



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

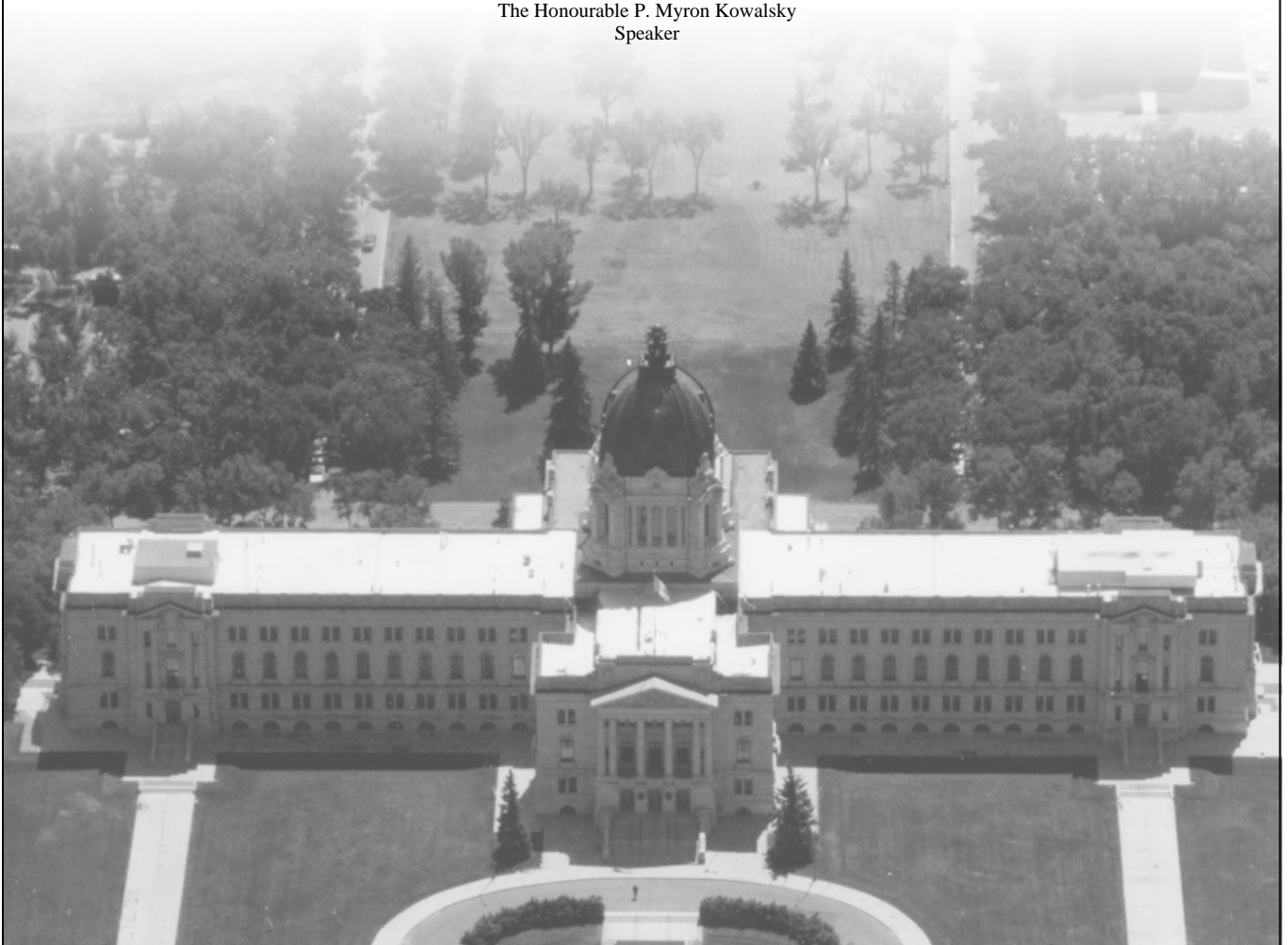
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure this morning to present a petition regarding the highways in the province of Saskatchewan and, more specifically, Highway No. 27. I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade Highway No. 27.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the petition I present today is signed by the good folks from the communities of Prud'homme and Vonda and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition concerning the condition of highways outside of the Cypress Hills constituency. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to resurface and properly maintain Highway No. 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford, and the Livelong access road to No. 795.

As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these two pages of petitions come from people living in the community of Livelong, Fairholme, and Thunderchild. I so present.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions today to present on behalf of the people and highways of Saskatchewan:

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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the good communities of Preeceville and Humboldt. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to maintain full service at the SaskPower office at Rosetown. Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition express a concern that SaskPower has announced a March 31, 2007, closure of the customer service office in Rosetown. And the prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to keep the SaskPower office in Rosetown open and to provide full service to the community and surrounding areas.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition come from the communities of Rosetown, Sovereign, Zealandia, and Harris, and I'm pleased to present it on their behalf.

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition today to present on behalf of Saskatchewan people to do with the sad state of highways in Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

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

Mr. Speaker, the signators are from the communities of Saskatoon, Bruno, Canora, and Humboldt. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I too have a number of petitions with citizens concerned with the safety of Highway No. 5 and the prayer reads as follows:

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Pilger, Leroy, Humboldt, Muenster, St. Gregor, Bruno, Saskatoon, and Regina. I so present.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning I too have a petition regarding the condition of Highway 18. The people in that area are very concerned about the condition of it. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to invest the needed money to repair and maintain Highway 18 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and business.

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

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to rise to present a petition from citizens who live near and drive on the Murray Point highway north of Emma Lake. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to repair the Murray Point highway north of Emma Lake off of Highway 263 and to clearly communicate to the area residents the timeline for the necessary repairs.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition, literally I have hundreds, hundreds, and hundreds of signatures. And they come from the citizens of Christopher Lake; Prince Albert; Saskatoon; Sunnyside; Dalmeny; Hague; Birch Hills; Innisfail, Alberta — it goes on and on, Mr. Speaker — of course the people at Murray Point; Swift Current; and Red Deer, Alberta; and many, many hundreds of other people that have signed this petition. I so present.

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

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan that are concerned with our shape of our highways in the province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to resurface and properly maintain Highway No. 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford and the Livelong access road to No. 795.

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

Mr. Speaker, signatures of this petition are from Shell Lake, Turtleford, Livelong, and Biggar. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring forward a petition on Highway No. 368:

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

immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 368 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Muenster, Anaheim, Humboldt, St. Benedict, and of course Middle Lake. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition, citizens calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to retain the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise today with a petition on Highway 368, that the condition of Highway 368, starting four miles south of Lake Lenore to four miles south of St. Brieux, has seriously declined over the last number of years and that the condition of this highway endangers the safety of drivers and harms economic growth in the area. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action to make the necessary repairs to Highway 368 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

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

Signed by the good people of Muenster, Humboldt, and Lake Lenore. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the special committee on intergovernment and infrastructure is recognized.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Infrastructure**

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure has instructed me to report Bill No. 20, The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on this Bill. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the amendments be read a first time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

**Bill No. 20 — The Gunshot and Stab Wounds
Mandatory Reporting Act**

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

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

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 20 — The Gunshot and Stab Wounds
Mandatory Reporting Act**

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — By leave I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave for this Bill to be read a third time. At this time, is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. It has been moved by the minister that this Bill 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.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Infrastructure**

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure has instructed me to report Bill No. 12, The Planning and Development Act, 2006 without amendment.

The Speaker: — And when shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time?

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 12 — The Planning and Development Act, 2006

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 12 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.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

[10:15]

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Finance: how many harassment-related complaints were filed in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

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

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following questions:

To the Minister of Finance: of the harassment complaints filed in 2000-2001 fiscal year, how many were verified?

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

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following questions:

To the Minister of Finance: how many government employees were charged with harassment for the fiscal year 2000-2001?

And I have similar questions for years from 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Finance: how many government employee harassment cases resulted in convictions, disciplinary action, or firings in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

I have similar questions for the years from 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

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

I have similar questions, Mr. Speaker, for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Labour: how many harassment-related

complaints were filed in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Labour: of the harassment complaints filed in 2000-2001 fiscal year, how many were verified?

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007, Mr. Speaker.

I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Labour: how many government employees were charged with harassment for the fiscal year 2000-2001?

I have similar questions for the years from 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Labour: how many government employee harassment cases resulted in convictions, disciplinary action, or firings in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

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

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following questions:

To the Minister of the Environment: how many harassment related complaints were filed in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: of the harassment complaints filed in 2000-2001 fiscal year, how many were verified?

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: how many government employees were charged with harassment for the fiscal year 2000-2001?

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 32 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: how many government employee harassment cases resulted in convictions, disciplinary action, or firings in the fiscal year 2000-2001?

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Mr. Speaker, I shall give notice on day no. 32 to ask the government the following question:

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

I have similar questions for the years 2001 through to 2006-2007.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask leave of the House for an extended introduction of our crop reporters who are celebrating 25 years recognition today.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave for an extended introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and members. I would like to introduce to you, and it is a privilege to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly, five of Saskatchewan's nearly 300 volunteer crop reporters. These crop reporters are recognized today by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food for 25 years of volunteer service to Saskatchewan's agriculture industry.

For the past 25 years these crop reporters have volunteered their personal time during the crop season to collect information about crop development and precipitation in their rural

municipalities. And every Sunday afternoon or evening, for at least 30 weeks of those 25 years, these reporters submitted their information to the department to meet the weekly crop reporting deadline.

Mr. Speaker, the information provided by Saskatchewan's crop reporters helps to provide a timely and accurate crop report about the development of Saskatchewan crops to all farmers and rural municipalities in the province and to the general public.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the crop reporters here today for their commitment and dedication to the Saskatchewan crop reporting service. I would ask the crop reporters and their spouses to stand as I introduce them. Don Payak of the RM [rural municipality] of Weyburn No. 67 and his wife, Charlotte; Allan Hardy of the RM of Wolseley No. 155 and his wife, Marion; Edward Datchko of the RM of Ituna Bon Accord No. 246 and his wife, Charlotte; Emile Robin, RM of Leask No. 464 and his wife, Marie.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately two crop reporters who are celebrating the 25th anniversary and their wives were not able to join us here today. They are Percy Schiele of the RM of Meadow Lake No. 588 and his wife, Annliese; and Jim Hornford of the RM of Elfros No. 307 and his wife, Sharon.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to introduce a crop reporter whose long service from 1980 to 2004 was recognized in 2005, but who was unable to attend the recognition event in Regina in 2005. He and his wife are able to join us here today. He is Larry Kuntz of Battleford — who represented the RM of Prairie No. 408 prior to amalgamation and who now represents the RM of Buffalo No. 409 — and his wife, Rita.

Would the members of the Legislative Assembly please join with me in recognizing these crop reporters who have volunteered their time and effort for the good of the province during these past 25 years. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Minister of Agriculture in welcoming our crop reporters here today, thanking them for the time they put in in volunteering for the province of Saskatchewan, and congratulating them on their 25 years of service to the province of Saskatchewan. So on behalf of the official opposition I want to congratulate them and thank them for the work they have done in the past and look forward to the work they'll do in the future.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A special welcome to Al and Marion Hardy from Grenfell, excellent agriculture producers in our area, and also to Edward and Charlotte.

Charlotte's sister, Delsy, happens to be the administrator for the RM of Willowdale. A special welcome to them this morning.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the legislature 26 grade 10 students from Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, who are seated in the west gallery. They're accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Delaine Anderson. And they're here to observe the legislature which happens to be in their neighbourhood.

I'd also like to congratulate the teams from Sheldon-Williams Collegiate who will be playing in the city basketball final tonight, the senior teams. The junior girls' team got the silver medal two nights ago for the city, and I congratulate them as well.

I look forward to meeting with them a little later and I ask all members to welcome the students from Sheldon-Williams Collegiate.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too am pleased to be joined by a couple of students who are in your gallery today. Janelle and Apolline Lusyk are students at Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School in Regina. They're actually headed off to Ottawa in the next month to participate in two very important programs that are offered in our country to help young people get a better understanding of parliamentary democracy and of the institutions of government in this country.

Apolline is going to be participating in the Forum for Young Canadians, which is a great program. It's one I participated myself a few years ago, and one in which I'm sure she'll find a great opportunity to debate and to talk with people from across this country about issues of national unity and things that are important to this country.

Janelle is also headed off to Ottawa to attend Historical Encounters. This is a week-long program that brings together young people from different regions in the country to talk about the things that are happening in the nation today, the institutions that we use to govern ourselves with, and to focus on not only Canadian issues but also international affairs. So I would ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming these two sisters to our legislature and wish them well in their trip to Ottawa. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

International Women's Day

Ms. Crofford: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today is International Women's Day and today we celebrate progress made in advancing the cause of equality for women. And as we've seen around the world, Mr. Speaker, this can't be taken for granted. Today we consider all the challenges still facing women and what steps can be taken to bring about equality — full equality — for all women in all their diversity.

This year's International Women's Day theme is: Ending Violence Against Women: Action for Real Results. And the theme highlights the need to put noble words into meaningful action — or walk the talk, so to speak, Mr. Speaker. And I can think of no more fitting action than having the federal government reverse its ill-conceived decision to slash the budget for the federal Status of Women office, the national daycare plan, and literacy programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a disturbing disregard for some of the most vulnerable and voiceless members of Canadian society — low-income, disadvantaged women and especially single mothers. And these actions, I believe, reduce productivity in Canada and they lack compassion and thereby hurt all of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to say that the Saskatchewan Status of Women office remains committed to working with all people of goodwill across our province. And I plan to celebrate tonight by hearing the great, young, all-woman band, the Cracker Cats, as they pump up the volume on women's equality.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, March 8, is International Women's Day. International Women's Day has been celebrated around the world since the early 1900s. It is a day where we take stock of the successes of women across the globe, where we celebrate their many achievements in a variety of fields, and where we remember the many challenges women have overcome.

International Women's Day is also a day that commemorates a number of historic events, including the devastating Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City on March 25, 1911, which caused the death of more than 140 female garment workers. The tragedy ultimately led to legislation to provide for better safety standards in factories.

I would like to take this opportunity on International Women's Day to recognize the many women in Saskatchewan who are not necessarily in the spotlight but who have contributed and continue to contribute to who we are as a province. They include our first female settlers, war brides, immigrant women, farm wives, working women, professional women, mothers, homemakers, and more.

[10:30]

On a personal basis, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a woman who has always been an inspiration to me. That's my mother, Alma Vickary, who lives in Estevan. I grew up in a family of eight children. Of course Dad was the sole breadwinner in our family, and that left Mom in charge of the daily routine at home. Mom claims her paycheque was being able to see all her children grow up to be successful. Thanks, Mom, for your love and support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing International Women's Day.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Government's Approach to Workplace Harassment of Women

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the women of Saskatchewan, particularly women working under this NDP [New Democratic Party] government in the public service, may find it difficult to take seriously what this government says about women on International Women's Day.

While this NDP government says it cares about women, especially working women, what about the nine women who made complaints about Murdoch Carriere and accused him of sexual harassment? These women were paid \$15,000 each, a paltry sum in comparison to the more than \$300,000 given to Murdoch Carriere. Not only is the amount Mr. Carriere received insulting to these women, it also amounts to revictimizing these women and minimizing what happened to them.

It's a shame that the NDP government continually says it respects working women but does not respect these nine women enough to let them speak freely about the harassment they suffered in the workplace.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Telemiracle 31

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kinsmen Foundation has been doing its extraordinary brand of good work in this province since 1971. This volunteer-driven organization is dedicated to providing special equipment and access to medical assistance to the people of Saskatchewan while at the same time improving their quality of life and independence.

In 1977 the Kinsmen held their first-ever telethon to help fund the Kinsmen Foundation. Since that time, Telemiracle has raised nearly \$74 million. This year, Mr. Speaker, Telemiracle 31 smashed the old donation record set in 2004. The official total for 2007 was \$5,604,682.

This speaks loudly of the hard work of the volunteers from Saskatchewan's Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs. It requires some

1,200 volunteers to enable Telemiracle to be on air for 20 hours, and as Chair of the Premier's voluntary sector initiative I particularly want to acknowledge their efforts.

Last year I was particularly proud to present, on behalf of the Minister of Healthy Living Services, the Centennial Medal to Bob McGrath for his contributions and commitment to this event.

In addition to thanking the organizers and participants of this year's Telemiracle, I also want to thank all of those who made donations and made Telemiracle 31 such an overwhelming success, allowing the Kinsmen Foundation to make miracles by helping people every day.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Community Fundraising for Breast Cancer Research

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, on February 5, 2007 the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles stopped at Rosetown to raise money for breast cancer research. A supper was held, hosted by the St. Theresa's Catholic Women's League of Rosetown to raise money for their cause.

In total 140 people from Rosetown and area turned up to enjoy an evening of good food and moving speeches by each of the women involved with Prairie Women on Snowmobiles. The dinner was supported by Rosetown's four financial institutions and Shop Easy Foods grocery store. Their support covered the cost of the dinner and in total \$1,000 was raised.

Dorothy Rollheiser, a Rosetown resident, presented the cheque from St. Theresa's Catholic Women's League. Armella Rollheiser presented a cheque of \$430 from pledge sheets from the Canadian Cancer Society, and Bobbie Crossman presented a cheque for \$100 on behalf of the Preceptor Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. Elaine Stang of Rosetown served as a local rider who led the core group from Milden to Rosetown and raised a total of \$290.

Other locals who participated as lead riders and helped raise funds were Diane Ahrens, Greg Hannay, Dave Foursha, and Patrick Pappenfoot. In all the community-wide event that was held by Rosetown residents was a great success in support of breast cancer research.

And I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the member from Humboldt just informed me that her constituency assistant, Susan Dunne, also of the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles, raised a whopping total of \$6,000 for this cause.

Mr. Speaker, on this international day recognizing women, let's offer congratulations to all the people involved for their hard work in helping raise funds for such a worthy cause right here in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Saskatoon-Eastview.

Business and Professional Women Celebrate International Women's Day

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a proud member of the Business and Professional Women's Association of Saskatoon, also known as BPW. Every year for the past seven years the BPW has celebrated International Women's Day with a special evening event. This year's celebration was held Tuesday night, and I was very happy to attend with my colleague from Nutana.

Mr. Speaker, International Women's Day is a day to reflect on the issues of significance to women and to bring those issues to the attention of others. It's a day to appreciate the achievements of women, that women have made in their pursuit of equality. And that's exactly what the evening was about. Janice MacKinnon was the keynote speaker and gave an excellent talk on celebrating women's success and facing our challenges.

Every year BPW of Saskatoon awards an educational bursary to a mature woman advancing her career through post-secondary education. This year's recipient was Terriann Walling who told a moving and inspiring tale of how she got where she is today.

The BPW also sponsors an International Women's Day essay-writing competition on the topic, what International Women's Day means to me. This year's winner was Tori-lynn Wanotch whose essay was so eloquent she had the audience in tears. As well, Mr. Speaker, Marla Adams was recognized as the 2006 recipient of the BPW Athena Award.

Mr. Speaker, I want thank the organizers of the seventh annual Business and Professional Women's International Women's Day celebration and congratulate Ms. Walling, Ms. Wanotch, and Ms. Adams on their awards. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Provincial High School Curling Championships

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the high school staff and students of Kipling and Whitewood hosted the provincial senior boys' and girls' high school provincial curling championships. Despite inclement weather and driving conditions, 16 senior boys' rinks from across the province arrived in Kipling while 16 senior girls' rinks travelled to Whitewood.

Competitions for both provincial championships began on Thursday, March 1 at the Kipling and Whitewood curling arenas. I had the pleasure of joining many local people as well as family members of the curlers who came out to observe some excellent curling on the weekend.

It was also my privilege to enjoy a very delicious banquet put on by the Whitewood high school staff. The guest speaker at the provincial senior girls' curling banquet was Mandy Selzer, a young lady who members of this Assembly will remember, not

only as the skip of the 2006 junior women's Canadian curling champions, but as well as one of the Pages who served our Assembly well in the last session.

Mr. Speaker, events of this nature don't just happen. They take place as a result of the time and effort put forward by the host committees and the numerous volunteers who give of their time, ensuring the success of these events.

Following the weekend of curling, this year's provincial senior high school boys' curling champions are from Weyburn while the senior high school girls' champions are from Watrous. Mr. Speaker, a special thank you to the high school students and staff in both Kipling and Whitewood for the excellent job they did in hosting this year's 2007 provincial high school senior boys' and girls' curling championships.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Consultation Regarding Settlement with Murdoch Carriere

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission led this house and everyone else to believe that the women harassed by Murdoch Carriere were consulted prior to Murdoch Carriere receiving any taxpayers' dollars.

She said, and I quote from *Hansard*, "my understanding from the Justice officials is that the complainants were checked with before this was given to Mr. Carriere." Most people think consulting means sitting down, asking for feedback, and taking other people's opinions into consideration. The NDP appears to have a different definition.

Is this in fact the case? Were the women harassed by Murdoch Carriere consulted prior to the NDP government deciding to hand over \$275,000 to him?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I can tell the members opposite is that the government no longer wanted Murdoch Carriere in the employment of the government. The government terminated Mr. Carriere. And as a result of that, we are now paying for the process that we used to terminate his employment.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — The record will show that the minister did not answer a very direct question.

Mr. Speaker, the women Murdoch Carriere harassed weren't

consulted prior to the settlement with Carriere. They were told about it after the government already agreed upon a settlement. In fact, they were told about it the morning of February 27 just minutes before the Environment minister announced it to the media.

The news release had already been sent out before some of these women found out. Some of the women even heard about it through voice mail. That's consultation? That's what the NDP considers listening to victims? This is the NDP's definition of consultation — leaving a voice mail? You call that consultation?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the Government of Saskatchewan did not want Murdoch Carriere in its employment. We did not want him in our employment. He was fired. We did not follow the process. And as a result, Mr. Speaker, we were told by the Department of Justice that we were going to lose the case, and we settled.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the minister said yesterday that the complainants were checked with before this was given to Mr. Carriere. We have given the NDP chances to answer about rewarding Murdoch Carriere and we're receiving very few answers.

We have a recording that we will gladly play for the media and anyone else who wants to hear after question period. The recording is from a SERM [Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management] official informing the victim that a settlement had been reached, that the government is paying Murdoch Carriere, and that if the victim would like to talk about it, to give him a call back. Why weren't the harassed women truly consulted prior to Murdoch Carriere getting rewarded?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today we listened to the Leader of the Opposition on some radio show indicate that he would have taken this case to court, that he would have gone against legal advice, and he would have done this at great cost to the taxpayer, and that he would have had the women re-testify all over again. A year ago his Justice critic in this Assembly said, and I quote, "Refusing to settle a lawsuit when the cost to taxpayers would have been much lower is patently unreasonable."

What is it? Is it what the Justice critic said a year ago or is it what the Leader of the Opposition is saying now?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Management of Harassment Complaints

Ms. Heppner: — The difference between this party and that party is that this party would have fought for these women.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, understandably the women who came forward against Murdoch Carriere were very brave. They risked a lot to make sure that this man was stopped. Mr. Speaker, the women are worried about their jobs. They think that if they tell the truth to anyone that this NDP government will either fire them or take action against them. And I'm asking a very direct question today, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister guarantee that this NDP government will not fire or take any action against any of these nine women who want to be able to tell their stories?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, as a result of what came to our attention in April 2003, the former minister of the Public Service Commission had the Public Service Commission review its anti-harassment policy. Mr. Speaker, there is zero tolerance for harassment in the workplace, whether it's directed towards men or whether it's directed towards women. Everybody is protected. They have the right to come forward if they believe they are being harassed, Mr. Speaker. That is the harassment policy.

And I say to the member opposite, I say to the member opposite, that every person in this province that works in the public service is protected when they bring forward a harassment complaint. And they're protected in law, Mr. Speaker, and we follow the law.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Disposition of Murdoch Carriere's Computer Hard Drive

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP continues to tell us they are not hiding anything in the Murdoch Carriere case. I would like to quote from a ruling by Queen's Bench Justice Laing dated August 25, 2005. Justice Laing refers to a memo signed by an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] constable, L.D. Lair, dated April 22, 2003. That's three weeks after Murdoch Carriere was fired for harassment. The memo said, and I quote:

Writer received fax from DOCC that Jim Pattison of SERM wanted a phone call at home . . . Pattison believes that Murdock Carriere of Fire Control is under investigation by the RCMP. Pattison has been directed by Senior Management to erase Carriere's hard drive off of his

computer. Pattison is afraid that evidence may be destroyed and wanted the RCMP to be aware.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: who ordered that Murdoch Carriere's hard drive be erased?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well I see we have Perry Mason at it again. What I can say to the member opposite that . . . You know what he does? You know what he does? Every time he has an opportunity, he besmirches people's reputations. That's what that member opposite does. And we've seen it time and time and time again in *Hansard*, but he's afraid to go outside and say the same thing. He'll go out and ask questions — oh, I'm going to ask questions to the media, but he leaves the impression that certain people's reputations are besmirched, Mr. Speaker.

And I say to the member opposite: be careful, be careful. Whatever you have to say in here, you go outside and say it, Mr. Speaker. Say it outside.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, this is a report by the Queen's Bench of the province of Saskatchewan that I am quoting from. Mr. Speaker, the NDP keep telling us they are not hiding anything, but they have a gag order on the women who were harassed. They won't explain why they paid off Mr. Carriere. And now we learn that someone in "senior management," quote, ordered a SERM employee to erase Carriere's hard drive. Let me repeat that quote from Justice Laing's ruling. Pattison . . . And I quote:

Pattison has been directed by Senior Management to erase Carriere's hard drive off of his computer. Pattison is afraid that evidence may be destroyed and wanted the RCMP to be aware.

Mr. Speaker, who gave that order? And was Murdoch Carriere's hard drive eventually erased?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — The members of the opposition have said outside of this Assembly that certain members of the Assembly interfered in the Murdoch Carriere case. That's what the opposition members have said and I want to say, through innuendo, Mr. Speaker. What I want to say to the members opposite, that no cabinet minister, no cabinet minister in this government interfered with the Murdoch Carriere case, Mr.

Speaker. Not one cabinet minister, including the member from Athabasca, who they have insinuated interfered, who was the minister of the Environment at the time. So I say to the members opposite: go outside, say it again. Be careful. Say outside what you . . . [inaudible] . . . to say in this Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to repeat that question again as in the Justice Laing's report: who gave the order from senior management to have the hard drive erased?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — . . . members of the opposition that are desperate to become the government of the day fail to understand is that there is a separation between the public service and the elected. The public service are involved in the day-to-day administration of departments. They are involved in the day-to-day hiring and firing of public servants. The government of the day directs public policy, Mr. Speaker. That's what those members opposite fail to understand.

And, Mr. Speaker, what's so incredible, they flip-flop from one issue to the other. A year ago their Justice critic, who is a lawyer, said in this Assembly that we need to settle cases; don't drag them out. And now what the Leader of the Opposition is saying in contrast to his Justice critic is, drag them out, cost the taxpayers more. But we received legal advice that we would lose the case, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, let's find out what else this minister is trying to cover up, and let's refer again to Justice Laing's report. It goes on to say that Murdoch Carriere's computer was eventually sent to a Donna Kelsey, who worked in an Environment office in Regina. Why was Murdoch Carriere's computer sent to Regina and was the hard drive eventually erased?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the cabinet ministers sitting on the government bench are not involved in the day-to-day activities of government departments. These folks here think, no doubt, when they get into office if they ever get into office, they will be handling the day-to-day activities of all government departments and politically interfering, Mr. Speaker. We did not.

The Speaker: — Order please. Order, order. Order please. The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what the public needs to know is that these people opposite would politically interfere in the day-to-day operations of government departments. That's what the public service needs to know, that this is the kind of people that these folks across the way are. The government sets policy direction. The public service is involved in the day-to-day operations of government departments. That's how the system works and it's time they found out about it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, three weeks after Murdoch Carriere was fired, while he was under investigation by the RCMP, someone, someone in senior management ordered that his hard drive be erased. I think the NDP have some questions to answer. Who gave that order? Why did they give that order? What was on the hard drive they didn't want anyone to see? What are they hiding? What are they covering up? Mr. Speaker, it's time for the Premier to stand up and start answering these questions. Who ordered Murdoch Carriere's hard drive to be erased, and what were they hiding?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, government ministers are not involved in the day-to-day activity of government departments. We are not involved. There is clearly a separation between what politicians or the elected do and what the public service do. There's clearly a distinction which the members opposite — who are just itching, itching to sit on these benches where they want to be — don't understand, is there is a distinction.

The public needs to understand that these people over here would be interfering in the day-to-day activities of the public service. They don't understand the role of the elected, Mr. Speaker, and the public and the public service needs to understand that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, let's again review what actually happened. Murdoch Carriere had just been fired for harassment. He was under investigation by the RCMP, and someone in senior management of this government ordered that his hard drive be erased. Now that's a very serious matter. In fact it could be obstruction of justice.

Who did it? Who gave this order? What are they hiding? Was Murdoch Carriere's hard drive erased? Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people deserve these answers. Why did the government order a public servant to erase Murdoch Carriere's hard drive?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what the member . . . what Mr. Perry Mason fails to do is to table the finding, Mr. Speaker. That's what Mr. Perry Mason fails to do. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will say this again . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would . . . Order. I would remind the member, the minister, that when referring to other members she should refer to the member by the title or by the name of the constituency.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the member. Mr. Speaker, I apologize.

Mr. Speaker, what the member needs to do is table the findings. He hasn't done that. Mr. Speaker, I will say again, I will say again . . . I'm talking about the finding of the court.

Mr. Speaker, what I will say again is there is clearly a distinction between the elected and the public service. The public service is involved in the day-to-day activities of government departments. The elected sets broad policy, public policy direction.

Obviously the members opposite don't understand this distinction. Obviously — and they're dying to be government — if they were government they would be involved in the day-to-day activities of government departments. And I think the public needs to understand that and so does the public service, Mr. Speaker. It's an important principle, something they didn't understand when they were in government in the 1980s. It's something clearly that our government understands. The public needs to know that and so does the public service.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Support for Women in the Workplace

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly the government's trying to cover something up. Consider what's happened. Consider that this government paid \$275,000 to one of its senior employees who was fired for harassment and then convicted of assault. Consider then that an official with the Department of the Environment was informed, instructed by a senior official in this government to erase the hard drive of the perpetrator of that harassment. Consider as well that while that minister has said the women were consulted prior to the . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. Order. Members will come to order. The Chair . . . Order. The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance is calling Justice Laing a liar. That's what he just did from his seat. That's how bad this government has gotten on this particular issue.

The facts and evidence are pretty clear. This government, this government is trying to cover something out about the fact that it paid \$275,000 to someone fired for harassment and convicted of assault. When will the Premier stand up and answer questions to the people of this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, let me say this. It was my decision in 2003, on the recommendation by a minister, that Mr. Murdoch Carriere's employment with the Government of Saskatchewan be terminated. I made that decision, Mr. Speaker, in the full knowledge, in the full knowledge that I was violating the process — the process which is that the public elected, the politician, the Premier, is not to be engaged in the hiring and firing in government. I made that decision in that knowledge.

I made it, Mr. Speaker, not only with the support of the opposition at that time but with their encouragement. And we made that decision in the full knowledge that having taken that decision there may well be financial costs to the Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, now we've got this unprincipled opposition who say now today, perhaps I shouldn't have fired Mr. Carriere; or now we shouldn't pay; or they go out on public radio with innuendo on people in this province. The Leader of the Opposition just stood up in his place and said something that's blatantly not true. Mr. Speaker, they tell us we should fight the case. The best legal advice said this is going to cost the taxpayer of Saskatchewan, and we are not willing to put those complainants through the public process again.

Do we like this, Mr. Speaker? You bet we don't like it. Would I do it again? You bet I would.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — There it is. The Premier says he's done the right thing. The Premier says this is responsible government to pay someone fired from harassment and then convicted of assault \$275,000, to do so without consulting his victims who are in that Premier's employ. He says that's the right thing to do, that he would do it again. That's why the people of this province have had enough with him, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — That's why the people of this province would like a Premier and a government that would stand up for women in the workplace, who would take their side over the side of the harasser. What is the Premier trying to hide in this case, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, anyone listening to the Leader of the Opposition a moment ago knows what he said. He said the people of the Department of the Environment are, quote, "in the Premier's employ." Mr. Speaker, those public servants in the province of Saskatchewan are in the employ of the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[11:00]

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And, Mr. Speaker, we know those guys. We know those folks. You get them in government, Mr. Speaker — this unprincipled opposition — you get them in government, and they believe that the public service is in their employ. We saw it before, and if they ever should sit on the government benches, we'll see it again, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I made a decision to violate the principle which says that the Premier and the politician shouldn't be hiring and firing. I made that decision, I believe, on the right moral ground, Mr. Speaker. It's a decision I'd make again. But if those folks ever sit on the government side of the bench, you can be sure you can count on that kind of decision getting made on a daily basis.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, when these folks sit on the government side of the House, the civil service of the province can count on one thing. Women in the workplace in the civil service can count on one thing: when it comes down to choosing between those who harass and those who are harassed, we will choose the victims. We will fight a case like this in court to ensure that someone convicted of assault, fired for harassment doesn't get a thin dime of taxpayers' money.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — This Premier yesterday, this Premier yesterday, from his seat because he wouldn't stand up and answer any questions, he told me that he can . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. One at a time, members; one at a time. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — From his seat yesterday because he wouldn't stand on his feet and say this, said that the women, the victims were consulted with prior to the settlement being given to Mr. Carriere. Well we find out today that they got a phone call after the press release went out, that messages were left onto voice mail. The Premier says this is about protecting them from further anguish. How can he possibly know that when his government didn't have the decency to talk to the victims before they gave all this money to the harasser, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, this Leader of the Opposition stands in this House and likes to pretend that he's the friend of women in this province. Well if he's the friend to women, why has he said nothing about his cousins in Ottawa cutting the daycare programming and the child care funding? Why has he said nothing, Mr. Speaker, about his friends in Ottawa cutting the literacy funding in this province? Why has he said nothing when his friends in Ottawa take the equality clause out of the Status of Women? Why has he said nothing when they're cutting the Status of Women activity in this country, Mr. Speaker? Nothing.

Because you know why, Mr. Speaker? He's more keen on electing conservatives, whether they're Conservatives in Ottawa or conservative Sask Party in Saskatchewan. He's more keen about the future of the Saskatchewan Party than he is about Saskatchewan people, including the women of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's just not about programs for women. It can never be just about advocacy for women, as important as that is. The measure, the measure, Mr. Speaker, is a government that is prepared to stand up and defend and protect women, especially those for whose protection that Premier is responsible as the head of the government.

Mr. Speaker, that Premier failed, failed to consult with women, with the victims in this case, prior to Mr. Carriere getting his money, which is different than the story the minister told yesterday and different from what the Premier said from his chair. They deserve an apology. They deserve an apology. On this International Women's Day, will the Premier stand in his place and apologize to these nine women who were victimized by the senior manager in the Premier's government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this is truly an unprincipled opposition. They say at the time of these events, they say we should fire. They do that in the full public knowledge that this would cost the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I acted to make that decision.

Now they say we shouldn't pay. Now they say, Mr. Speaker, we should go to court against the advice of their own Justice critic over there, they say we should go to court, we should encourage even higher payments to Mr. Carriere, and we should put these nine complainants again through the public process, through the public exposure. Mr. Speaker, I've made a decision. I made a decision to fire Mr. Carriere. I've made a decision and this government has made a decision to accept the best legal advice and, Mr. Speaker, it is my view, it is my view that subjecting these nine complainants again to another civil process, another public exposure, is the wrong thing to do, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, isn't that special? It's the Premier's view that this is what would be the implication for these women if the government took this action. Will he check with them then? Why didn't his government check with them in the first place? Yesterday, remember, in this Assembly his minister said, oh we consulted with the women, the nine women first. We checked. But you know what they did? They left messages on voice mails for them; they issued the press release prior to even making the calls, the press release about Mr. Carriere's settlement.

Will he (a) apologize to these women for not checking for sure? And secondly, will he commit to them, will he commit to them that his government will find out what their wishes are and what they would've been? Would they rather have this government stand up and fight for them or settle with someone fired for harassment and convicted of common assault, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, as a result of this entire circumstance in 2003, this government has put in place the most stringent of anti-harassment policies that I know anywhere in Canada. Mr. Speaker, there is a zero tolerance in this government.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, we are working with women and for women right across this province. In light of the cuts of these Conservatives across the way federally, yes, we're standing behind child care and daycare in this province. We've put together a significant missing persons initiative in this province, much of which is directed to those missing women. We are working in education to build early childhood education. We have built a literacy program of \$2 million, Mr. Speaker. We are building housing for the poor — many women, many women, single moms getting the benefit of housing.

Mr. Speaker, this is a government that believes in working for Saskatchewan families, for making life better for Saskatchewan families. That's an opposition that's only interested in the Saskatchewan Party.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Speaker: — Would the member state his point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Morgan: — It is, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order please, order. Order please. We can only entertain one point of order at a time. So I would just ask . . . I would . . . We are at orders of the day. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of order. Yesterday, March 7, in the House the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission stated, and I read her comment in the House:

Mr. Speaker, my understanding from the Justice officials is that the complainants were [and I use her words] checked with before this was given to Mr. Carriere.

Mr. Speaker, there was a news release that was issued by the department. That news release was circulated to the media and is date stamped on the fax machines February 27, and reached the Saskatchewan Party office and the media outlets at 8:39 in the morning.

Mr. Speaker, we have a tape recording that was from somebody's answering machine by somebody that identified themselves first and then they called to one of the complainants first . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order. Order please. What the member's dealing with is really points of debate which have been dealt with and are being dealt with in the House. I find that the member . . . that this is not the point of order.

Before we go any further . . . Order please. Order please. Order. I wish to deal with another point of order at this time.

During the 11th question — I think it was the 11th question — the Leader of the Opposition reflected upon a minister by making a personal charge against the minister that would impute actions on the minister that would be unparliamentary. And I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw that statement.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I need to know the nature of those words please.

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order please. Order. Order please. Order please.

I do believe it's better . . . Order please. I do believe that it's better to deal with these matters at this time; otherwise I would have referred the minister to a part in the *Hansard*. But however, because I believe it's better to deal with these issues at the time, it was when the member or the Leader of the Opposition referred to another member having lied about some particular issue. And that's the part that I would like him to withdraw.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I said the minister was accusing the Justice of lying — that's what I said — not that the minister had lied.

The Speaker: — Would the member apologize for implying that the minister made improper statements.

Mr. Wall: — If that was the implication, then I apologize and withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I thank the member for his apology.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction of Legislative Page

The Speaker: — Now before orders of the day, I still wish to introduce . . . Order please. Order please. Just one more item . . . I wish to . . . Members, just take a break for a minute here please. I wish to at this time inform the Assembly that Julianna Hill will be joining us as the sixth Page for this session, and I'd ask all members to welcome her.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes . . . Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The Speaker: — Would the member state his point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, during the last round of debate the members opposite — and several of them were heard to use the words, and they were speaking in the course of debate — they used the words, something was patently untrue. And they were directing these words . . . And the effect of that, Mr. Speaker, is that they are saying something is patently untrue. And the Premier said it in his own answer, and the effect of that, Mr. Speaker, is to call somebody with the equivalent of using the word to lie or to use that kind of an untruth.

Mr. Speaker, it's unparliamentary language. They have done indirectly what they cannot do directly. And, Mr. Speaker, it would only be appropriate that the Premier be called upon by the Speaker to withdraw that comment.

The Speaker: — On the point of order, the Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, to the point of order, what we are seeing here in the House today in a series of ways is the use of innuendo by the opposition, the use of innuendo as opposed to direct accusation. It will be kind of interesting to see whether they will repeat those same statements outside the House.

But, Mr. Speaker, on the point, I speak to the style of questioning that has been used today. And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, it is the view of the government that several things that were said today by innuendo are patently untrue. Mr. Speaker, there was not . . . It was not a statement, that it was done in the way the opposition members would refer to as lying. However, Mr. Speaker, it has been, it has been a concerted effort, a conscious effort of communicating by innuendo, Mr. Speaker, and making statements that are patently untrue.

The government stands by that view and considers that to be in order. And I ask that you find the hon. member's point of order not well taken.

[11:15]

The Speaker: — First of all, I thank the member for raising this point. Quite often the case is where the Speaker has to make a decision as to whether a statement is parliamentary or unparliamentary, and sometimes the lines are very, very difficult to draw. And at other times they're also . . . One of the things that the Speaker has to take into account also is the effect of the statement. And I have however tried to be consistent, and I will rule the same way again today that using the words untrue has been regarded parliamentary providing it is used in a fashion which does not imply direct intent to falsify. So I therefore do find the member's statement not well taken, however worthy of discussing.

Order please. Order please. Order please. I would remind all members that they are not to reflect on the ruling of the Speaker. The member for Canora-Pelly is not on record but has been . . . Order please . . . Would the member from Cannington — and I appreciate his volunteering — would he kindly refrain from reflecting on the Speaker, on any ruling of the Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Saskatchewan's Roads and Transportation Needs

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to enter into the 75-minute debate, and I'd like to start my comments off by reading into the record the motion. The motion reads:

That this Assembly condemn the NDP government for failing to properly plan for the province's transportation needs and for letting the road system fall into disrepair, compromising business opportunities and the safety of travellers.

This is moved by myself and second by the member from Humboldt. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's quite incredible thinking about the lead-up to the government's announcement the day before yesterday. One would think with the NDP government sitting on a mound of money and their dismal polling results and the dismal elections results in Martensville where the NDP party placed a very distant second and had the worst showing in the history of the CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] Party that they would come out with an announcement about something.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they did come out with an announcement concerning highways and transportation, and I was at the news conference, Mr. Speaker. And quite frankly, I thought when we put this motion forward last fall that naturally the government would come out with something — and they did, of course — and I assumed that it would be something that would be difficult to argue about and debate about. But to my astonishment, Mr. Speaker, the government really came out with another announcement about a pending announcement. I don't know if this is number four or number five announcements about a pending announcement.

This announcement, Mr. Speaker, did not outline any roads or highways that are going to be built or repaired or new construction, new payment, absolutely nothing in this announcement by the Premier and the Minister of Highways and Transportation. So it's quite easy to debate this issue again today, Mr. Speaker.

We've presented numerous petitions in the last number of years concerning the terrible state of roads and highways, and we've presented a number again today. And there's nothing in the future that says that these roads and highways and the infrastructure of the province is actually going to be built and improved.

And I just want to point to the government's own announcement that they made the day before yesterday, Mr. Speaker. They spoke about a \$9 billion investment over 10 years. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's not quite accurate. It's not \$5 billion over 10 years, which would average over \$500 million per year. It's not new money. It's just that includes the current budget for the Highways and Transportation department.

Well last year, after all the numbers come in, the department is at about just slightly over \$400 million in their current budget for the current year, after the initial budget and the supplementary and some new announcements that are coming. So, Mr. Speaker, let's say for easy math, it's \$400 million. So they've only announced on an average of \$500 million per year. Take \$400 million off that. That leaves \$100 million of so-called new money for the highways and transportation infrastructure in this province.

Well, Mr. Speaker, now we know of course that over 10 years, there's going to be considerable inflationary pressures. And so you take a look at, you know, approximately inflation at 1.6 per cent, Mr. Speaker. You also take into account the actual inflation that the road builders have been talking about and that could be, well it could be 10 per cent increase. In some cases the costs of construction of new highways are up to 25 or 30 per cent.

So Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day when you take all the increased costs and inflationary pressures in the future, now we're into somewhere around \$80 million of new money per year. Well, Mr. Speaker, if that \$80 million went into roads and highways exclusively, well you could say that's something towards those projects. But the government's own admission was that this money is going to go into the so-called six pillars.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the six pillars, this increased spending is going to go to corridors, international gateways, urban connectors, rural and economic corridors, northern infrastructure, First Nations connections, regional short-line railways and airports. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is hardly enough money to make a dent on any one of those projected infrastructure projects. Mr. Speaker, so this money is going to be shared among all those six pillars.

Now, Mr. Speaker, during the news conference what did we find out? Well is there any announcement of any projects? Well there was none. What does the government say? Well they've got a weight advisory committee, made up of SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], SARM

[Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], other groups. And it's very good to consult with those other groups. They've done a tremendous amount of work in their own areas, the RMs in their various transportation regions, and that's important to consult with them.

But, Mr. Speaker, this announcement is made after 16 years of NDP government. This type of announcement you would expect to come out from a new government in the first few months of their mandate to lay out what they're planning on doing in the next year or 2 years or 10 years. After 16 years the government comes out with an announcement and again no idea about which roads or highways or infrastructure projects are going to be improved, Mr. Speaker.

So the government's going to wait for the weight advisory committee to make recommendations to the government on which projects to go forward. Well Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the people of Saskatchewan spoke in Martensville that they're very cynical about the intentions of this government. And, Mr. Speaker, again there's no list of projects that are expected to be done. We're waiting to see.

Now, Mr. Speaker it's very interesting during the news conference, the Premier was asked by a member of the media about basically, you know, where have you been for the last 16 years? How have you determined spending in the Highways and Transportation department in the past? And his answer was quite astonishing. I mean it's no surprise to anybody in this province that the NDP government just kind of lurches from one disaster to another and try to fix it, but he said the tradition was that highways and roads and transportation in this province was funded on an ad hoc basis. There was no planning done. Well that's an incredible admission from a Premier who leads a government that has been in power for 16 years, Mr. Speaker. It's incredible that after all this time, that's the best he could do.

And, Mr. Speaker, I again go back to Martensville and the message that they have sent to the NDP that they have lost total confidence in this government to do any planning and, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I believe the comment that the NDP have just made a deathbed conversion to try to put something on the table, to try to alleviate their dismal polling results and the dismal record in the Martensville by-election, and try to move forward from there.

Now we're going to wait for the budget. Well that's fine and dandy; we'll wait for some . . . we'll see what's in the budget. That'll be — what? — number six announcement of what may happen in the future. But we'll also have to wait for this advisory board to come down with recommendations. I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that there never will be actually a plan in place before the next election. I think all this process was just to say we have a plan. Well there's nothing in the plan, Mr. Speaker, and people from all over the province are very concerned about their roads and highways.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as an example, as one example of many, is the Murray Point road. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to congratulate the Saskatchewan Party candidate in Saskatchewan Rivers, Nadine Wilson, for the work that she's done up there bringing forward the concerns of citizens in her constituency, and particularly in that one area, their concerns over their road.

And I'd just like to quote from the *Prince Albert Daily Herald* a few comments:

A rough road means more than a bumpy ride for people going to an area of Emma Lake, says a merchant.

The road leading to Murray Point was a hindrance to tourism in the first two months of the season, say Randy Roth, who owns Ferns Grocery with his wife.

"Our delivery [truck] wouldn't come down the road until July 1," said Roth.

He had to drive to the main highway to meet the truck for supplies.

We had a good summer, but we lost money in May and June due to the road," said Roth.

The road used to be paved, but it was torn up around July 1 and made into a gravel road, but it is still rough said Roth.

"It still needs . . . [a lot] of love."

Roth wants to see it returned to asphalt because of the heavy traffic that uses it and because it is a tourist destination.

People visiting Murray Point from out of province will not come back if they think their RV or camper might get damaged travelling over a rough road, he said.

Mr. Speaker, this is incredible. And the Minister of Transportation the day before yesterday also admitted that the government has plans of converting more asphalt back to gravel. And so they certainly have . . . He certainly admits to a plan of letting roads deteriorate and deteriorating to the point where it goes back to gravel, but he hasn't got a plan in place to actually lay any asphalt or improve the highways of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as the people of Saskatchewan know last summer, the Saskatchewan Party put out a challenge. We invited people to make presentations, to go online to our website and tell us and the other people of Saskatchewan about what they think is the worst roads in this province. And the challenge was to Premier Calvert, the Premier, to travel those roads and so he could see first-hand what the condition of those highways were. Now, Mr. Speaker, our website had nearly 200 invitations for the Premier to travel some 34 different highways, and there was certainly no shortage of prospects for the Premier.

But, Mr. Speaker, just to, like, to lay out a few more highways that were presented to the website and an invitation for the Premier to travel: Highway 13, Admiral to Cadillac; Highway 18; Highway 310; Highway 368, Lake Lenore to St. Brieux. Mr. Speaker, that's an incredible situation up in that area.

There's a \$100 million worth of manufacturing going on in the St. Brieux area, and the highways are in such deplorable state, Mr. Speaker, that many of the manufacturers have to go north

or different directions in order to get their products out to a highway, so they can ultimately go south to the American market.

And it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that — tomorrow actually, Friday evening — that the citizens of that area are having a Highway 368 dinner. They're actually having a dinner to raise money to try to impress upon the government the need to do something with their highways in that area.

Also other highways — 32 Highway, Leader to Swift Current; Highway 35; Highway 42 near Diefenbaker Park; Highway 355; Highway 12 — it just goes on and on and on, Mr. Speaker.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, it's certainly a very timely moment in the legislature to be debating the infrastructure and highways of this province. And I certainly have come away from the announcement the day before yesterday and the phone calls and the messages we've had from people in Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, just quickly, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. The Saskatchewan Party has been impressing upon this government to come out, do an economic assessment of the province's infrastructure, to develop a multi-year strategy. And this, Mr. Speaker, is the best that the government can do after 16 years in power. And it's certainly a sorry state to see this government come up with this plan after all these years.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important, Mr. Speaker, that something is done soon. And the people of Saskatchewan spoke in the Martensville by-election. And what they said in the Martensville by-election that people across this province are saying to us, it is time for a change, Mr. Speaker. The deathbed conversion of this government is not good enough. We should have a government that will do the job and do the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Biggar, seconded by the member for Humboldt:

That this Assembly condemn the NDP government for failing to properly plan for the province's transportation needs and for letting the road system fall into disrepair, compromising business opportunities and the safety of travellers.

The Chair recognizes the member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I am very pleased to enter this debate today.

I find it absolutely astounding that this government has been in power for 15 years and they just simply do not understand. They don't understand what the highway system needs. They don't understand the economy of the province. They don't understand the people of the province and what they are up against when it comes to developing the economy in rural areas of the province.

It's interesting that I found a quote from May 28, 1998, from the then Highways minister, Judy Bradley. And she said at that

time:

Highway work is underway across the province and we are working to meet our commitment [to spend] . . . 2.5 billion over 10 years to improve our highways.

That's a large commitment. At that time in 1998 she committed over 10 years \$2.5 billion. And now we're finding out that they made that commitment with absolutely no strategy in mind, no plan in mind, no idea of where the economy was being driven from and what their infrastructure needs were. There was no comprehensive provincial plan put into place and yet a big announcement was made. Why should we believe this announcement? Why in the world would we believe that this government now has figured it out after close to 16 years actually when they have done nothing?

Let's talk about what the Premier had to say. The Premier even admits to their failure. He said and I quote:

"How we have been doing things in the past has been, in many cases, ad hoc without a long-term plan, a longterm plan that is built on economic advantage," he said.

And that is exactly the point I'm making. It's a government that is void of ideas. It has no vision.

The significance of today's announcement is that we have put together a long-term plan . . .

Well hello. After 16 years they're going to put together a plan.

We have worked with communities, we've taken a look at our needs, we've taken a look at our potential (and) we've laid out a strategy to meet those needs and potential.

I found it interesting that the Premier says that we are now working with the communities. I met with a community group just last week, Mr. Speaker, and this government seems to have a very difficult time understanding what consultation is and what working with communities is all about.

I met with the communities along Highway No. 27. It's actually a relatively short highway that comes out of Saskatoon. It has industry along that highway and the goods and services and the products that are manufactured along Highway No. 27 are shipped then to and through Saskatoon.

Has the Premier or the department, the minister met with that community prior to making this announcement? Are they a part of the strategy that they have now figured out that they need to have? And I dare to say, Mr. Speaker, that they are not. They're not consulting with communities. I'm not even too sure they're putting together a plan but we have to take their word for it even though there was an announcement made how many years ago by the Judy Bradley, the former minister. We had a big announcement. There was no plan. There was no vision. They have no clue.

I have a number of letters, and I want to put them into record simply because the people that are actually the drivers of our economy along the Highway 27 corridor can put into words far better than I of the struggles that they are facing. One particular

company, Spray-Tech, is yet to forward a letter to me but I know they will be and they will also be forwarding one to the minister. It's an extremely important industry that is in Vonda, Saskatchewan.

I do have a letter from Highline, another very important industry:

The current Hwy 27 [and I'm quoting from that letter] is a lifeline for our business to Saskatoon and points elsewhere to connect with the world. At this present time we employ some 75 to 100 employees dependent on seasons and market. Our market has expanded this past year to include Eastern Europe, with increased business so goes the need for a good road system that people in the community and companies like . . . [ours] can rely on. If we expand our Plant further to accommodate growth in the market place, a good paved road is a real plus for recruitment of staff and safe reliable . . . [transportation] of our product.

Have they consulted with this industry? Have they consulted with Spray-Tech? Have they consulted with Highline? Have they consulted with those communities that these companies are driving the economy up?

I also have a letter, Mr. Speaker, from a woman who travels that area to bring a service, and I quote. It's from Lisa Hammond. It says:

I travel this highway regularly from Saskatoon to provide chiropractic care in the town of Vonda. Many times, I have debated about whether or not to go out there because of the condition of this highway.

There's a letter from Louis Dreyfus, again another huge driver within our province of the economy. And the letter says:

The above mentioned provincial highway presently is a secondary highway that has been allowed to deteriorate into very poor condition . . .

Louis Dreyfus Canada has announced intentions to construct a canola crushing plant in Yorkton Sk with completion date of Aug 2008. There will be truck traffic from our plant in Aberdeen to our crush plant in Yorkton. The ability to load trucks to primary weights for all loads leaving Aberdeen and area would reduce total traffic, reduce fuel usage and be more efficient.

And, as Louis Dreyfus points out, that is being very much inhibited by the condition of Highway No. 27.

We have another business along Highway 27 and the letter is:

Vision Quest Developments Inc. is a new a company located in Aberdeen, Saskatchewan. Our primary business is the construction of Ready-to-Move . . . homes.

With the continued growth of the housing starts and development of Saskatchewan, we chose to locate in Aberdeen primarily due to its location. We are the only builder in the Saskatoon area located on the East side of the South Saskatchewan River.

Later in the letter it says:

Choosing not to repair the surface of Highway 27 would be a direct hit to our growth and the number of employees we could potentially employ. If the governing party does not chose to improve the conditions of this highway, it will inflict an associated cost to moving homes in any Easterly direction from Aberdeen.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on because there is just so many letters on this particular highway and this corridor. There is a letter from the Hometown Insurance Brokers and how it is causing a detriment to their particular company. Leray Gardens has sent a letter. There's a letter from the Foot Path of Reflexology. There's a letter . . . This is an interesting letter from the Vonda Co-op on what it's like to receive goods within this area. And the letter says: "The suppliers that come in with stock to the store are impeded by the poor condition of the road."

It says:

The Saputo Milk Delivery truck more often than not finds his supplies turned upside down and spilled. We are not only concerned for the safety of our company drivers but also our patrons who must travel this road.

There's letters from other businesses in the area. There's letters from municipal leaders from the villages, from the municipalities, and they all state how this highway and the poor condition of this highway affects their particular area and the economy within the area. And we have a government that's now saying, well even after 16 years, well maybe we'll put together a plan. Have they talked to these industries? Have they talked to these municipal leaders?

Aside from just the economy and how these industries and these municipal leaders are driving the economy, we also have the safety factor that's involved with Highway No. 27. I again have letters both from the Prud'homme fire and rescue and from the Vonda fire and rescue departments who express grave concern over the number of accidents that have happened on that highway, and they contribute it solely to the condition of the highway.

So what is their plan? How are they going to address this corridor and other corridors because it's not alone. There are many corridors within our province that have been neglected for 16 years, and they no longer support the communities within . . . along those highways. They no longer support the industry along those highways. And they are no longer safe highways to travel.

So how can this government begin to say that now they get it? Now they get it. And how are the people of Saskatchewan supposed to believe a word that they have to say? For 16 years they haven't got it. It was in 1998 when Minister Bradley made the announcement. They didn't get it then. They're not going to get it now. They have no clue. They're out of touch with the Saskatchewan people. And they have absolutely no vision on what it's going to take to grow this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Prince Albert Northcote, the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to begin by describing my pleasure to be able to join in this debate this afternoon. I've listened with some care the member from Biggar's comments and the member from Humboldt, and what I suspected would be the response to the largest commitment to the Highways and Transportation infrastructure in this province was negative by members of the Saskatchewan Party.

But we on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, understand their reaction to good news, to positive initiatives, and to good planning. And that's what this \$5-billion, 10-year announcement is a result of, Mr. Speaker. It's the result of consultations with municipal leaders, with industry, with people of this province. And it's a true vision for a transportation system that will in fact serve the needs of an incredibly growing economy in some of the areas that members opposite represent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that the Saskatchewan Party has a difficult time with good news. They have a difficult time when we reduce the provincial sales tax by 2 per cent. And they have a difficult time . . . And, you know, they don't say a word about job numbers, and they walk out of the House. Eleven thousand new jobs for Saskatchewan young people announced, and what do they say? They stand up and point the finger, and they walk out of the House because they can't stand to hear good news.

Five billion dollars, a record amount of expenditures on the Department of Highways and Transportation, and what does the critic say? The critic says, too little, too late, not enough, in spite of the fact that it's more than our neighbouring counterparts are committing, in spite of the fact that it's the biggest commitment this province has ever seen to infrastructure.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's what an opposition party is, and the Saskatchewan Party is the epitome of an opposition party. No policy, no platform, no direction, criticize, criticize, criticize — Mr. Speaker, that's what they're about. And I want to tell you the other thing they're about.

The member from Biggar outlined petitions from about, oh golly, I got here one, two, three, four, five, about ten different road areas. Now, Mr. Speaker, one can only translate that into what the Saskatchewan Party is doing. You commit to rebuilding every road in this province to a paved standard, and you shouldn't deny that you're doing it.

[11:45]

The Speaker: — I want to remind the member that all debate should be conducted through the Speaker and the member should do that.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes my enthusiasm directs me to be commenting, but not through the Chair. So I will make a special effort to do that.

But back to what I was saying, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Party promises to do everything for everybody. And if anyone

believes, Mr. Speaker, from industry to municipalities, that all of this can be done in a very short period of time, they should think again because it will take us some time to rebuild this infrastructure. And I want to tell you why.

When these people were, in the 1980s, campaigning for the Grant Devine Conservatives, as they built up and rang up a \$1 billion deficit every year, every year, Mr. Speaker, spending money that they didn't have, when we took power in 1991, Mr. Speaker — and I brought a little graph, the budget that Grant Devine put through, the last one was just a hair under \$200 million — Mr. Speaker, we had to take some action on highways and other expenditures because this province was bankrupt by that government. It was bankrupt by that government who was supported by the now Leader of the Opposition who wants his nose in the trough. Mr. Speaker, the \$200 million that were committed was deficit . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. The member in his debate has I think crossed the line in terms of reflecting upon another member, and I'd ask him to withdraw the statement before he proceeds.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, again my enthusiasm. I withdraw and apologize for those remarks. The fact of the matter is this was borrowed money, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't money that the government of the day had.

And there were some tough decisions made in 1991, some of them that carried through for many years within this department. That highways budget of '91, in the '92 budget went down to \$165 million. Not because we knew that that infrastructure didn't need the money — we know that, we knew that. But the government had been so mismanaged that we had no alternative. And we had to start balancing budgets and paying down debt so that we could be reducing taxes over a period of time. That's long-term vision. That's long-term planning.

You balance your chequebook and then you pay some of your debt down and then you start reducing taxes. That's a plan, Mr. Speaker. So no one on that side should talk about the lack of a plan after following the Grant Devine administration. Nobody on that side, those right wing people have nothing to say about how a government should be managed and delivered.

So, Mr. Speaker, we get through a period of restraint. Our economy grows. We've got more jobs by the thousands in this province. We've reduced taxes to make this province competitive. What's the result, Mr. Speaker? We have some cash flow. We have some money. So what do we do? Last year \$400 million into the Highways budget, and just the other day we make a commitment to \$5 billion into the transportation system. And what do they say, Mr. Speaker? No plan.

Well you know who didn't say that, Mr. Speaker, was SARM and SUMA, big city mayors, and the construction association. They never said that. They said we like your long-term plan. We like the multi-year plan, and we're onside, and we're going to work with you, and we're going to make this a better system.

Mr. Speaker, I know what members of that opposition are about. It's nothing but a quest for political power, nothing but a

quest for political power. They have no vision. They have no plan other than gaining power.

And, Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Highways critic and he tells me today that they've got no confidence in this government. And I understand that. I understand that they have no confidence in this government because their vision is so myopic that all they can see is a quest for power and a desire for power. And the tax reduction they ignore, and the job numbers they ignore, and the fact that this economy is growing they ignore.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you who isn't ignoring it. The people of Saskatchewan will have an opportunity soon to make a decision. And I know they're gloating over a win in Martensville, and they should do that. They should do that because, Mr. Speaker, they have told us they're going to gain power every year since they formed that government in the dark of night. They haven't done it yet, and they're not going to do it . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . or that party, and they're not going to do it in the near future. It's going to be a long time sitting over there.

And, Mr. Speaker, why I'm interested in this debate today because I wanted to really hear what their commitment was. And I tell you what, I think maybe it's time. I think maybe it's time that we test this legislature. I think maybe it's time that we find out whether or not this Legislative Assembly has confidence in this government.

Mr. Speaker, we're debating a \$5 billion unprecedented vision for this province. And I think therefore, Mr. Speaker, and I move, seconded by the member for Moose Jaw North:

That this Assembly do now proceed to private members' public Bills and orders, adjourned debates, item 1, motion no. 1.

I so move.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

That this Assembly do now proceed to private members' public Bills and orders, adjourned debates, item no. 1, motion no. 1.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those who are opposed to the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members for a standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 11:51 until 12:01.]

The Speaker: — Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Prince Albert Northcote — order please — seconded by the member for Moose Jaw North:

That the Assembly do now proceed to private members' public Bills and orders, adjourned debates, item 1, motion no. 1.

Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 28]

Calvert	Hamilton	Van Mulligen
Lautermilch	Hagel	Serby

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. All members, both sides. Thank you.

Atkinson	Sonntag	Wartman
Forbes	Prebble	Crofford
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Taylor
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Addley	Morin
Borgerson		

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

[Nays — 24]

Wall	Toth	Elhard
McMorris		

The Speaker: — Order, order.

D'Autremont	Krawetz	Hermanson
Bjornerud	Wakefield	Chisholm
Hart	Harpauer	Gantefer
Eagles	Weekes	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Allchurch	Kerpan
Kirsch	Brkich	Morgan
Heppner	Duncan	

Clerk Assistant (Committees): — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion — 28; those opposed — 24.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. We will now proceed to private members' public Bills and orders, adjourned debates, item 1, motion no. 1.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 — Loss of Confidence in the Government

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by Mr. Elhard.]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a great opportunity to stand in the House today and talk about . . . I've got quite a bit of time here. I'm going to talk about a number of things. I'm going to talk about highways and quite a bit about highways. I'm going to talk quite a bit about health care.

But what I want to first talk about . . . It's quite an interesting political move by the New Democratic Party, the NDP Party, to cling on to power for a little bit longer. And it was an interesting move because it was a quick vote. It was a sudden vote. And it was a vote that we weren't expecting. And they did a very good job of catching us off guard.

But I remember another vote that was taking place in this House. I remember a vote that took place in this very House about four years ago. And I remember that vote caught the NDP off guard. In fact I remember the member from Regina Qu'Appelle running into the House with his phone trying to get a hold of the member from Athabasca. I remember many of the members running in, panic stricken on what was going to happen if they lost that vote. And I don't quite remember, I don't know if any of you remember what happened during that vote. During that vote the government lost significantly on an issue, on an issue on economic development.

And it was interesting the next day, the next few days after that vote. And I remember the member from Moose Jaw North standing in his place and giving a rah-rah speech that; oh I can't believe we would have got fooled on this vote. They were coming out of the rafters, and they were coming out of the bushes. That's where all the members were coming out of. And how ashamed they should be and how ashamed they should be of pulling such a surprise vote.

And isn't it funny; now I see the member sitting in his seat all proud, smiling like a Cheshire cat, Mr. Speaker. He is so proud of himself on what a wonderful political move he has made in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It's absolutely amazing because I remember that night. He was sitting about in the very same spot, and the picture on his face, the emotions on his face couldn't have been further from what they are today. He's extremely proud. He's smiling away there with the red face that he's got, but I have never seen such a pale face in my life, in all of my life as that night when the NDP lost the vote. And it was the first time a government has lost a vote in this House in 75 years.

An Hon. Member: — Seventy-nine.

Mr. McMorris: — Seventy-nine years, I stand corrected. The member from Cannington was there. It was 79 years ago that the government on that side of the House lost a vote. And the panic throughout all of those members — I remember hearing stories that they were trying to get members from different establishments, trying to get them into this House so that they

could stand in their place and vote to save what they thought was going to be a falling government. And it was on an issue that has never been more important to this government, an issue on economic development, and they couldn't even fill their seats to beat the opposition — absolutely amazing. And you can see that's the importance and the priority they have put on economic development for the 16 years this government has been in power.

But once again I just . . . And for those members, and I know the member from Lloydminster was working in estimates asking the minister questions and when it came to voting on those estimates, the officials were asked to leave. And there is I think maybe 10 or 11 left in the House. You know, I mean the vote wasn't even close.

So when we called the vote and we said no we're not going to agree with the placement of that money, we don't agree with the economic plan of this government, and then the scrambling started. And that was, I think, a ten-minute bell and scrambling started. I remember the poor Sergeant-at-Arms; he couldn't have stood by the door and throw the cellphones out fast enough as everybody was running in the door with a cellphone trying to get a hold of their members from local establishments from around the province.

In fact I had one member that I found very curious . . . she's been on her feet quite a bit over the last first two days of session . . . was the member from Saskatoon Nutana wasn't here for the vote. Can you believe it? Wasn't here for the vote. She didn't stand in her place and vote in that . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Deputy Speaker, there is a long-standing rule in this House that prevents hon. members in their debate to referring to either the presence or the absence of members either in terms of participation in the House or in terms of voting. The hon. member just made that reference, not for the first time, in his debate. Clearly it's not just a slip of the tongue, and I would ask that the hon. member would abide by the rules of the House and strike that reference. I'm sure, I'm sure he must have some other things that he would want to say in this debate and that he would like to get on to them and quit breaking the rules.

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

Mr. Gantefer: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to speak to the point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, the rule or the consensus that the Government House Leader refers to is referring to members currently in the House or not. In the case of a recorded vote in *Hansard*, it's now part of the public record and as such can be referred to. It was a recorded vote at that time, and so the member's ability to be in attendance for that vote or not would be matter of public record.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I have listened to members from both sides of the House and reminded that we're not to be reflecting

on a vote of the House, or members absent or present during votes. I would think that all members would want to respect that we're not to refer to members who are absent or present in the House, and I would ask the members to get on with the debate before us.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I find that interesting because I certainly remember a number of the people that voted on . . . that voted . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, I'm not referring to anybody . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order, order. I believe the member from Indian Head-Milestone is now in his remarks trying to challenge the ruling from the Chair, and so I would ask him to get to the motion that's before the Assembly.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I do remember that night, and it was a very interesting night as people were scrambling to their chairs. And what I will do is talk about the members that were here, the members that voted that night in favour of the government, and by extension a person would be able to draw a bit of an inference as to who was and who wasn't here.

The Deputy Speaker: — I believe in the ruling it says not to reflect on members absent or present during votes, and I would ask the member now to abide by the rules of this Assembly and get on with the debate before the House.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was a very interesting night, and maybe I'll move on to certain other subject matters such as highways and health care. And there are so many issues that a person can talk about.

And I just thought it was very interesting that the members opposite are sitting there so proud of themselves getting this confidence vote off the paper. And I can certainly understand there's reasons on that side that that might be done, and that is probably is a very good move on their part. Just similar to the issue on the vote that we had a number of years ago, that this government was defeated for the first time in 75 years. And I remember the consternation on their faces and how concerned they were.

And somebody brought up the last couple of votes that really are of significance. I mean, this is a very significant vote in the House on the confidence of the government, and it's extremely significant. I do know that there have been two votes in the province that has already talked to the confidence of this current NDP government.

And I'll certainly . . . and I've talked before about the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy and the fact that he received over 55 per cent of the votes in that constituency. I remember talking about the confidence of that constituency . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member from North Battleford is hollering from his seat: why did we have that vote? We had that vote to replace a member that was no longer wanting to serve in this House. It was as simple as that.

Now we had that vote in a constituency that is traditionally an NDP stronghold — hasn't been the last couple times — but I remember that seat in the last general election. I believe that it

was a very close race, and the polls, especially in the city of Weyburn, went in the favour of the governing party. But since that time, two years past the general election when we had a by-election, polls in the city of Weyburn went strongly for the Sask Party. In fact in that constituency I believe that, in the 2003 general election, the NDP won about 18 or 19 polls out of 21. And in the last by-election in Weyburn we won 18 polls out of 20, a complete flip-flop which, if nothing else, tells me that the people of Weyburn-Big Muddy have absolutely no confidence in this government, Madam Deputy Speaker.

[12:15]

But even more importantly, even more significantly — not that Weyburn-Big Muddy and our young member from Weyburn-Big Muddy, that wasn't significant — but the latest test of this government, the latest test of this government was in Martensville. And we all I think are pretty familiar what happened in Martensville but just . . . It was interesting standing in Warman that night in the . . . where the results were flowing in, and I was absolutely amazed when I saw poll after poll after poll after poll after poll where the results for the governing party, the NDP party, couldn't get up to the number 10 or above.

I would say — and I counted; there was half the polls, half the polls — there was about 43 or 44 polls where the governing party didn't get more than 10 votes. Like I mean . . . And I don't have locations. But even more significantly — and some of the members have beat me to the punch there — is that a couple of the polls . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . a number of the polls, in fact three of the polls, the governing party did not get one single vote out of a whole poll. Can you believe that? Not one single vote.

Now the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow is looking at me quite sternly. And I believe those polls, I think number three, poll no. 4, she was out door knocking in that poll because apparently they did have a couple of votes going into the by-election but — I'm not sure if she was or not — but something had an effect on the voters in poll no. 4 and they didn't get a single vote.

In fact, you know, I remember last year — was it last year or the year before? — the Premier having a big campaign, a big, fat zero. There was posters of the Premier talking about a big, fat zero. Now what was that on? That was on . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . equalization. I think he was talking about a big, fat zero. Well, you know, it would be very interesting to hang those posters up in poll no. 4 and also in poll number . . . the hospital poll, and the Hepburn advance poll, because what they received in those polls was exactly what the Premier talked about, and it describes exactly the confidence that those people in Martensville have of this government and that is a big, fat zero, Madam Deputy Speaker.

But more significantly is just the true numbers, how the people voted in that constituency on whether they have confidence in this government. Seventy-seven point . . . Let me just refer to this again because this will be very useful; 77.32 per cent voted for the Saskatchewan Party. That is the highest number of popular vote any Sask Party — and I would probably submit MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] — has received in

the province. If it isn't, it's darn close to it. It's the highest percentage that we have received.

And in fact right after that by-election the headlines in *The StarPhoenix* read, "Heppner cruises to byelection win." That's exactly what *The StarPhoenix* headline said after that by-election. And cruising to a win would be understating when you have 77.32 per cent of the vote.

Now if that, you know . . . So that leaves a total of about 12.68 per cent of the vote left for the other parties to scrap over. I remember . . . 22.28 or something like that. It's not very darn many anyway, and when you divide it between the other six parties, none of them did very well.

But I think it is significant that the NDP Party, the governing party of the province who's had this province 16 years and have had opportunity after opportunity to make announcements and to improve — whether it's the economy, the highways, the health care, whatever it might be — I would believe that they should have received more than 10.5 per cent of the vote, 10.5 per cent of the vote. That is absolutely amazing.

And what 10.5 per cent of the vote works out to is they received 482 votes. Absolutely amazing! Four hundred and eighty-two votes in a constituency with a voting populace of 8,000 people. There'd be 8,000 or better eligible voters in a constituency of Martensville and the NDP, the governing party, was able to muster 482 votes. Absolutely astonishing.

But they can take some solace from this. They should be very happy with the results in Martensville because they finished second — second — as opposed to Weyburn-Big Muddy where they finished third. And in Weyburn-Big Muddy, I forget exactly, but I believe there were three parties running in Weyburn-Big Muddy so they could have finished third or some people would look at them as finishing last, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Now I think they are very, very . . . They're feeling very confident. They're feeling very confident because in Martensville there were seven parties running and quite frankly I thought, you know, if they finished third out of three parties their chances of finishing five or six out of seven parties were pretty darn good. But they did end up finishing second with 482 votes out of a possible voting populace of over 8,000 people. Absolutely amazing.

And then you know it's interesting after each by-election trouncing, after each by-election slaughter they come out with more policy then. Now they're going to . . . Oh, we've heard the message. And they talked about the PST [provincial sales tax] and a family holiday after Weyburn-Big Muddy. And how did that help them? It didn't help them a bit. And now that they've heard from the people of Martensville it didn't take the member from Prince Albert Northcote very long to get on his feet and say, jeez, we'd better do something about this and, you know, introduce this \$5 billion over 10 years.

You know I think the only way it could have been more effective if he could have said . . . Well let's say over the next 50 years we're going to introduce, I'd say, \$25 billion. Because realistically people don't take this as any sort of a plan

whatsoever.

And I want to talk about highways in a little bit. I don't want to get to that just yet because I have another few comments that I want to say about Martensville and the fact that we have received 77.32 per cent of the vote. That's over . . . well over 3,500 votes compared to the NDP's four hundred and eighty-some votes. Unbelievable plurality, unbelievable plurality.

But I think it has some reflection on what has been in the news over the last couple of weeks and what has been dominating question period. I believe the people in Martensville — and especially the people in Martensville — were sending this government a message. A message on how they have treated the . . . some of the female workers within the civil service, and how they have treated one of their employees that was charged with harassment and convicted of assault and received a \$275,000 payment. And that was what has been made public so far, because we know there's far more costs to this case, far more costs.

It was interesting that in that announcement, when they said that they were going to pay this person \$275,000 for being released from government early, through the member from Regina . . . the former head of the Public Service Commission, Minister of Public Service . . .

An Hon. Member: — Regina Rosemont.

Mr. McMorris: — Regina Rosemont. That's why they said they had to pay this extra money. And it was interesting — through question period yesterday we found that there's going to be far more, far more costs associated with the Carriere harassment case. We feel that . . . And there's certainly lots of evidence to say that it's going to be well over \$500,000 to the public purse.

And I truly believe, because I had the opportunity to get up to Martensville and I knocked on a couple of . . . in a couple of polls in Osler and Hague. And I remember distinctly people saying at the door, what is going on with this Murdoch Carriere case? They just paid \$275,000 to a person that was charged and then convicted of assault, charged with harassment and convicted of assault and is that what this government, is that where this government has got to? And you know, frankly, what do you say to the person? I'm embarrassed that the provincial government got to that point. And I did have to say to them . . . They're saying is that all the cost? And I said I don't believe it will be all the cost. That's all the cost that the government have talked about so far.

But we learned yesterday in question period that his pension is paid for three more years and the government is going to be, the government is going to be on the hook for more pension costs on the back end.

Well, you know, they're hooting and hollering. They're hooting and hollering. Why didn't that come out with the severance? Why didn't that come out? Why didn't the minister — and it was the Minister of Environment, the member from Regina Lakeview that had to answer those questions when they first announced the payment to Carriere — why didn't he come on

and say . . . I mean, we know because we heard of that news scrum and our people were telling us he stuck to the lines. He did a very good job; he stuck to the three or four lines that he was given. But he sure didn't branch out and talk about the whole case. He didn't talk . . . No, I shouldn't say the case, the whole cost to the government because there are certainly much more, many more costs to this provincial government that will be coming out over the next little while.

Some of them . . . We just found out as of yesterday that the pensions will be paid for an extra three years. They keep saying he was a 32-year employee of the government and that is true, but his pension is going to be based on 35 years. And that is an agreement set out by this government and Mr. Carriere. And I am questioning why the government would have to have gone those extra three years, because it is an added cost to the government. They like to talk about only \$275,000 cost, but we know the costs are far greater — far greater. In fact some people are saying as much as a half a million dollars this is going to cost the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. That's absolutely astonishing.

And I can tell you, I don't know many — and I, quite frankly, I would love to know — from that side of the House, how many of those members on the governing side got out and door knocked in the constituency of Martensville. And there is . . . One member has said that he has and I don't doubt it. Two members have said they went out and door knocked in Martensville. And I just hope it wasn't poll no. 4 because remember poll no. 4 was a big, fat zero.

So that's two, two out of a government of 30 members or 29 members. Were there any other members on that side that went out and door knocked? Only two? Only two? The member from . . . The members from Saskatoon, none of them went out to speak and door knock in Martensville? I'm giving them a chance to stand up and say whether they door knocked in Martensville.

Because if they did door knock in Martensville, which I did for two or three days — and I know every other one of my members, when we had time in the evenings, got out and door knocked in Martensville — and I do know that I could ask probably each and every one of those members if the Murdoch Carriere case was addressed on the doorstep, if the Murdoch Carriere case was addressed on the doorstep, and they'll say it was.

And I would like to know from the members opposite, for those of you that got out and actually started knocking on the door to find out what people in this province and in rural Saskatchewan are thinking of their government, are thinking of their government, did any of them get out and door knock and find out what people were thinking? Because if they did, they would stand in their place and they would say that they are thinking of Murdoch Carriere. They were thinking of Murdoch Carriere.

I don't . . . I can't hear what they're saying.

I was out there for a couple of days — three days in fact — talking to people in the constituency of Martensville, and they had some distinct messages.

Well the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow is spouting from her seat. How many days did she go out and door knock? She didn't go out and door knock. Well I did say that she might've door knocked in poll no. 4 or for the advance poll and Heppner. Did she door knock in those areas? No. Maybe she realized, maybe she realized it was going to be a Martensville massacre, is what it was. It was a Martensville massacre.

And so she didn't decide to take her time and go out and door knock. Is that the case? Is that the case? How many of these people, how many of these people who have so much confidence in their government went out and knocked on doors for their party? And I'm amazed that I've only see two hands raised, absolutely amazed.

[12:30]

Because if you would have gone out and door knocked in that constituency, the last opportunity to door knock in a by-election, you would have heard the same stories that we on this side of the House which . . . Each and every one of us were out there door knocking. And we heard about Murdoch Carriere and we heard about absolutely terrible highways, which the government tried to announce in a 10-year floating, balloon cloud plan that they've got which has absolutely no substance to it. They would have heard about property taxes. And the education portion of property taxes were huge. They would have heard the fact that this government is old, tired, and worn-out, that it's time for a change.

They would have heard that every announcement that this government seems to be making right now is absolutely no more about the betterment of this province than it is the betterment of their party. That's the exact reason for any one of their announcements. Their announcements are no more than trying to buy votes in the next general election. And that's exactly what this government has been announcing for the last number of months and probably a year or so.

The Deputy Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I request leave of the House to introduce guests.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked request leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. And I appreciate the accommodation of the member for Indian Head-Milestone, and members, to allow me to introduce some important guests who are important not only just because they're here today but . . . in an ongoing way, but particularly as related to an event which is on the cusp of being an historic event here in the province.

As we all know, the Juno Awards are going to be held for the first time in our province at the end of this month in the city of Saskatoon. And from that the show will be shown literally to over 250 million households around the world. And I'm very,

very pleased to have in our galleries today some folks who are intimately involved in the process.

I'd like to introduce them to you. They are also taking part in the Juno road show event which will occur in the gallery upon adjournment of the House today, and all members are invited to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Sorry, in the rotunda — thank you to the hon. member — that will be taking place in the rotunda today. And all hon. members are invited to join them.

I'd ask them just to either wave or stand when I introduce them individually, and then when I've concluded for all of us to welcome them together.

I'd like to introduce to you Hugh Vassos, who is the host committee director of marketing; to introduce to you the two Co-Chairs of the host committee, Todd Brandt and Diane Boyko. Also a member of the host committee is Ari Avivi. Jordan Cook, is a Saskatoon artist who is here. And an artist that those around Regina and around Saskatchewan and beyond will know is Jack Semple. I'm also pleased to welcome Dan White, and from CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] we have Rhonda O'Grady. CTV is a — as we will all know — is a major sponsor of course of the Juno show. We also have from the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Rhonda Spiess. And I conclude by introducing to you from magic 93 radio, who will be hosting the event today, Steve Chisholm.

Hon. members, I would ask you all to welcome these folks who are either artists themselves or strongly invest their careers and their lives in the arts here in the province of Saskatchewan and intimately connected to what will be, I'm sure, the finest Juno event in the history of the Junos at the end of this month in Saskatoon. Welcome to you all.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the members on this side of the House, we'd like to join with the members on that side and welcome these individuals to their legislature and want to commend them for the work they're doing for the Juno Awards.

This is certainly going to be one of the keynote events in this city or in the province, not just this year but in this decade, and I think it's going to be a wonderful event. And I know it's going to be hugely time consuming for the people that are working, many of them on a volunteer and unpaid basis, and want to encourage them to keep up the good work and not be afraid to ask other volunteers for help. Saskatoon is a great city and filled with a wealth of good people that are wanting to get involved and work on this project. So I want to welcome them and wish them every success as they go forward through the next year. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 — Loss of Confidence in the Government (continued)

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker, and a welcome to the guests in the gallery as well. Where we're at right now is normally at this . . . This is private members' day and normally we would be debating a motion put forward by the opposition today and there's response back and forth.

But the government chose to move to a motion further on in the order paper, a confidence motion of the government which I'm very glad to speak on. I had the opportunity of speaking on this particular motion a couple of times in the fall session, in fact two different occasions. And I have the opportunity of speaking to this motion again for probably, until the Speaker calls the clock. I can sit down I guess before, but when you're talking about the confidence of this government I have an awful lot to say.

And there are no shortage of subject matters to cover when you talk about the confidence of a government, a government that's been here for 16 years or I should say the lack of confidence of a government that has been here for 16 years. And you know we've talk about a couple of different things. We've talked about the Carriere case. We've talked about some of the by-elections that have taken place over the last couple of years in the province.

One of the very telling stories I think of a confidence of a government is when you talk about population. And I know this government doesn't want to talk about population. They like to talk about other things when they measure whether they're successful or not. But I truly believe that most every person in this province looks at whether we're gaining in population or losing population as to whether this province is progressing or regressing.

And under the NDP government over the last five or six years under this NDP government if you use the category, if you use the measuring stick of population as to how well this government has done, there is absolutely no question, no question from people, whether they're urban or rural, that if you measure the success of this government on population it has failed miserably. It has failed absolutely miserably because population in this province under this Premier — the Premier that was elected in '03 as Premier but also took over from the former premier, Mr. Romanow — under his watch, under the current Premier's watch we have seen the population of this province decline year after year after year after year. In fact there has not been one year in the six years I guess that this Premier has been in office that we have seen a population growth in this province.

And I find that very telling. It tells a huge story as to whether people feel confidence in the province, if they feel confident in the government. And if they don't, they tend to vote — not like

they did in Martensville or Weyburn-Big Muddy— but they tend to vote with their feet and they leave the province because they don't feel that this government has provided the opportunities that they need to stay in the province.

In fact I remember last year or the year before, the Premier even saying that we haven't offered as many opportunities as what we should have — absolutely not. And you just have to look at the numbers. For example in 2001, shortly after the Premier took over, we had a net out-migration — and this is just from the category, the age category of 15 to 34. In the age category of 15 to 34 we lost 6,101 people out of our province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And you compare that to other provinces such as the province to our west, to the west of us, Alberta. They increased their population by over 15,000.

Now I know this government, this NDP government hates to be compared to the government beside it, the Conservative government beside it, whether it was a Ralph Klein government or now the new Premier. And I know they absolutely detest being compared to Alberta. So why don't we compare it to Manitoba? Why don't we compare it to another NDP government to our east, Manitoba?

In 2001 Manitoba lost 1,600 people compared to the 6,100 people that we lost. It's absolutely astounding. We lost about 5,000 more people in that one year to out-migration, in the categories of age 15 to 35. And I can go from year to year what the out-migration has been. But you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you go through the six years that this NDP government has been in power, we'll see that there has been over 18,000, almost 19,000 people leave this province. That's a net out-migration of over almost 19,000 people.

And you compare that . . . I know they don't want to compare it to Alberta, but it's only natural we compare it to the province to our west and the province to our east. And when you compare it to Alberta, over those six years they had a net in-migration over 60,000 people. Sixty thousand people would be, if we had that many people moving to our province in those six years, it would be our third largest city in just six years. Our third largest city in just six years moving to the province. But instead what we have seen is we have seen about 19,000 people — that's like an Estevan and Weyburn combined, that's like, 18,000 would be like . . . I'm not even sure of the population of North Battleford, but in that ballpark, leaving the province under this NDP government.

In Manitoba they experienced out-migration as well, and I'm certainly not saying that there aren't some issues there because there were some issues. They experienced an out-migration of about 7,600 people — that's 18,000 in Saskatchewan and 7,600 in Manitoba.

And you compare Manitoba to Saskatchewan. We both have had NDP governments. But you know, with all due respect to Manitoba, they have a fair amount going for them, but nothing like what we have going for us in our province if you ask me. And this is my own personal opinion and I believe the opinion of most everybody on this side of the House.

The potential in the province is huge. The potential for this province to be a leader in Western Canada, to follow along and

even beat Alberta at some point is there. I'm not saying that Manitoba does not have natural resources but they don't have it anywhere close to what we have here in Saskatchewan.

There's been something holding us back. And I believe the people in Martensville know what's been holding us back. And I believe the people in Indian Head-Milestone know what's holding us back. As well as the people of Weyburn-Big Muddy know exactly what is holding us back.

And you know it was interesting again as I was door knocking, and not only in Martensville, but I know in the last month, I every year have . . . rent space in all the different communities, 15 different communities in my constituency. I'll rent space in a hall or the seniors' centre or whatever it might be. I advertise it in all the papers and we put up posters in all the post offices and say we're going to be coming to Indian Head for example, or Fort Qu'Appelle or Rouleau or Briercrest, if you have any concerns or you just want to come out and chat with the MLA, I'll be there for two or three hours in every community. And we just finished going through that.

And I'm amazed at the optimism everybody has for this province. It is just rampant throughout the province, and it was evident in Martensville. But everybody, people ask me at the end of the tour, after we're done, what is the biggest question, what's the question, what's on everybody's mind? And the question, bar none, that every community that I went to and the people that came out as we were sitting around, they would always get to, when is the next election?

This province needs to see the potential. It needs to experience the potential that we have. And people just don't feel that it has been anywhere close to, we haven't gone anywhere close, to where we need to be. And they all are looking at the current government as the reason.

The member from . . . the former minister of the Public Service Commission had something to say. Unfortunately I missed that.

But regardless, they over and over again talk about when is the next general election. And you know, I think that most people are hoping as spring . . . Hope springs eternal. They're hoping for the spring. But I don't think this government will have the confidence because after Martensville . . . to call an election in the spring. I believe it's probably going to be the fall before the current Premier screws up the courage to call an election. He certainly saw what happened in Martensville. He's certainly seen what has happened in Weyburn-Big Muddy.

I think if he is talking to people on the streets like we have been talking to people on the streets, whether it's through the coffee parties that I hold or through door knocking in the constituency of Martensville, I think he's probably getting the same message. It's tired. It's old. It's a government that needs to be changed. And that's exactly what I'm hearing over and over again. And that's why people are continually asking me when the next general election is.

[12:45]

You know, well the member from . . . I just heard him mention about the performance this morning during question period and

after question period. I would say that the performance by some of the members on that side of the House today, they have been hearing the message. They have been hearing the message that this government is old, tired, and worn out, and people want a change. Because I don't know any other reason why they'd be reacting the way they reacted to some of the questions that we were questioning the government on.

People are wanting a change and they're knowing people want a change, and they're fighting back as hard as they possibly can. There's a whole pile of emotion here today, and that's fine. But I think it's completely driven by the fact that they know what the polls are saying and what the people are saying throughout this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I do want to talk a little bit . . . they keep saying, well are you going to talk about transportation and highways? I would love to talk about transportation and highways. I have quite a bit of time left to talk about where we are in this province today and where we need to get to.

I certainly was interested when the minister stood up the day after the Martensville trouncing, the Martensville massacre, whatever you want to call it, when we received 77 — did I say that before — 77.32 per cent of the vote, and the governing party received 10.5.

I found it was extremely interesting that the day after . . . in fact I believe the news conference was at 10 o'clock in the morning, 10:30. By 10 or 10:30 they had thrown together quite a flashy brochure which by the way too I just . . . for people that haven't seen it, I was very glad to see the first brochure that I have seen come out with Saskatchewan, exclamation mark. That, you know, that was about . . . what was that? A hundred and ten . . . a million and a half dollars to put the exclamation mark on the end of Saskatchewan. But anyways, so this is the first publication that I've seen that's going to draw so many people to the province.

And you know I can't quite see it yet why that is going to draw so many people, why they're hanging they're hats on that for drawing population to the province. But that is on this brochure talking about highways and what this government wants to do going forward as far as the highways in our province.

And it was really interesting that . . . I listened to a little bit of the Minister of Highways when he was speaking in the debate earlier before they moved to the motion. And he was talking about the infrastructure and the highways and those, and how we need to throw a lot of money to improve them because, quite frankly, they're in terrible, terrible condition and they have been neglected for 16 years. And why has that been? Who has neglected them? It certainly hasn't been, you know, the poor transport guy driving up and down the highways paying his taxes every day. It's this provincial government that has neglected the highways for 16 years and after the . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — I apologize to the member. Why is the member for Regina Dewdney on his feet?

Mr. Yates: — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — The hon. member for

Regina Dewdney has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — I would invite the member for Regina Dewdney to proceed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 25 wonderful children from Wilfrid Walker School in my constituency. They are among the brightest and best students in all of Saskatchewan and among the best in the city of Regina without doubt.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are accompanied today by two wonderful teachers, Joanna Sanders Bobiash who many of the members will know, and Ms. Sharon Solheim who is our music teacher. And these students are here today to participate in the Juno celebration we're going to have just outside the doors of this Chamber once the House adjourns today.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to introduce all these wonderful children to all members in the Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble): — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 — Loss of Confidence in the Government (continued)

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The government has talked about highways and certainly we're glad to see our motion come forward and interested that the government wanted to move right away to a confidence motion that was on the paper and not continue on with the debate on highways and face the questions that they should have been facing; face the questions that they should have been facing on their issues around highways. Because when I look at transportation for economic advantage and I go through this brochure that they had done immediately after the Martensville election that . . . Did I mention before that we got 77.32 per cent of the vote and they were only at 10.5? I mentioned that? Okay, thank you.

What I did want to mention though is in this brochure it talks about the time is now. In other words for the last 16 years it wasn't the time. The time is now but for the last 16 years under this government, it wasn't the time and that's why we let things deteriorate as much as we have, especially in rural Saskatchewan. But the time is now because I think we're months away from a general election. So I think you could read right into that the time is now because a general election is just

around the corner. That's why the time is now. And we've had opportunity after opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and unfortunately this government hasn't done it.

I can tell you that in the constituency that I represent, Highway 339 is a major link that feeds the town of Briercrest and around to Avonlea and Claybank where there is a national heritage site. The Claybank Brick Plant is on Highway 339 and this government has done nothing to fix that highway. It has deteriorated to the point that I believe that had the weather not changed as quickly as it did in the fall, that those people would be driving on a gravel road right now.

They've taken that highway out of service and turned it back to gravel when what they should be doing is going the other way and at the very, very least restoring it to the thin membrane, but I would truly say restoring it to the full heavy-load surface that it needs to be because that is a huge agricultural area that needs to be serviced with fertilizer, with fuel, the amount of grain that's being hauled out of there, and they need a road that is suitable for the businesses that are along that highway. Three thirty-nine needs to be addressed.

Well the time is now because a general election is just around the corner. And we've seen that on announcement after announcement. People around this province . . . That was the other thing that I found really, really quite interesting. I'm surprised they didn't do it four days before the general election because . . . or not the general election. I'm surprised they didn't do it four or five days before the election in Martensville because I remember a situation in Weyburn-Big Muddy.

I believe that they had Souris Valley, that they wanted to . . . They thought this was going to be the saviour for their NDP candidate. Let's throw \$4 million into saving Souris Valley because that would be the saviour for their poor NDP candidate which I know they were polling and seeing that he was trailing in the polls. So we'll inject \$4 million. That should buy enough votes to shore up that maybe we don't finish third. At least we would finish second. But unfortunately \$4 million didn't get them up from third to second; it left them at third.

And I was interested, maybe this \$5 billion over 25 years is it or how many? I know it's a long ways out. I mean it's so far out you can't even see it. Ten years I think it is, 10 or 20 years . . .

An Hon. Member: — Ten years.

Mr. McMorris: — Ten years for \$5 billion. It is so far out but if he could have announced that four or five days earlier, just before the vote in Martensville, it would have been interesting to see what it would have done to those numbers. I'm thinking instead of 10.5 we might have seen 8.5. We would have seen the Liberals bounce a little bit. So if they did learn anything, they learned in Weyburn-Big Muddy that we shouldn't do it on the 11th hour. We'll do it at 12:30 the day after the by-election and see if that will help them, and it hasn't.

But the whole point of this is that the government, this NDP government has not had a plan for highways over the last 16 years. The Premier has said it. The Minister of Highways has said it. Well the Minister of Highways is reading his BlackBerry and saying that's not true. Well we know it is true.

The Premier said those very words at the news conference the day after the Martensville by-election.

And he said, we didn't have a plan. We're up from project to project. It was on an ad hoc basis and no long-term plan, which I know from as long as I have been the member from Indian Head-Milestone. And we have met with the highway construction association. They said one of the problems with this government is they have no long-term plan.

So obviously the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote realized we better have a long-term plan. It's so long — 10 years, \$5 billion. You know, the only thing that could have been better, the only thing that could have been better was 10 billion over 20 years. Why didn't you try that? Or maybe it could have been 15 billion over 30 years. That would have got you more press perhaps. But it was 5 million over 10 . . . 5 billion over 10 years with absolutely no plan on how they're going to spend the money.

But even more importantly, if you look at what we're spending on highways right now — \$410 million a year — and you extrapolate that out without inflation, if you extrapolate that out without inflation, you get \$4.1 billion. So he's really, you know . . . And that's without inflation. You put inflation in there, and especially over the last year look at the increase in fuel costs. The increase in fuel costs which goes into construction costs . . . When you put into consideration the increase in pavement and all of that, because oil goes into pavement, and the increase in all of that, I don't believe that at \$5 billion you'll see one extra cent that won't be eaten up by the inflated costs . . . not inflated, but the increase in costs — not that they're artificially inflated — but the increase in costs by construction companies that are building roads. It will eat up every cent that this government thinks that it is putting towards highways.

Now I remember when I was first elected, the government had a long-term plan. They said they had a long-term plan for highways on what it was going to be. The first couple of years they were going to spend . . . You know I can't remember the number, but like three . . . They were going to . . . Say they were going to spend 3.5 billion, I think, over 10 years. But the first 3 or 4 or 5 years they didn't get anywhere close to the average that they would have to spend to catch up. And so in the last couple of years, because of inflation, they're spending more. But they didn't meet their target. They absolutely didn't meet their target.

This is just another classic example of the government. They're thinking that in 10 years people won't really remember the promise. Well they're not going to have to worry because they're not going to be in government after the next eight months, Mr. Speaker, because I believe that in 10 years, \$5 billion is going to be far short. In fact it will be because it doesn't even come up, catch up with the true cost, the inflation cost that construction workers or road company . . . construction companies are going to be facing into the future.

But I truly believe this is going to be a vote of confidence on this provincial government, a vote of confidence by members in this House on this provincial government. But I truly believe that people around this province, the less than 1 million people — unfortunately I have to say that — the less than 1 million

people in this province, which was greater than 1 million when that Premier took over power, the less than 1 million people cannot wait for a general election. Because they will then tell this government whether they have confidence in it. And I can tell you, you're going to be waiting. This government will wait as long as it possibly can. Because they know the province, the people of this province, no longer have confidence in this government and neither do the members on this side of the House have confidence in that government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. McMorris: — And it will be very interesting to see how each one of those members vote. Because I do know, I do know that there are members sitting on that side of the House, that if their true feelings were able to be expressed today, they would not vote for that provincial government . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. McMorris: — I do know, I do know that there are members on that side of the House that are sitting behind that Premier that absolutely do not have confidence of that Premier and if they were able to have a free vote, if they were able to have a free vote, that they would certainly vote against this provincial government.

But I know why they don't want to. Because they know that if they vote against this Premier right now and defeat the government, if they vote and defeat the government they will no longer have a job. Because after the general election, the next general election, half of them will not have a job after the next general election, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I guess, Mr. Speaker, I am asked to table the document that was used during question period today. So I table this document now.

So regardless of what the results are today — and I think it's going to be close; in fact we could possibly pull this one off, I think, especially if members on that side vote with their conscience and not by what they're being whipped into — if they vote with their conscience I think we could be going to a general election, oh, just in a couple of hours if they truly believe and if they truly express their views as to whether they have confidence in this Premier and the government that he has run over the last 16 years.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. It now being two minutes before the ordinary closing time, I will call a halt to this debate on this motion and we will dispose of this motion. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Cypress Hills, seconded by the member for Indian Head-Milestone:

That this Assembly no longer has confidence in the Premier and his government.

Those who favour the motion, say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Oh, pardon me. Those opposed to the motion, say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I do believe . . . Call in the members for a standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 13:01 until 13:02.]

The Speaker: — Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Cypress Hills, seconded by the member for Indian Head-Milestone:

That this Assembly no longer has confidence in the Premier and his government.

Those who favour the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 25]

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

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

[Nays — 28]

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

The Speaker: — Order. We'll continue.

Morin Borgerson

Clerk Assistant: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour, 25; those opposed, 28.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion lost. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:03.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Lorne Calvert
Premier

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. David Forbes
Minister of Labour
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Water Corporation

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

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Minister Responsible for Liquor and
Gaming Authority
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Energy Conservation
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