault. This particular employee was accused of harassment of nine women — nine women under the employ of that NDP government and that Premier.

What did the Premier say when he explained why they'd just rather pay this \$275,000 and not disclose any facts to the people of the province? He said that was, quote, "responsible government." That's what he said, that it was responsible government, Mr. Speaker. A \$270,000 payoff to a convicted criminal who happens to be friends with the Minister of DCRE [Department of Community Resources and Employment] and a relative of one of that Premier's former ministers in that government, \$275,000 for someone convicted of assault — is that the Premier's idea of responsible government, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, when we announced at the end of February that a \$275,000 payment had been made to Mr. Carriere, it also was clear from *The StarPhoenix* article that a number of media who had also been named in a suit by Mr. Carriere that they had settled with Mr. Carriere. Mr. Speaker, the media has settled with Mr. Carriere.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to make this point: that what this settlement does is that it . . . All members of the legislature, they're not held liable for anything that we said in the past, including the opposition. But it does not hold us not liable for anything we may say in the future. And so I would say to all of

us — to the members of the opposition and my colleagues on the government bench — we need to be very careful because we could be held liable in the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I hope members of this Assembly are held liable and accountable for the decisions they've made. In this case this NDP government sent a message, sent a message to these nine women. What was that message, Mr. Speaker? Was it one of respect? Was it one that honoured their claims of harassment? No. Each of them got \$15,000 in a settlement, and the perpetrator got 275,000 taxpayers' dollars.

The minister talks about whether the media settle in or out of court. Mr. Speaker, the media are not accountable to the taxpayers. The media, Mr. Speaker, don't have a responsibility to the citizens and the women of this province and the women in the civil service. They don't have responsibility to provide good, common sense government. Why won't the Premier get up off of his chair and explain why he paid \$275,000 to this former friend of the government, this individual who was convicted of assault, Mr. Speaker? Why won't he do that?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I've tried to explain to the Leader of the Opposition, who is interested in becoming the next Premier of the province, that there is a separation between the elected and those people who are permanent heads of departments. Permanent heads of departments do the hiring and the firing. Mr. Speaker, the permanent head of the department had disciplined Mr. Carriere. When the government found out about this — just like the members of the opposition did, on the front page of the newspaper — it was the determination that in the public interest we would have Mr. Carriere terminated, Mr. Speaker.

The women . . . What the member opposite is asking, we made a determination to have a settlement based upon legal advice, just like the media did, based upon legal advice. And I've indicated in a letter to the member from Canora precisely why we did what we did, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Management of Harassment Complaints

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to be here today representing the people of Martensville. And I can tell you from door knocking in the constituency, I have a pretty good idea of what the people there think of this NDP government. And I'm pretty sure after the results of Monday's election the Premier must have a pretty good idea of what the people there think as

well.

The NDP government's mishandling of the Murdoch Carriere case is foremost in people's mind and not just in my constituency. This government's handing over of \$275,000 to a man who was fired for harassment and convicted of assault is beyond reason. No one thinks this is the right thing to do except apparently the Premier and this NDP government. Can the Premier tell us why this government chose to revictimize these women by rewarding their harasser?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And first of all I want to thank the member for Martensville for her first question in the Legislative Assembly. And I want to congratulate her for her victory. I appreciate that we now have another strong and tall woman in the legislature. So I am going to be kind on your first question as I've . . . in answer to her first question.

What I will say to the member is that we made a determination based on legal advice that we would settle with Mr. Carriere. Mr. Speaker, it was not about Mr. Carriere's . . . the complainants. It was about the process in terms of how he was dismissed. As I've said earlier, the permanent head has the right and the duty to hire and fire. And in this case, in this case, Mr. Speaker, the government decided, instructed the permanent head to dismiss Mr. Carriere.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I think this comes down to a question of what's right and what's wrong, and I don't think the government quite understands that. I understand that Murdoch Carriere worked for the government for over 30 years before he was fired for harassment and convicted of assault. Now everyone knows that people who harass others in the workplace don't just wake up one day and decide that that's the thing that they're going to be doing. It doesn't fit the profile.

I would like to ask the member for Riversdale, were there any other harassment complaints against Mr. Carriere, sexual or otherwise, that were brought forward prior to the nine women that we know of? What year were the very first harassment complaints made against Murdoch Carriere? And to whom was it made?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, in the spring of 2003 the government read on the front page of *The StarPhoenix* that there was a serious case of harassment. We also learned from the permanent head that he had implemented

a disciplinary procedure.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the opposition called for the dismissal of Murdoch Carriere. The minister of the day recommended to the Premier, and the Premier instructed that Murdoch Carriere would be dismissed. Mr. Speaker, we acted as soon as we learned that Mr. Carriere had not been, in our view, properly dealt with, and he was dismissed. And we're now paying the price for that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — In his ruling, the judge that presided over the Carriere case said that he, and I quote, “could not understand how Carriere’s conduct could have gone on for so long as it did without being detected by other supervisors.”

The judge isn’t the only one who cannot understand how this could happen. The public cannot understand how the NDP government can claim to have a zero tolerance on one hand and then not take action against a harasser until an independent report is leaked to the official opposition and to the media. The public cannot understand how someone who is finally fired for harassment and convicted of assault can be rewarded with \$275,000 of taxpayers’ money by this government.

My question is, how many supervisors came forward with complaints against Murdoch Carriere prior to the nine brave women in the lawsuit that we know about?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said, as soon as the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission learned of this situation, she immediately had our anti-harassment policy reviewed by the public service and that anti-harassment policy was made public, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to say this: that the anti-harassment policy states, “In the most serious cases where harassment has been substantiated, dismissal will be the employer’s response in the absence of significant factors that dictate otherwise . . .” And a clear zero tolerance policy has certainly been communicated to all employees.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service anti-harassment policy is blunt. No reported incident of harassment will go unaddressed, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, this NDP government claims to have a zero tolerance policy against harassment. But not only are they tolerating harassment; they are now rewarding it.

The Premier last week said that rewarding Murdoch Carriere

\$275,000 was the responsible thing to do. Responsible? This statement is an insult to every woman that Carriere harassed and every other woman in the workplace today. My question is, how can anyone consider rewarding Murdoch Carriere with \$275,000 to be responsible?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — The member opposite has now got a number of questions under her belt, and so now I am going to say this.

The members opposite worked for one Bev Oda before she came to this Legislative Assembly. And Bev Oda is responsible for the Status of Women in this country. And what did Bev Oda do with this communications person in hand? She removed the whole notion of equality from the Status of Women office. That is an insult. What did she do to the women of this country? She slashed Status of Women funding in this country. And, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, the new member from Martensville, was her communications adviser, Mr. Speaker, while she was doing that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Costs Associated with the Murdoch Carriere Settlement

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at approximately 1:15 this afternoon I received a letter from the Minister Responsible for the Public Service. The letter indicates, as I suspected, that the \$275,000 paid to Murdoch Carriere was not the entire story. However the minister is less than candid in her answers.

On page 3 of her letter the minister states that “a dollar value can not be attributed to in-house legal services” resulting from this case. Mr. Speaker, when an individual files a request under the freedom of information and privacy Act, the cost of getting information is calculated at a standard rate. Surely to goodness the minister isn’t trying to suggest it is impossible for her to calculate the entire cost of the work provided by the Department of Justice lawyers.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister tell us how many hours were spent, how many officials were involved, and what is the entire cost of the Department of Justice in the Murdoch Carriere case?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, when the members of the opposition were raising this House in the Assembly in April 2003, they were calling for Mr. Carriere’s head. They wanted him fired off the place. Now, Mr. Speaker, the government of the day responded and Mr. Carriere was fired, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the people that can fire Mr. Carriere are the permanent heads. Mr. Speaker, the issue here is that the person that we're talking about, Mr. Carriere, was dismissed by the government. And the government knew at the time, the opposition knew at the time, we made it available to the public, that it was likely that we would have to pay. And, Mr. Speaker, we have paid, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, the letter that I received from the Minister of Public Service, on page no. 2 there's a statement that I would like to have explanation for, and it says this:

To protect the public service from political interference, The Public Service Act gives the permanent heads of government departments the exclusive power to hire and fire most public servants.

The minister has quoted that statement a number of times today in this Legislative Assembly. Yet, Mr. Speaker, in that very paragraph the next sentence says, "Nevertheless, we acted in overturning the Deputy Minister's decision."

Mr. Speaker, will the minister explain how that political interference is different than the political interference that she talked about just a few short minutes ago.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:45]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, that is the point. Mr. Speaker, that is the point. The exclusive right to hire and fire the people in the professional public service is given to the permanent head. In this case, Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission recommended to the Premier that Mr. Carriere be fired. Mr. Speaker, the Premier carried out that instruction to his public servant. He instructed his public servant to do that. That's highly unusual, Mr. Speaker.

I know that the members opposite think that we're all political masters, and we can hire and fire. But we can't, Mr. Speaker. It is the public service. The permanent head that does the firing and hiring, and we should stay out of it. But in this case we thought the public interest overrode the provisions of The Public Service Act.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, in her letter the minister states that Terry Scott, the former deputy minister of the Environment, was paid a total of \$184,290.35. Can the minister inform the

people of Saskatchewan how that amount was arrived at?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Scott was a long-time public servant. And Mr. Scott, according to civil law, was entitled to this amount of money for leaving the public service.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, on page 3 of her letter, the minister said, "The government has not paid matching contributions to Mr. Carriere's pension." However she goes on to say that the people of Saskatchewan will incur an extra expense to pay for the increased value of the pension.

Mr. Speaker, how much of an extra expense will the people of Saskatchewan incur because of how this case was bungled? And why is it that Mr. Carriere is getting anything at all?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, all members of the Legislative Assembly agreed at the time that it was time for Mr. Carriere to take his leave. They called for his firing. And the government obviously, at the end of the day, based on the information that we had, made a decision to fire him.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Carriere is in the old pension plan. And I know the member opposite loves to look at information, and he's quite familiar with the defined benefit plan and the defined contribution plan. Mr. Carriere was a 32-year employee. He was in the old pension plan. He makes contributions. The government does not make contributions until the pension is paid out. That, Mr. Speaker, is the answer to his question, and I thought he would have known that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, a very short question to the minister and I'll quote from her letter, page 1:

[Additionally] Mr. Carriere was allowed to make contributions . . . to his pension plan with the government that entitle him to receive a full pension based on 35 years of eligible service.

Could the minister explain why she has used this phrase, 35 years of eligible service?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, the member . . . Mr. Carriere had 32 years of service. As part of the settlement with Mr. Carriere, he was allowed to make, it was agreed that he would make three years of contributions to his pension plan, and this would give him 35 years of service, Mr. Speaker. And if you look at the settlement, it appears as though it's close to 35, or it's close to three years of salary because . . .

An Hon. Member: — What did he have on you guys?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — He had absolutely nothing on us other than the law. He had nothing on us other than the law, Mr. Speaker. And I find that . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Order. Order. I invite the minister to . . . Order. I invite the minister to . . . Order please. The minister.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, member of the opposition obviously doesn't care about the law. And it's clear from what they say, day in and day out, they don't care about the law. But, Mr. Speaker, there are laws in this province. We are guided by legislation. We are legislators, for goodness' sake.

And, Mr. Speaker, we were advised by our legal people, just as the media were, to settle. And, Mr. Speaker, we settled. And, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the members opposite be careful because, because, Mr. Speaker, we could be quite liable for anything we might say out in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker, in the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, here we have a man fired for harassment who received \$275,000, well in excess of the compensation the victims received. Now we understand from the minister's letter that the number keeps going higher and higher. We now know that a pension will be based on 35 years instead of 32 years. What is the accumulative cost of that? Yet in her letter, the minister says the settlement was appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I've been listening to the minister for years. I've heard her passionate defence of the rights of working men and women. How can she stand here and tell this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan that this settlement was appropriate?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, as the members will know, there are several of the complainants that have already been through criminal proceedings. They've already been through criminal proceedings. I said at the end of my letter, given the fact — and this is based upon legal advice — given the fact that this could be protracted, we might have to pay more; given the fact that the women, the original women who

complained would have to go through this all over again, the legal people made the decision to settle. And the member asks us if we checked with the women, and my understanding, Mr. Speaker, my understanding from the Justice officials is that the complainants were checked with before this was given to Mr. Carriere.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Revitalization of Saskatchewan Neighbourhoods

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand in the legislature today and report that in a few minutes the government will table supplementary estimates, primarily to provide an opportunity for the members of this Assembly to discuss and debate the Premier's recently announced initiative to revitalize Saskatchewan neighbourhoods.

There has never been a better time to live in Saskatchewan than today. We are seeing record employment, strong production levels in our resource sector, growth in our manufacturing jobs, growth in our communities, and growth in the disposable income available to Saskatchewan families. Our economy is strong and the increased revenue today that we are seeing means that we can afford to make significant investments in our communities to make life better for Saskatchewan families.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier recently announced, our NDP government will make available \$100 million to revitalize Saskatchewan neighbourhoods. This will include \$60 million for affordable housing and \$40 million in capital investments for the development of training facilities and community service centres. This funding will be targeted for affordable housing in our northern communities and the inner cities in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and North Battleford.

It'll be allocated roughly as follows: \$49.5 million will be provided for approximately 500 new affordable rental and home ownership units to help the low- and moderate-income families and youth at risk gain a stable footing in their communities; \$10 million will be provided for ongoing rent subsidies for 300 very low-income families and youth at risk. And half a million dollars will be provided in support for a training component, increasing participation among inner-city and northern youth in housing construction and repair projects.

The \$40 million capital investment for training and community services includes \$8 million for the Station 20 West project in Saskatoon. This is an extremely innovative project brought together by community people and I think deserves the support of all members in this Assembly. A Saskatoon partnership for the development of community programs is largely based around the Station 20 West project. We believe that it will help to promote well-being for inner-city residents.

The funding for training represents a new approach within the K-12 [kindergarten to grade 12] and post-secondary systems with a focus on engaging Saskatoon and Regina inner-city

youth in school and fast-tracking them on the jobs that are becoming available in this booming economy.

In addition to these, the two major initiatives, the supplementary estimates include support for the recently announced Wi-Fi [wireless fidelity] initiative, the purchase of two new air ambulance airplanes to ensure Saskatchewan families throughout this province continue to have safe, rapid access to specialized medical care.

There is additionally money provided to cover the cost of the recent SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] strike and money provided for increased winter maintenance on our highways.

The plan that is being presented in the supplementary estimates in a few minutes is a plan to help revitalize and restore stability to our inner-city neighbourhoods. And these and the other major initiatives that we are presenting today are just some of the ways that this NDP government is helping to make life better for all Saskatchewan families, and in so doing building a better future for young people right here at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It shouldn't come as any surprise to Saskatchewan people that this tired, old NDP government with an election on the horizon has released supplementary estimates showing a spending increase of more than a half a billion dollars in this year alone.

Once again, we have a tired NDP government that is trying to buy Saskatchewan people with their own money. We've heard from the Finance minister about the new spending in the final fiscal quarter of this year but what we haven't heard is why this spending wasn't announced in the budget that he brought in last March. All we heard was a PST [provincial sales tax] cut that was drawn up on the back of a napkin.

We had a Speech from the Throne that was brought in and it didn't even mention the PST cut. No consultation, none whatsoever, and then they go, is it 1 per cent; is it 2 per cent? Nobody seemed to know at the time it was 1 per cent, then there was the threat of an NDP caucus revolt and all of a sudden it was 2 per cent. Mr. Speaker, could it be that this government has no long-term plan for the economy of the province or for the people of Saskatchewan other than getting themselves re-elected? Or, Mr. Speaker, could it be that the farther the NDP drops in the polls, the more the spending goes up?

If the Finance minister thinks back to the last provincial election, he'll remember that it was his Premier, his government, his NDP party that campaigned against tax cuts to make Saskatchewan businesses more competitive. And he did that because this government, this NDP government puts politics ahead of policy and the good of Saskatchewan people.

Saskatchewan residents remember the fearmongering that took place in the last provincial election, the NDP ads that said, how

are you going to fund the health care system and education system in Saskatchewan if you make Saskatchewan taxes competitive for small and medium-sized businesses? Well, Mr. Speaker, let's look at what happened.

It was the Saskatchewan Party that said, if we make our business climate more competitive and grow the economy, revenues will actually increase, Mr. Speaker. Well let's look at the documents from this very Finance minister, Mr. Speaker. Corporate income tax is up over the budget by \$163 million, \$128 million in the last quarter alone. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party was right all along.

Mr. Speaker, soon we will hear from this NDP government and this NDP Finance minister about the drain on the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, to try to buy an election. Will it be half a billion dollars? Will it be a full billion dollars, Mr. Speaker? Time will only tell. More politics from a tired, old NDP government that's trying to buy people with their own money before an election.

That's the message that people of Saskatchewan have received. That's the message that the people of Weyburn-Big Muddy have heard. That's the message that the people of Martensville have heard in spades, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and that's certainly the message that people have heard from the Premier as late as yesterday about the state of our highways in the province when he admitted that his government had no long-term plan for infrastructure and that his government has been spending money on an ad hoc basis for 16 years.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are tired of NDP politics. They're tired of being bought with their own money. And they're tired of this desperate NDP government. They're tired of a government that puts their dwindling political fortunes ahead of the people and good policy in this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[15:00]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Table Officer

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, members, I have three or four items I'd like to deal with.

First of all, I would like to make official the announcement that Mr. Ken Ring, the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, has taken on some additional duties. He has joined our procedural team as a Table officer. Today is his first day at the Table. Ken is no stranger to this Assembly, but I do want to introduce Ken Ring to all members in this new role. Please join me in welcoming Ken Ring to the Table.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Welcome to Clerk

The Speaker: — I also would like to make an official welcome to Greg Putz, who is assuming today his first day as chief Clerk in this legislature. Mr. Putz enjoys the confidence of the House

— the members on both sides indicated so earlier today. I look forward to working with Mr. Putz and I would like to welcome him officially to his new position.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Introduction of Pages

The Speaker: — Members, I wish to inform the Assembly that five of the six Pages for the spring session will be — and I'd ask them to rise as I mention them by name — Andrea Barraza, Glenna Coleman, Isla Dowling, Sope Ogunrinde, and Kyla Will. Please welcome back your Pages for this session.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

TABLING OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Speaker: — At this time I have two items to table. First of all a letter from the Lieutenant Governor who has indicated — it's dated February 12 — and in his letter the Lieutenant Governor has indicated that the membership of the Board of Internal Economy will be made up of MLAs Harpauer, McMorris, Junor, Yates, McCall, Hagel, and Kowalsky. Signed by the Lieutenant Governor, Gordon L. Barnhart.

And I wish to table also at this time a letter that I received from the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner along with some comments that he's making with respect to Bill 20.

TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, it's my pleasure to present supplementary estimates, accompanied by a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Would all members please rise for the message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits the supplementary estimates for March of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 2007, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly. [Signed] Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan. March 7, 2007.

Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in the House today and speak to Bill No. 23, An Act respecting the Transfer of Securities and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.

And, Mr. Speaker, I was considering reading the whole Bill into the record, but it's 53 pages and so I just might hit some of the highlights if you don't mind, Mr. Speaker. And I understand my fellow members are disappointed by that, but I will talk about some of the items in the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that this is the second securities Bill to enter the legislature since last fall's Throne Speech, and this Bill will bring Saskatchewan into line with other international conventions as well as provincial regulations in Canada.

Now I understand that current law is inadequate to deal with sophisticated multi-jurisdictional transactions and needs to be reformed. And we're assuming, Mr. Speaker, that Bill No. 23 is going to do this. We have talked to a number of people in the community and people in the securities business and we're still waiting for some reply back from them if there's any concerns concerning this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, we certainly must ensure that the legislature does not marginalize, to ensure that we do not become a marginalized financial backwater. And it should move quickly in this area and in many other areas to harmonize legislation in Saskatchewan with the current standard around Canada and other provinces as well.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that other provinces are also looking into implementing this type of legislation and to bring their laws up to date as far as securities and transactions.

This Bill, Mr. Speaker, will add a formal legal transaction process and hopefully it will control final risk and achieve finality of settlement.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a number of questions arise out of the Bill. First of all, where was the NDP in this front for the last 16 years? Securities and security transactions isn't something new or novel in the financial markets or in the world. And so we certainly wonder, you know, the question comes up about why, why hasn't the NDP moved on this Bill earlier in its mandate? And it's some questions about what has taken place, what information do they have that has finally prompted the government to introduce this Bill and bring Saskatchewan security laws up to standards that are, well, fairly commonplace at the federal level and going to be in many of the provinces around Canada.

In Saskatchewan we've been a leader in many areas and we should be a leader in business law reform and also initiating legislation that will enable business to create economic growth. Certainly because of the NDP economic policies in the past, Saskatchewan will always lag behind in economic growth, and it's so crucial to the future of Saskatchewan to attract

investment dollars.

Certainly we have . . . Going back to the ACRE [action committee on the rural economy] report and many studies done, and just speaking to businesses and industry and about what the future of the province needs, we know that we need huge sums of investment in this province. And certainly streamlining and bringing laws up to standard would be an obvious step that should have been done a long time ago in order to attract investment into this province. And once again this NDP has had a deathbed conversion as far as trying to attract business and investment into this province, something that basically was well-known, commonly known in all circles in business and in the minds of the people of Saskatchewan that we need more investment in this province.

We need it in rural Saskatchewan. We need it in rural communities. We need it in agriculture. We need it in the ethanol industry. We need investment in mining the industry, the oil and gas industry. And the list goes on and on and on. And if we are to develop this province in the future we certainly need strong growth in the investment side of the equation.

We need to attract money not only from investors in Saskatchewan. Of course Saskatchewan still has a high rate of savings on . . . per capita than most jurisdictions. We need to encourage that investment in the province. We also need to encourage investment from around Canada to invest in Saskatchewan, but we also need to look offshore and attract foreign investment into Saskatchewan.

And it was a small step in that direction when the committee that I sat on as far as farm land ownership, that the recommendation from that committee was that we open up farm land ownership to foreigners. The government did not go that far and only opened it up to Canadians only and Canadian companies. And that was a step in the right direction. And certainly that has had a good effect on the sale and the transfer of property in Saskatchewan, mainly from Alberta, but from people all over. So one wonders what an effect it would have if we had opened . . . this government had opened up farm land ownership to non-Canadian residents, what amount of money and investment would have come into Saskatchewan and to revitalize the agriculture economy.

But certainly it's just not agriculture. We certainly need to revitalize the economy in small communities around Saskatchewan and we need to put huge investments in, as I'd mentioned, into other sectors like mining and developing gold mines and uranium and the oil and gas industry, diamond mines. This takes huge sums of investment. And anything that the Government of Saskatchewan can do to streamline those types of transactions to make it easier and more transparent and also safer, that's what businesses need is a safe, predictable environment to invest their money in. And certainly having . . . updating Bill No. 23, I would hope that's what this Bill is going to do to attract more foreign investment.

Mr. Speaker, it's somewhat . . . When you look at the global economy — and whether for good or for bad, Saskatchewan and Canada is part of the global economy — we compete with other jurisdictions for investment dollars. And you look at areas which are somewhat unrelated to this Bill but it's also

concerning the potential for fraud, online fraud, the stealing of identity and information from different MasterCards and credit cards that people use on a regular basis.

Even those bizarre letters that are faxed from Nigeria offering great rewards if someone submits money to get other money that's being held in Nigerian banks — all those things are a detriment to investment. It's a detriment to the confidence of an economy. And anything the government can do to protect citizens of Saskatchewan from those types of fraudulent transactions and schemes, I think, would be greatly appreciated by everyone in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as I had mentioned before, we have in the Saskatchewan Party consulted with some of the stakeholders. Not all of them have gotten back to us yet. We are looking forward to their input on this Bill. And so we will continue to look at this Bill and ask for input from citizens and from institutions that work in the securities business. So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is that Bill No. 23, The Securities Transfer Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

An Hon. Member: — Question regarding . . . to adjourn.

The Speaker: — I apologize. I did not hear the member's last statement. I retract that last statement and I go forth with a motion for adjournment. It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on Bill No. 23, The Securities Transfer 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. 8

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 8 — The Paramedics Act** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to enter into the debate regarding The Paramedics Act. I'd like to start off, Mr. Speaker, by thanking the paramedics in this province for the hard work and commitment that they have. They, in fact, are the front lines of health protection and are often ones that deal with the most difficult circumstances as our citizens deal with health crisis and health trauma.

I would like to take this opportunity as well, Mr. Speaker, to deal with a personal issue from my family that happened earlier this year. In January of this year my mother had a fall in her apartment and was able to use her call button to call an ambulance. The ambulance staff from MD Ambulance attended late in the evening and she initially told them that she was certain that she was all right but was complaining of a neck pain.

The ambulance staff were clearly more aware of her health condition than she was herself. In fact, she had a broken vertebra at the top of her neck. And they were able to recognize that and were able to place her on a bodyboard and transfer her to the hospital. She spent several weeks in the hospital and I'm pleased to report that she is not suffering any spinal damage and will likely have a full recovery. But it was their expertise and knowledge and ability that was able to not only recognize that there was a serious issue but were also able to take the necessary steps to ensure that she was adequately secured and transported. And on behalf of my mother and my siblings we would like to thank MD Ambulance and those particular paramedics for their hard work and expertise in dealing with what could have been a far serious matter.

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, The Paramedics Act is a piece of legislation similar to many that we've seen in this House that creates another industry, another profession, that is going to become self-regulated. We have many of those and similar legislation in the province. And I'll mention just a few of them. We have the engineers, we have architects, surveyors, dentists, teachers. We have doctors, the accounting profession. Earlier this year we saw changes to The Veterinarians Act. We've also dealt with realtors' situation. An interesting turn of events with the realtors — one of the amendments they wanted was so that they could buy and sell their own real estate. The nursing profession. And of course the profession that I belong to, The Legal Profession Act, which is one of the oldest self-regulating professions in the province.

Generally, Mr. Speaker, when an Act like this comes forward it's a sign that the profession has, to use the words, come of age and is wanting to or is at a point where it's capable of regulating its own members and controlling the destiny, becoming a lobby voice for its members as well as a self-regulating regime.

Mr. Speaker, with that there's various things that are going to come into play. With self-regulation comes some significant responsibilities. There is the discipline of their own members and, as with any of the professions that are self-regulating, the process has to be one that's fair and has some significant amount of detail to it because it deals with the right of the members to earn a living and maintain their livelihood and have some very profound consequences in the event that their right to practice or the right to carry on is not adequately, fairly, or properly dealt with.

Mr. Speaker, it also — and probably more significantly for the economy as a whole — creates a monopoly within that particular profession or within that governing body. Other individuals cannot practise in that profession. They cannot become an EMT [emergency medical technician]. They cannot become a paramedic or a lawyer or whatever, except by licensing through that Act.

So that monopoly that is created by statute effectively limits or precludes anyone else from carrying on as a paramedic or, in the case of the other legislation, as a dentist, as a doctor. And we take it for granted from some of the self-regulated professions that it's the correct, right, and proper thing to do. But as legislators we have to be aware that we are limiting the

right and the ability of other people to do it, and we want to ensure that we take that responsibility as legislators seriously. In this particular case it is our hope and wish that the group has truly come of age and are representative of the paramedics in the province, and that it's a good step to make to transfer that power and authority to those . . . to the individuals within the profession.

As this Bill moves forward to committee and goes on, we will of course want to have some significant consultation with others in the health care profession. We will want to know how it's going to affect the ambulance companies, how it's going to affect the hospitals, how will it affect private health care agencies that may want to hire paramedics.

Part of this process will be realigning definitions. And it's not dealt with in the Act, but I've been advised that the term EMT or emergency medical technician will no longer be there. But there will be different categories of paramedic — primary and then secondary and then advanced. So those caregivers will all have their licensing, their labelling, all as a result of the college that will be the governing body . . . will be in effect similar to and modelled after the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

So we will want to hear, as this thing goes into committee, we want to hear from people that are directly affected. We want to hear from the ambulance companies who are the employers of many of these people. We want to hear from the hospitals. We want to know how it will dovetail and fit with the air ambulance service that's provided in this province. And we approach this with no preconceived notions as to how this is going to happen, but it's a consultative process that members on both sides of the House undertake.

The government members obviously will have or should have done some research before introducing the Bill and hopefully have done some consultation with members within that practising group. We have not yet had the benefit on this side of the House and are going to want to make sure that we do everything appropriately and fairly and with some degree of detail and exercise as much competence as we can.

We'll want to know how they determine and how appropriate it is the professional standards that they meet. Are the professional standards going to be high enough that the public is adequately and properly protected? We will want to further know whether the standards are so high that it becomes difficult to retain and keep people in the profession as they move into or out of the province.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite have not done a very good job of attracting and retaining health care professionals. So I want to put them on notice now, Mr. Speaker, that we will be looking at this Bill in the context of how well we can attract, retain, and recruit new paramedics as well as other health care . . . technologists, doctors, nurses, etc., as well. So we'll be looking at this not just in the context of whether this is an appropriate regulatory regime for paramedics, but we will want to also know whether it's going to be the appropriate course of action in the broader picture of how we best deliver health care. The Paramedics Act, Mr. Speaker, is just one piece of what should be a comprehensive plan to ensure that good health care is delivered to all of the citizens of this

province.

Mr. Speaker, it's not the role of the legislature to determine what those standards are, but it is the role of the legislature to ensure that the standards that are selected are appropriate and fair. And if any new group . . . That we know full well whether we're in a position that we're maintaining a good balance and that it's not too onerous that new people come in, and at the same time ensuring that we've got good competent health care being delivered throughout.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just chat for a few minutes about the issues and the challenges that face any self-governing body. I spoke in April on the respiratory technologists Act which has some similarities to this one. And I think I spoke at some length and initially was going to bring in *Hansard* from last April and re-read it. And I'm sure that the members opposite probably re-read my remarks that I made that day many times and are probably using them to try and develop other legislation as I'm sure, you know, had they and . . . They may want to use that as very appropriate reading as they develop these standards.

Mr. Speaker, whenever a new regulatory body comes into being there's always growing pains and we want to ensure that there's good ground structure so that they're able to go forward. They will have to elect a board and they're going to have to ensure that they've got good governance standards in place and good governance is something that all boards and commissions now should be undertaking.

Strategic planning becomes an important issue with boards. And a new board coming on, obviously going to have to deal with developing mission statements and go through the strategic planning exercise. So we want to ensure that they're up to speed and ready to deal with them.

They will probably have to develop a fairly detailed committee structure. They'll have to likely have an audit committee, a finance committee. Most significantly, Mr. Speaker, will be a credentials committee, because they're establishing new credentials for the paramedics as they come on stream. And, Mr. Speaker, I can advise that some of those things are very challenging.

And the legal profession has got standards that are set by the College of Law. And in this case they're dealing with a variety of different colleges as paramedics come in from various places to the province. So their credential system is going to have to be somewhat more detailed.

They will of course have to establish bylaws and deal with the myriad of other things — insurance committees, professional standards, and a disciplinary committee. And, Mr. Speaker, a disciplinary committee is one of the most challenging things to establish because you want to ensure that it's operated with the principles of natural justice, the right to counsel, the right to have public hearings while retaining the privacy not just of the patients that are affected, but of the individuals within that profession that are affected.

Mr. Speaker, this is a significant piece of legislation for that particular profession and we would like to look forward to this as it proceeds to committee. But I'm sure that a number of my

colleagues would also like to make comments and I'm sure probably at somewhat greater length than I have. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of debate at this time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Southeast that debate on second reading of Bill No. 8, The Paramedics 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. 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 Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise today at the beginning of our first formal spring session with the Speech from the Throne being done in the previous fall. This is all happening under the new rules of the Assembly which in part are governed by the legislative and Executive Council Act.

And, Mr. Speaker, I didn't think I would be up quite so soon to speak as I expected my colleague who was speaking previously to carry on more elaborately in his speech. He claims to have significant verbiage available to him to carry on his speeches, but he somewhat disappointed me today with the lack of continuation of his speech. I'm sure that he'll have the opportunity the next time that Bill comes up to actually fill in all of the information that he wanted to deal with. And in fact I look forward to that, Mr. Speaker, and I will be talking to him about that particular issue.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill, Bill No. 25, deals with the translation of the Executive Council Act into French. I think that's very appropriate that that happens, Mr. Speaker, because this Act deals with the operation and the process that deals with the Legislative Assembly itself, Mr. Speaker, and how we operate internally within the Assembly, who has the authorities and the responsibilities, Mr. Speaker.

And it's not unusual in this House that members speak in different languages. In Saskatchewan we recognize only two official languages, English and French. Therefore those are provided with translations in the Acts. But it's not unusual for members in this House to speak in other languages and dialects as well, Mr. Speaker. In fact, as even earlier today, we had my leader, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the member from Swift Current, talk in Plattish, a few words, a few sentences to welcome people from the Martensville area where they would understand that.

It's not unusual for the member for Athabasca to speak Cree in the House. It's not unusual for the member for Canora-Pelly to

speak Ukrainian, Mr. Speaker. So it's not unusual for other languages to be utilized in this Assembly. But it's only . . . The laws are only written in both French and English, and this is a translation of one of those laws.

I would like to discuss some of the items and issues that are brought forward in this particular Act, Mr. Speaker. And under section 2, interpretations, it outlines the meanings of the various words that are used in the Assembly to describe various people and to describe various processes. And to us they're very familiar words. We have an understanding of what is meant, what the context in which these words are used, and how they're applied in the House. And I think it's important that these kind of explanations be included in a Bill such as this, and I'll give you an example why.

[15:30]

I had the opportunity two weeks ago to participate in a CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] commonwealth parliamentary exchange with Montana. And here when we use the word government, we're talking of the governing party and the administration of government. When they talk about government in Montana or North Dakota, where I've visited the legislature a number of times, they think of the bureaucratic process as being government but that the members, elected members themselves, are not the government. They are elected to represent individual districts and are not responsible.

Whereas in our Assembly and the Canadian parliamentary and the British parliamentary system, government means the governing party that has the responsibility to govern and henceforth is also responsibility for what happens. The things that are done by government or the failures of government, again the governing party is responsible. So sometimes the words that we use, while we use the same words, we actually don't use the same meanings too. We don't have the same understanding. They don't create the same image and comprehension within each and every one of us.

So some of those words that would be surprising or not necessarily well understood by somebody outside of the Assembly would be Leader of the Opposition. I mean if you talk to somebody in the US [United States] and you tell them the Premier, they understand premier, governor. Okay, I think I know how that works, even though they really don't. But when you come to something like the Leader of the Official Opposition, they just have no comprehension. And so that needs to be explained to them.

When you talk about House leaders, in their terms that means the actual leader of the party in that Chamber. For us, House Leader is an administrative position — understand the rules, work through the negotiations with the other side of the House to make sure the House operates in a smooth manner — but they're not the leader of the party. But in the terms of US and other jurisdictions, they think of that as the leader of the party or in their terms, its majority and minority House leaders. And that becomes the leader of the party because they don't have a leader of the party in the House. So again you get terms that don't translate well.

One of the descriptions in here, Mr. Speaker, is northern

constituency. And my suspicion is that there's a number of people across the province of Saskatchewan that would not understand the term in the context of legislative Executive Council Act. They would see geographically two northern constituencies without realizing that there are special terms and conditions on those two particular ridings. That they have a geographic boundary defined for them that allows them to have different rules in the sense of election of a member there than the rest of the province has in that they don't have to meet the requirements of population that the other 56 ridings in Saskatchewan have.

So when I looked at that I thought, well I wonder how many people are actually living in those areas as compared to the rest of the province. And the rest of the province has a breakdown of approximately 17,000 people, give or take 5 per cent, to describe where the boundary should be, and there's an electoral commission that draws the boundaries to have about 17,000-plus people in it.

Well in the two northern ridings there is a 50 per cent allowance there, either above or below, that is possible. So I was wondering . . . I looked to see, you know, where are we on that scale. Approximately 17,000 for the 56 southern ridings. And in the North . . . These are the 2003 numbers so they could vary today four years later. But Athabasca has about 13,000 people living there, so they're about 4,000 people less than a southern riding. But Cumberland is over 18,000, approaching 19,000, so they actually have more people living there than what there is in a southern riding, you know.

So I'm not sure. I didn't look up the rules on this, Mr. Speaker, but I'm wondering if the division boundary between Athabasca and Cumberland is fixed in legislation, or if there is the availability there for adjustments between those two constituencies, while maintaining the northern constituency definition, Mr. Speaker. So I think that's something that might be interesting to look at for a future boundary commission with the possibility of adjusting that boundary.

But you have to keep in mind when you're making boundary adjustments that you look at trading areas, you look at other community patterns to make a determination on where those boundaries are concerned. I know those boundaries are drawn, I know in the past that's happened in my constituency, that people who lived only a couple of miles outside of one town had to drive 20 miles to another town because no consideration was given to communities, no consideration was given to trading patterns, and the fact is no considerations were given to roads even running through an area to determine whether or not it was convenient to get to a polling station.

In fact is people have had to drive out of their home constituency into another constituency and back into their home constituency to go and vote, simply because the lines didn't take into account all of the matters that should be taken into account when constituency boundaries are drawn up.

So you know, in the northern two ridings, the northern constituencies, perhaps there could be some adjustment made in there between Athabasca and Cumberland to equalize the populations in each. Because Cumberland is now exceeding not the requirements of the law, but rather exceeding what is even

in the southern constituencies, Mr. Speaker. And yet there are fewer people residing in the Athabasca riding. That's one of the areas that this piece of legislation deals with, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I found this one also interesting because you get this one quite often when you start talking about elections. And people, the general public, isn't necessarily clear on what the rules always are. So under part no. II, division 1, clause 6, it's the duration in which a legislature can be convened, a parliament can be convened for. And the rule says, "No Legislative Assembly is to continue for longer than five years from the date fixed for the return of the writs at a general election of members." So the maximum length of time that any legislature can be convened for is five years.

And I know at times in the past people have pushed that limit out towards the end. I know in my own observations of the parliamentary process I can think of two times in particular where that has happened. I remember the Trudeau government, the Liberal government in Ottawa, going for almost five years at one point in time. And there was a great deal of concern throughout the general population. Was he going to go right up to the five-year period and force the courts to, or force the Lieutenant Governor — in that case the Governor General — to call the election? And people were getting pretty nervous about that.

I know the same thing happened here in Saskatchewan under the Conservative government in the 1980s. They went approximately four and a half years, and people there were starting to get concerned. So I think it would be well served if the people of Saskatchewan had a better idea as to when the elections were going to be called, Mr. Speaker. If there was a fixed time limit on the elections . . . And I know the member from Moose Jaw North would likely agree with the idea of having fixed election dates because I know he sat here in the 1980s and was concerned that the government of that day might not rush to an election. And in fact, monsieur le president, we have a concern even today that perhaps the current Premier may be reluctant to go ahead and call an election. And we would hate to see him push this limit of five years towards that point where the Lieutenant Governor might become involved and have to call the election.

So I think in this particular Act is the Act that would need to be amended to change the length of duration of a Legislative Assembly. And I would think that in practice across Canada, across most of the parliamentary process countries, four years — give or take a little — has been the tradition. And I think it would be well worth our while to formalize that into a four-year period, and it could be done and still allow for what we in the British parliamentary system see as the ability to defeat the government and go to an election. The possibilities are there, the mechanisms are available to do that. It simply takes the political will.

Now when you do that, what does it do? It takes power away from the Premier. There is no doubt about that. But I personally don't see that as a bad thing, Mr. Speaker, to put the power of the election in the hands of the people. It certainly makes the mechanisms of the election process much more efficient. The Chief Electoral Officer would know the date of the election. The Chief Electoral Officer could book the halls, could hire the

enumerators and the returning officers and the deputy returning officers and the poll clerks. Everybody would know when the election is.

It's not like you're going to be campaigning for two years in advance of the election because you know what the date is. You can already do that when you don't know what the date is so that's not . . . I know that's an argument that's put forward by some but it's not a valid argument, Mr. Speaker, because you can campaign from the day of election one to election two if that's your desire and in fact is, Mr. Speaker, some people do that. And they go ahead and campaign but if you're doing your job and representing your constituency well, listening to your constituents and responding to their needs, you don't need to be out campaigning for that entire length of time if you're doing your job, Mr. Speaker.

So the parts of this Act that deal with the electoral process are some of the things that are in here and that, Mr. Speaker, we need to take a look at maybe making some adjustments at some time in the future.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that changed in this particular Act over the last number of years occurred actually in this particular case during the election cycle before I came in, happened during the legislative session from 1986 to 1991 with the election of the first Speaker, Mr. Speaker, in 1986. After the election in 1986 was the first elected Speaker. Now there wasn't actually an election but there was the opportunity for an election to be held at that point in time.

The same thing in 1991. There was actually no election because only one person put their name forward to seek the position of Speaker, but the opportunity for an election was there. And the fact is it was in 1986 that we held our first physical election for Speaker. Two of the members put their names forward for election. And the members in this House, by secret ballot, chose to elect which one of those two members for Speaker.

But it was during my time in the Assembly that the rules were changed to allow for the election of the Deputy Speaker. And that had not been in place before. And this Act was changed to allow for the election of the Deputy Speaker, which again is I think an important part of the democratic process that the members of this Chamber can select their officers. And I think that's important, Mr. Speaker, and one of those things that needs to continue, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've talked about some of the positive things that this Act deals with. But members are also human, and sometimes they have slips in judgment. They misstep. And this Act also deals with some of the legal requirements of a member and some of the procedures that can take place when a member is not living up to the honourable standard, Mr. Speaker. And it deals with things that constitute breaches of privilege and contempts of the Legislative Assembly. And it outlines a full page in the Act of the procedures and steps that can be gone through and what constitutes a breach or a contempt of the legislature. And I think it's important that the members of this House have the ability to discipline themselves and to deal with the circumstances that happen in this House.

[15:45]

Now we have the ability outside of the House, Mr. Speaker, to deal with those issues that may involve criminality, but not all actions in the House or by members are criminal. But they certainly could be a breach of privilege of this House, and the Legislative Assembly Act deals with those areas that would be breaches of privilege and contempt of the House.

And I think the member from Moose Jaw North wants to join in this debate. That's a good thing, Mr. Member. You should stand up after I am done the next time this Bill comes forward. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to allow some of the other members such as the member from Moose Jaw North to take part in the debate, at a later date though, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of being the member on my feet.

Now one of the portions of this Act, Mr. Speaker, that changed, that the members opposite changed — that I disagree with, Mr. Speaker — was the changes to the by-elections Act, the rules within this Act. Previously whenever a seat was vacant for six months or the government was being forced to call an election within six months of a vacancy, that the by-election had to be held. And then the members opposite changed the rules, Mr. Speaker.

Now as I mentioned earlier, the maximum length of time that a Legislative Assembly can be convened is 60 months or five years. Well the members opposite decided they didn't want to have a by-election if they didn't want to call an election, in time. So they changed the rules, Mr. Speaker, to the first 40 months of a Legislative Assembly was the time in which they would be forced to call a by-election within six months.

The last 20 months of a potential Legislative Assembly being convened it was not important to them to have a by-election called. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that's unfortunate. I think that the members of the public in each constituency should have the privilege of having their representative in the House when decisions are being made which affect them as well as the entire province.

So I find that distressing that the members opposite would change the Executive Council Act in the past, to remove that six-month by-election rule for the last 20 months of a possible Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what this Act does do, the minor changes that are in place here — other than the translation into French — is it deals with the Board of Internal Economy, which is the body that has the legislative authority and responsibility for the operations of the Legislative Assembly, the legislative staff, and the members of the legislature, Mr. Speaker.

It's that board that has the responsibility to review the budgets and to accept the budgets, Mr. Speaker, to vote on that acceptance or to reject as the case may be, or to amend as well. That body sets the salaries for the members and it sets the salaries for those who are not negotiated through the public service for this Legislative Assembly, and is responsible in part for the operation of the building. Saskatchewan Property Management is responsible for the actual operation of the building but the Legislative Assembly pays for a portion of that that deals specifically with legislative functions and duties

rather than management of a government property, Mr. Speaker.

And the changes here deal with the Board of Internal Economy and outline the responsibilities and the role that the Board of Internal Economy plays. And so I think that's important that that be clarified, Mr. Speaker.

The other part of this Act, part V, deals with Executive Council. Now Executive Council, Mr. Speaker, is the purview of the Premier's function as the Premier of the province. And in that area, particularly in his staff and his advertising portion of that budget, Mr. Speaker, we have seen that grow substantially over the last number of years. The advertising budget has increased dramatically as well as the staff numbers which have increased significantly as well, Mr. Speaker.

I know the Premier at one point in time said he had to hire all of these new staff members to answer the opposition's questions. Well some of those questions seem to be pretty slow in coming for all those new staff members he hired on, Mr. Speaker, so I guess those of us on the opposition side question how many of those new staff are actually working on the questions versus doing something else — perhaps working on the advertising side of the Premier's staff within Executive Council. That's one of the growth areas that there has been in this province is in the Office of Executive Council, Mr. Speaker, and that's an area I think that needs some closer scrutiny by the public of Saskatchewan.

One of the things that has happened in this legislature over the last few years, five, six years, has been a significant change in the rules under which we operate, and that came about because of a review that was taken place by members of this Assembly under a special committee.

And we have gone to a much changed committee system, Mr. Speaker, that deals with two committees at the same time which previously we couldn't sit in committee while the House was sitting. And so now we have two committees in operations which speed up the process although, Mr. Speaker, I have to say personally that while we sit in the Chamber and have our committee work for the policy committees, it's not the best venue for dealing with committee work. I believe that the work that is done down in the committee room facilitates the committees better than the Chamber, the Committee of the Whole you might say, or the Chamber floor where we have to move tables in and out and put up microphones and deal with that issue, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that is an area we need to take a look at and that indeed goes in part through the Board of Internal Economy although I'm sure it gets discussed at Executive Council as well whenever that idea comes forward. I think it's well worth the idea of bringing this forward, Mr. Speaker, for consideration.

I know that my House Leader is anxious to get to his feet and deal with Bills that he may have some desire to express interest on, Mr. Speaker, so therefore I would move adjournment of debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Cannington that debate on Bill No. 25, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2006 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. 26

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of 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 Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good thing the night light came on there. Now the members opposite can actually hear me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I need to reiterate all of those things that I said previously on the previous Bill because this is a new piece of legislation that is equally affected, Mr. Speaker, by what is happening in the previous piece of legislation and in this one as well.

Mr. Speaker, I was commenting on Executive Council that is part of the amendments and the consequential amendments, Mr. Speaker. And some of the things that have been happening in Executive Council that I think the public of Saskatchewan should be aware of is that there's been a very sharp increase in the last little while of government travel and communication expenses over the last year, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those costs have increased from \$34 million a year to \$38 million a year — \$4 million, Mr. Speaker — and I guess we would have to ask with what results.

Well if you look at results, I think you could look at the results from Martensville where our party received over 77 per cent of the vote, the governing party received less than 11 per cent of the vote. And fact is, Mr. Speaker, there were polls in that constituency in which the governing party received no votes — not even one. You know, that's equal to the number of votes received in some of those polls that the Marijuana Party received, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you know, you take a look at it. The governing party received the same number of votes in some of those polls that the Marijuana Party received. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that should send a message to the governing party that they're headed in the wrong direction. And I talked about the duration of a Legislative Assembly being convened and the time in which the Premier gets to call the election. I think maybe he should take that to heart and call the election sooner rather than later, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, ministerial travel through Executive Council has increased to \$910,000 in the past year from 762,000 in 2004-2005 and from 569,000 from the 2003-2004 year. So right after the election, they were spending a little over half a million

dollars a year on ministerial travel and then just before the election — the year before the election — they're spending almost a million. I guess that tells you, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite are a little nervous about their jobs, that they have to spend twice the taxpayers' dollars to get around to try and get out their message so that they can at least try to be better than the Marijuana Party in some of these polls, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, communications in Executive Council went up to over \$15 million, went up to over \$15 million from 11 million in 2003. Well they're spending a lot more money, Mr. Speaker. They're getting some of the media training, but I think the report card came in on their ability to communicate in the Martensville by-election just as it had come in the Weyburn-Big Muddy by-election where, in both of those constituencies, there was an overwhelming defeat of the government. And fact is, in Weyburn-Big Muddy they came in, I believe, third in that by-election, Mr. Speaker, third in the home constituency of Tommy Douglas, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. I would like to bring to the member's attention that the item before the Assembly is second reading of Bill No. 26 which has five brief items on it which deal with changes of names, and I would ask the member if we would deal with the matter at hand.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the names and the provisions of this Act change a various number of things, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act from 2005 to 2006. But we need to understand as well what's in those Acts to understand why they're being changed. And they're being changed, Mr. Speaker, to accommodate the changes that government is making to the executive council Act. And, Mr. Speaker, from my previous speech on the Bill that these amendments are consequential to, I in part explain what the executive council Act is, what the Legislative Assembly Act . . . and how that all ties in together, Mr. Speaker. And people, I believe, have a desire to understand how these work and how they tie together and how government has authorities or lacks authorities when it comes to spending, when it comes to the appointment of people into positions, Mr. Speaker, and these Acts deal in part with that.

They also deal with other things such as . . . This Act, Mr. Speaker, deals with the assessment management Act. Executive Council deals with assessment management. Executive council Act deals with constituency boundaries Acts. It deals with The Election Act, The Meewasin Valley Authority Act, The Members' Conflict of Interest Act — it's almost like I've been everywhere — The Members of the Legislative Assembly Benefits Act, Mr. Speaker. I mean there is a lot of amendments that go into this, Mr. Speaker, that deal with the legislative Executive Council Act, how the legislature works, how the Executive Council is working or not working, how the monies provided by the people of Saskatchewan is being spent in this Assembly by members, and how it is being spent by the Executive Council which is the Premier's own ministry, Mr. Speaker.

[16:00]

And I believe that the people of Saskatchewan have some

concerns as to how that particular area, the Executive Council Act, the Executive Council of this province under the administration of the member from Riversdale is actually spending the money of the province, Mr. Speaker. And I know that some of my colleagues want to enter the debate as well at a later date, so I would move that we adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Cannington that the debate on Bill No. 26, second reading, be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Bill No. 27

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 27 — The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — It's the pleasure of the Chair to recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding, Mr. Speaker, is as I was following the orders of the day that Bill No. 27 as I understood wasn't on the bill and at present time, unfortunately, I don't have a lot of information before me in regards to Bill No. 27 and therefore I move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Moosomin that debate on second reading of Bill 27, The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2006 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to stand in the Assembly today to address Bill No. 19, An Act to amend The Securities Act. And, Mr. Speaker, as I've been reviewing the minister's comments in regards to this Act, the minister makes reference to the fact that the Act is being brought forward to streamline our securities legislation with other provinces and territories under the passport memoranda.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't have a problem with that. In fact our party, the members of the official opposition, certainly agree

that we need to do more to streamline the regulatory powers, not only within our province but between provinces, in order to enhance trade and enhance economic development here in the province of Saskatchewan and certainly, Mr. Speaker, right across this country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as we look at the legislation before us — this Act to amend The Securities Act — one is reminded of the fact that over the past number of years as we have observed how this government has functioned, this government has moved quite readily at putting more regulations in place and making it more difficult for people to actually move forward in expanding business and economic activity in the province of Saskatchewan.

And I believe over the past few years, as a result of a number of the recommendations that have come forward from Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the last few years, we have seen the government move to address some of the inequities that we have in our province that have hindered people from looking at this province as a place to invest. We've seen the government move on the issue of taxation. We've seen the government move on the issue of business taxes.

However, Madam Deputy Speaker, we continue to see this government fail to deal with one of the real issues in the province of Saskatchewan, and that's the property tax issue which creates enormous inequity in the province of Saskatchewan, and not just between rural, but certainly between urban and rural communities, and is a hindrance to economic development in the province of Saskatchewan.

But I would have to suggest that this piece of legislation that we have before us right now, as brought forward by the Minister of Justice, is what would be termed a step in the right direction as well. Over the past number of years I've had the privilege of talking about ways in which we can enhance regulations and bring our regulations in line with the regulations of other provinces so that we are not impeding trade between the provinces. And The Securities Act, Bill No. 19 that we have before us right now, certainly moves in that right direction.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think however as we look at the Bill and as I listen to the minister and move through a number of the arguments the minister has brought forward in regards for the reasons for the Bill, it's also apparent that, from what we've seen in the past, that we need to take the opportunity to further scrutinize the legislation that we have before us to ensure that the legislation is actually moving in the direction that the minister is leading us, or is indicating that it is intending to move.

We want to ensure that any amendments make corrections to the inconsistencies that existed and were passed in the 2005 securities Act. We also need to ensure that the rest of the Bill is consistent so that there is no need to constantly amend the legislation.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, as I mention that, I'm also aware of the fact that the Council of Ministers of Securities Regulation in their discussions have been moving to address the issue of the securities agreements right across Canada. Unfortunately as I see in one of the news releases, while all of

the provinces and territories have signed on, the province of Ontario hasn't.

And one has to question, and ask the question, why would the province of Ontario not participate when all the other provinces feel it's quite imperative that they move forward and that they bring forward regulations regarding The Securities Amendment Act that would enhance the ability of provinces to trade back and forth, of investments, to work and be treated similarly and equally in each province, enhancing the ability of that province to move forward as a province as it would look at enhancing the opportunities for investment?

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, certainly our province is a province where we would like to see investment opportunities. We would like to see the people look at Saskatchewan as not only a place to invest, but also a place where, if they're involved in any securities agreement, that they have a sound understanding of what is involved and that when they make investments that their investments certainly are protected.

And as I also indicated, in a note from the British Columbia minister of . . . Attorney General in the province of British Columbia indicated that in the 2004 agreement, memorandum of understanding, he called it a historic co-operation of all provinces and territories. And there again he also noted that Ontario unfortunately didn't agree to participate. And I'm not sure if Ontario has even moved any further, or if the province of Ontario is continuing to remain on the outside while other provinces move forward in regards to this piece of legislation enhancing securities agreements across the province . . . across the provinces and across the country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as we look at the legislation, as I indicated earlier, we trust that when the legislation moves forward that the intent of the legislation is very closely followed in regards to the regulations or the regulatory procedures that would follow the Bill. As we've seen in the past there have been many occasions where the intent of a piece of legislation has not been totally followed through in regulations, which it then creates a problem for — whether it's a business, whether it's an individual, whether it's a securities company in working in the province of Saskatchewan. So we're trusting that this Bill, as it moves forward, will move a step further to developing a national securities regulator.

We hope that it . . . that the provinces who are currently working together at enhancing their securities agreements will also continue to enter into discussions with the province of Ontario so that when at the end of the day, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have a securities agreement and the securities legislation, not only here in Saskatchewan or Alberta or BC [British Columbia] or the other provinces and territories . . . but we have a legislation that would work co-operatively right across this great nation of Canada.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill is intended to streamline securities regulations across the country. It will allow transactions to be performed easier and seamlessly. And at the end of the day, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think the proof of how well this Bill is working across Canada will be in the economic activity and economic growth that we . . . most provinces would like to see, and certainly we would like to see

enhanced in the province of Saskatchewan.

There is one question however. If the NDP are introducing legislation to streamline regulations across Canada and securities, then why don't they do the same for the Alberta-BC trade deal? And, Madam Deputy Speaker, over the past almost a year we have noticed, noted that the BC and Alberta governments have entered into a trade deal. I believe they extended an invitation to the province of Saskatchewan. And when we look at the trading patterns in Canada, we look at the trading patterns that even of a lot of businesses and manufacturing and processing in the province of Saskatchewan, we note that there is enhanced trading opportunities for companies dealing with Alberta and BC. And I believe, Madam Deputy Speaker, as we look forward to creating more economic activity in the province of Saskatchewan, we need to look at building other relationships.

Even as this piece of legislation is doing in regards to securities, we need to look at building relationships that enhance trade opportunities rather than impeding the ability of trade — whether it's trucking or whether it's livestock or whatever sector of our province is facing challenges — because we don't have equal agreements between provinces. We need to look at how we work together with other provinces to cut down the regulations that impede the economic growth in the province of Saskatchewan.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when we look at the efforts that are being made with this piece of legislation, we would really hope that the intent to streamline the processes is followed. That at the end of the day it creates a greater opportunity for people in the province of Saskatchewan. It creates opportunity for people who would look at investing in the province of Saskatchewan. Because, Madam Deputy Speaker, investment in this province means jobs, and real jobs for the people of Saskatchewan.

And I think at the end of the day it certainly can't . . . it certainly will . . . no harm will be created in finding ways in which we can work together with other jurisdictions in this great nation as we look to build our province. And in view of the fact that I believe a number of my colleagues would like to make some comments in regards to this piece of legislation, Bill No. 19, An Act to amend the Securities Act, 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?

[16:15]

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 11

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 11 — The International Interests in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act/Loi sur les garanties internationales portant sur des matériels d'équipement aéronautiques mobiles** be now read a

second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I appreciate having the opportunity to speak on this Bill today because I think it has an importance to all people in Saskatchewan and to many of the businesses, especially our small aircraft lines and even the big ones, whether it's WestJet or Air Canada or whoever the company is that flies into our larger centres such as Regina and Saskatoon.

The Bill, from what I understand, and the changes that are being applied here, Madam Speaker, will allow Saskatchewan people to be creditors when international companies with Saskatchewan operations go into bankruptcy protection. It also makes amendments to bring Saskatchewan into line with international and federal laws. There is a need to maintain international flights to our cities in Saskatchewan to help promote anything from business to tourism all across this province, Madam Speaker.

The Bill also creates an international registry for liens and registrations. It streamlines regulations for companies that fly all over the world and all over different boundaries. We no longer would need to register a lien in every province or jurisdiction in which the company operates, which I think would remove a lot of the red tape when these things happen. We've had an example, Madam Deputy Speaker, that when an airline went bankrupt several years ago and there were all sorts of different people and organizations that were seizing assets at different airports across the country . . . and I believe that this would remove a lot of that. This Bill would also allow for an orderly distribution of assets to their creditors.

There are some implications, Madam Deputy Speaker, that this is an international treaty and the power to amend this Bill would be non-existent, and that the Bill gives up some provincial control over these matters and gives them to the federal government. But in this case I don't think that should create a problem, Madam Deputy Speaker. If this Bill does not pass, it would be possible that some lenders might not finance airlines and they can't be a priority creditor in all places. And they might also help maintain international and cross-jurisdictional flights.

Madam Speaker, when the minister presented the Bill or introduced the Bill, he spoke about . . . that it should be noted that aircraft protocol applies to used aircraft as well as smaller aircraft. And I think that's a positive part of what this Bill brings to the table. Madam Deputy Speaker, we know from all . . . I think many MLAs in here how important even our smaller airports are for our communities such as smaller centres — smaller cities like Yorkton, Swift Current, and many places like that where, by having an airport that is accessible to business people from all over the world and especially other countries within Canada, they're more likely to invest in our province when they can get there by air and make it more feasible for them to do business in those smaller communities.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, being that this is such an extensive Bill — I believe there's in excess of 90 pages in the Bill — we

are still checking with people that may have some concerns with things in the Bill. And at this time we would like to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Adjourned. Carried.

Bill No. 18

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of 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 Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to stand today in the House and speak to Bill No. 18, An Act respecting Court Security.

It's interesting, as my seatmate, the member from Cannington, mentioned earlier when he was speaking, with the Speech from the Throne being done in the fall and the budget not for a couple of weeks. Normally when we first go into session your first piece of business is either replying to the Speech from the Throne or dealing with the budget. But we're kind of thrust right into the inner workings of the legislature as far as legislation and adjourned debates even. Bills that have been . . . gone through first reading and are now in adjourned debates.

And that's where this Bill is. It talks about security in courtrooms and security matching what we see in airports now which, you know, if you look over the last number of years since 9/11, that security has certainly been beefed up. Mainly because of what had happened in 9/11 and the issues around terrorism, they're looking to move a lot of the security protocol into the courtrooms for some of the issues that people that are working in courtrooms are facing.

And it is really kind of sad to think that we need to go to that extent and that far, but I think it's probably appropriate. I think you see some of the issues that the courts are dealing with now that are maybe far more severe than what they were dealing with before. And when I mean severe, I'm certainly talking about issues around gang activities and some of the spinoffs from the gang activities when a person is in court and they've been involved in gang activities, whether some of the opposing gang comes into court and wants to settle the score, I guess.

And so this Bill, I believe, moves toward that where there are security checks for everybody that would be going into courtrooms, metal detectors the same as what you would see walking through a metal detector in an airport as well as . . . When I was reading through the Bill it was talking about the sheriff and other security people having the ability to use the paddle to wipe you down to make sure that you don't have any weapons on you. And it's really quite, you know, a piece of legislation that gives certainly an awful lot of power to the court

security people. But I think when you read some of the different issues that have been going on with gang crime, it's probably not that far off.

And I was just reading in a local paper, a paper from my constituency in Fort Qu'Appelle, that talks about a murder that had taken place in the community just a week or two ago and it's got here that two Fort Qu'Appelle men appeared in Fort Qu'Appelle Provincial Court facing first-degree murder charges. And it talks a little bit about the situation, the murder, and the two fellows that are charged with murder.

But I was reading through the paper and I thought it really applied to this Bill. It talks about the pair who have been accused of murder. And as they were standing and giving their plea somebody approached them from the courtroom, rushed forward from the courtroom and started hollering at them — why did you do it? — or, you didn't have to do it. And they had to be restrained by the police officer and removed from the courtroom.

But you can take that one step further. I mean, all the person was doing at this point was yelling at the accused in the docket where, you know, they'd come forward after the accused stood up and, you know, had access to that person. You take it one step further, and you think if that person had a weapon on them, if they had a gun or a knife on them and they went charging towards the accused, what could have happened?

And certainly, I mean, the accused is innocent at this point. He is simply accused. You'd hate to have something happen to them for sure. But also the people that are working in the system, whether it's the clerks or whoever in the courtroom, and some of the dangers that they would be put under or exposed to if people were entering courtrooms with concealed weapons.

So the Bill certainly talks about that, and I can certainly understand the reasoning for this piece of legislation, for incidents that just happened in Fort Qu'Appelle last week. I can certainly understand that, but there are a lot of questions that come into play and one of the questions — and not that it would be the deterrent not to move toward this — but some of the costs. What are the costs that are going to be incurred? And what is the level of security in all the courtrooms that we would have to see throughout the province? Are we going to have walk-through metal detectors before the entrance of every courtroom that we have in our province? Are we going to have the sheriffs and the people that are in charge of security, you know, obviously trained, but what is the cost of that? What is the cost of extra staffing? There are a number of issues that we would be very interested in finding the answers out.

As far as whether it needs to be done, I believe that it needs to be done and I believe the security of not only the people that are appearing in front of court but also the people that are working in the courtrooms need that protection. But there are some costs also incurred. And there are other some of the logistics.

As I was reading through the Bill, it talked about what could be done and what searches could be taken place. And I think it sounds very, very similar — not that I've had a whole pile of experience being searched, which is a good thing — but I have

certainly had to walk through the metal detector and I've had the paddle and being swept across and, of course, had to empty my pockets. But it goes on to certainly much more extensive searches, much more extensive searches in the courtrooms. And I seem to be making fun of the fact that I had to go through a search and had the metal detecting paddle passed across to make sure that I wasn't carrying any concealed weapons, which of course I wasn't, but when you go through this Bill it even goes a little bit further into, into further searches that can be done and some of the issues around that.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, as I said, I think the Bill is going in the right direction. There are a number of questions that we have to find answers to and a number of people that we need to talk to yet as to whether this Bill goes far enough. Does the Bill go far enough to guarantee security in our courtrooms? Because that is the intent. And as we've seen many times from this government, we pass a piece of legislation only to find out that it maybe didn't cover off all the areas that it needed to cover off. So quite often it was inadequate consultation done with the people that it was going to be affected.

So that is certainly the duty that we have and we'll be taking this Bill and consulting further and wider to make sure that it covers off the issue of secure courtrooms. So at this time, Madam Deputy Speaker, I 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. 10

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of 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 Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure this afternoon to rise and speak to Bill 10, The Limitations Amendment Act. Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill is about limitations and about time, and I think those are important considerations that we would discuss this afternoon. This Bill addresses changes that have been deemed required to tidy up the limitations period for various kinds of claims and procedures so that they are considered to be fair and reasonable and that they are consistent with that of other provinces.

This Bill is addressing a basic fundamental concept, that is of time. What is a reasonable and appropriate period of time for various activities to take place? This Bill addresses time frames for civil legal actions. The Act provides for a two-year limitation starting from when a claimant first knew or ought to have known that the injury had occurred, that the injury appears to be attributable to the dependant's act or omission, and that a legal proceeding would be an appropriate means to seek

remedy.

The Bill also addresses the ultimate, what's considered to be the ultimate limitation period which in effect says that all actions after 15 years . . . It bars all actions after a 15-year period to a claim. It also addresses what represents acknowledgement of a debt, that is when does the limiting time begin. This acknowledgement is deemed to be, firstly, in writing and, secondly, made to the claimant. There's also a 10-year limitation period which is being maintained with regards to claims based on court judgments or orders for the payment of monies.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, it appears the provisions provided for in Bill 10 should help clarify the limitations with respect to these different legal situations. The question of, when does the time run out as far as proceeding with legal actions, could be compared with, when does the mandate of the government run out as far as governing of our province. Limitations, reasonable and appropriate, accomplished by fixed election dates would provide the same certainty for the electorate that this legislation we're looking at today provides for our constituents in their legal matters.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, to gain more assurance that this specific legislation will accomplish its intended purposes we will be seeking the input of stakeholders, and to this end I would move to adjourn debate at this time.

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. 21

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 21 — The Evidence Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi sur la preuve** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — Recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure and an honour to rise in the Assembly and speak to Bill 21, The Evidence Amendment Act. This amendment will allow people and organizations to essentially apologize without admitting guilt or liability on an issue.

And I'm a little bit confused. I've been using this for a number of years with my own wife where I've on a number of occasions have had to apologize, but I'm not admitting guilt. So I had already thought this was in place, but so be it. I suppose I was wrong. But I'm glad everybody in the province will now have this at their disposal.

There are many times in many cases when legal counsel will

advise a client to not apologize for fear that that would imply guilt. And I think in many ways it shows the state of our society where you can't show remorse or guilt without facing certain . . . or in some cases some liability on an issue. So I think this is a good measure going forward to provide people the opportunity to show some goodwill towards people that they feel compassion, heartfelt compassion for.

I note with some interest the comments made by the Justice minister when he introduced this that he talked about some research from the United States that suggested that some malpractice lawsuits, medical malpractice lawsuits would not have gone forward had the doctor apologized to the plaintiff. And then further to that, that mediators say that in many cases the victims would not have suffered some of the emotional suffering had an apology been brought forward.

And I think that's certainly the case. Not only, you know, when a person apologizes to somebody that they've possibly grieved that, you know, it, Madam Deputy Speaker, not only is good for the person that is being apologized to, but also for that person that is showing some compassion and some remorse for what has occurred.

It's a bit ironic, Madam Deputy Speaker — and I don't have too much more to say on this before I'll take my seat — but it's a little bit ironic that it's this particular government that is introducing legislation that will allow people to apologize without admitting any guilt. And I know that members on this side will have more to say about that.

Whether it's cases of this government, in the potato fiasco, the SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] fiasco where they did have to apologize, but also in other cases where . . . And the one that I can really think of from my first session, the fall session was the whole issue surrounding the Oyate Safe House where — and I may be corrected on this — I recall the minister in charge of that file saying that he invites scrutiny. But I don't recall at one time where that minister or this government expressed remorse or apologized to the people of this province for this fiasco. So it's a bit ironic that it's this government that's introducing the amendment to The Evidence Act. And I could stand to be corrected on that, Madam Deputy Speaker.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, as evidenced by the recent by-election in Martensville, this government can apologize all they want to the people of this province. But the evidence — no pun intended — the evidence is in. This government needs to go. And we need a new government in the great province of Saskatchewan. And with that, I move to adjourn the debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Weyburn-Big Muddy 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. I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I move this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Regina Dewdney that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House does now stand adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:33.]

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