



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

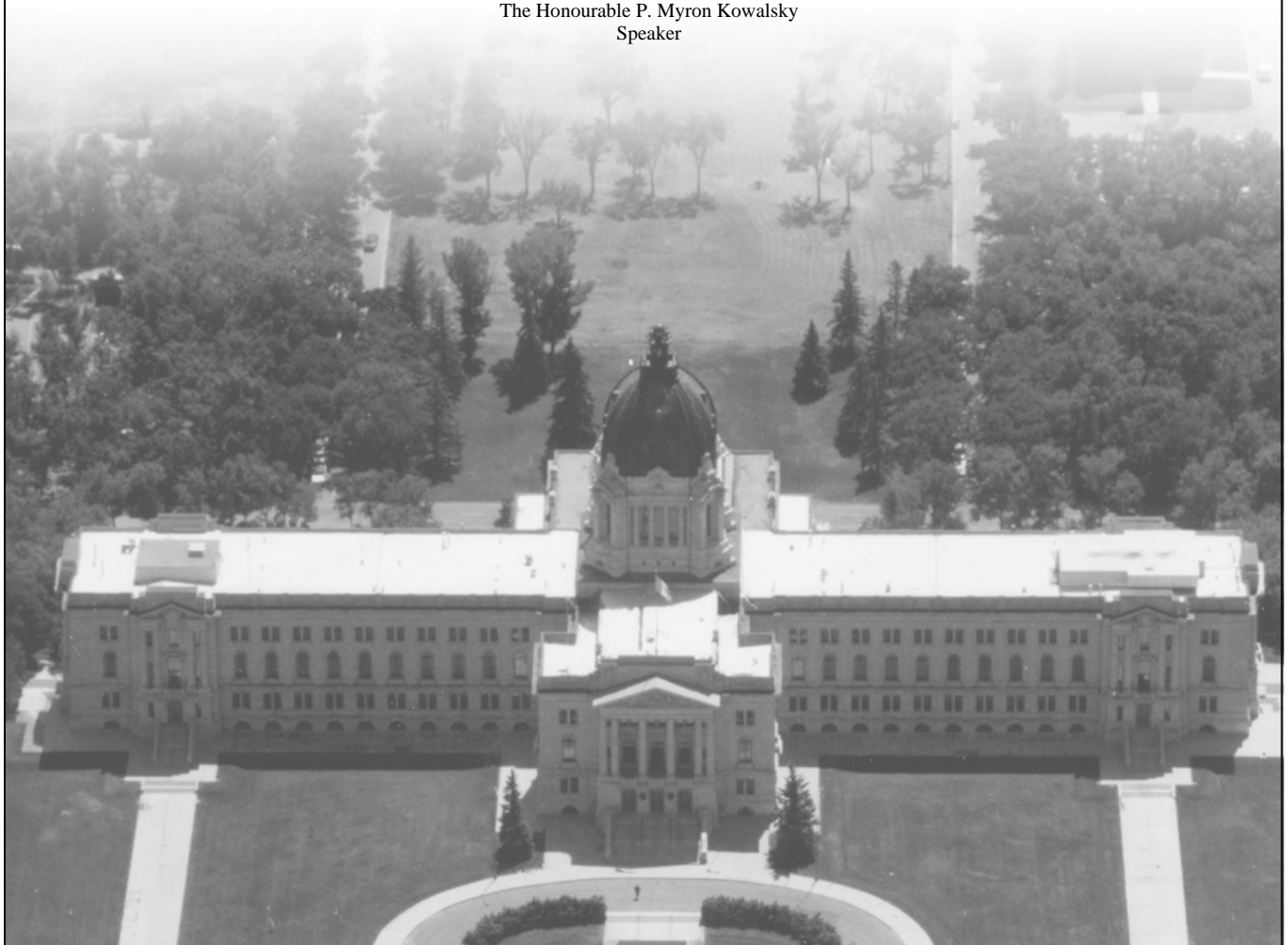
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Camera Malfunction

The Speaker: — Before routine proceedings, I regret to advise the Assembly that the robotics on our cameras have experienced a failure in that they are not able to automatically focus on any individual member while the member is speaking.

The option that I wish to follow at this time, with leave of the Assembly, would be to establish a temporary guideline and that is that the cameras each have a broad focus: one camera on the total opposition so that the opposition member who is speaking can be seen, one camera fixed on the total government side so that the member who is speaking can be seen — of course all other members will also be seen — and the third camera will focus on the Clerk's table and the Chair. I have leave of the Assembly for that? I thank the members.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I introduced a petition last week which I hope to carry on with today. The petitions, three pages of which contain signatures, are just a sample of the 619 individuals who have signed these petitions concerning the closure of the SaskPower office in Shaunavon. The prayer reads as follows:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

As indicated, Mr. Speaker, today's petitions are signed by individuals from the community of Shaunavon. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise today again on behalf of people who are concerned about Highway 310. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 310 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth and tourism in Foam Lake, Fishing Lake, Kuroki, and surrounding areas.

The people who have signed this petition are from Kuroki,

Margo, Wadena, and Lintlaw. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition to maintain full service of the SaskPower office at Rosetown. Mr. Speaker, among the many concerns the petitioners have is that the banks cannot accept payment if the customer doesn't have documentation — a service which the office supplies. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition reads:

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

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, all of the signatures on this petition come from the fine community of Rosetown and I'm pleased to present it on their behalf.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are very concerned with this government's action in turning a portion of Highway No. 22 into gravel. 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 maintain Highway 22 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Earl Grey area families and businesses.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signators to this petition come from the communities of Duval, Bulyea, Earl Grey, Strasbourg, and Raymore. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have a number of pages of petitions of citizens that are concerned with the access road to Bruno. 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 the Bruno access road off of Highway No. 5.

And the signatures come from a number of communities of people who tried to travel that highway to Bruno. And they are from Annaheim, Carrot River, Colonsay, Humboldt, St. Brieux, Muenster, Lake Lenore, St. Benedict, Carmel, and of course from the town of Bruno itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I stand to present a petition on behalf of people from my constituency who are very concerned about the condition of Highway 18. 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 is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Beaubier, Lake Alma, Minton, Tribune, Gladmar, Radville, Weyburn, and Estevan. I so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition from citizens opposed to possible health care service cuts in Biggar. The prayer reads:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition surrounding the truly tragic circumstances around the death of Doug Bonderud and the lack of acceptance of responsibility by this NDP government. I will read the prayer for relief:

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

The petitioners today live in the constituencies of Saskatoon Nutana, Saskatoon Riversdale, and Saskatoon Silver Springs.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

today I rise with a petition from citizens of rural Saskatchewan that are extremely concerned about the potential closure of their lab facility in the Lafleche and District Health Centre. 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 actions to ensure that lab services are continued at the Lafleche and District Health Centre.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by some very concerned citizens from the communities of Lafleche, Limerick, and Meyronne. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to read a petition from the citizens in the area of Highway 368 that are concerned with the 4 miles south of Lake Lenore to 4 miles south of St. Brieux and which has seriously declined over the last number of years. And the prayer reads as follows:

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.

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Humboldt, Lake Lenore, and Watson. I so present.

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

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Saskatchewan Highways employees that 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 Simpson. I so present.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to rise in the House today to present a petition calling for the widening of Highway 5, a highway which travels through the width of my constituency of Saskatoon Southeast. I will read the prayer for relief:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today and present a petition signed by people in the Southeast of the province regarding the condition of Highway 18. And I'll read the prayer:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the people of Beaubier and Lake Alma, and I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 33 ask the government the following question:

How many acute care beds are currently occupied by patients waiting for placement in long-term care facilities in the Cypress Health Region?

I have the same question for the other 12 health regions in the province.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 33 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: how many registered nursing vacancies are currently in the Saskatoon Health Region, health authority, and is funding included for those vacant positions in the region's current budget?

I have the same question for the other 12 health authorities around the province, Mr. Speaker.

As while I'm on my feet, I have a couple of more sets of questions. I give notice that I shall on day no. 33 ask the

government the following question:

To the Minister of Learning: what is the cost for a physician residency spot at the College of Medicine?

And on day no. 33 I give notice that I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: what is the cost for a physician training seat at the College of Medicine?

Mr. Speaker, a couple more questions I have. I give notice that I shall on day no. 33 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: what is the total amount of money spent on recruitment and retention initiatives for all health care professionals combined for the fiscal year of 2005-2006?

I have the same question on retention issues for the year 2006-2007. I so present.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have quite a number of questions for the government opposite.

The first question, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 33 ask the government the following questions:

To the Premier: did the deputy minister to the Premier, the deputy minister of the Environment, and/or the Chair of the Public Service Commission brief the Premier or any member of the Premier's staff regarding the Murdoch Carriere harassment allegations, the subsequent harassment investigation, the Gillies report, and the subsequent disciplinary action prior to April 1, 2003? And if so, on what dates?

Mr. Speaker, I also have a question to the Minister Responsible for the Public Service. On day 33 I'll ask the government the following questions:

Did the deputy minister to the Premier, the deputy minister of the Environment, and/or the Chair of the Public Service Commission brief the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission or any member of the minister's staff regarding the Murdoch Carriere harassment allegations, the subsequent harassment investigation, the Gillies report, and subsequent disciplinary action prior to April 1, 2003? And if so, what dates?

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on day no. 33 I'll ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: prior to October 2002, did Murdoch Carriere ever receive any form of disciplinary action as a result of any harassment allegations, and if so what disciplinary action did he receive and on what dates?

On day 33, Mr. Speaker, I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: how many times and on what dates did the Minister of the Environment meet with Murdoch Carriere while he was in his position as director of fire management and forest protection?

Mr. Speaker, on day 33 I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: prior to the nine women which received a government settlement, how many complaints were filed against Murdoch Carriere, on what date were these complaints filed, and what actions were taken regarding these complaints?

Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of the Environment which I will ask on day 33:

Who was the government-appointed lawyer assigned to the nine women in the settlement case with the Government of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Speaker, I have a series of questions that I will ask on day 33:

To the Minister of Environment: what was the written policy on computer disposal for the fiscal year 2002-2003?

I have similar questions with all the fiscal years, including the present, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission. I shall ask on day 33:

Over the course of Carriere's employment with the Government of Saskatchewan, how many complaints of harassment were filed against Carriere, how many of these complaints were founded, and of those founded what type of discipline was awarded in each instance?

Mr. Speaker, also to the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, on day 33 I shall ask the following question:

Over the course of Murdoch Carriere's career with the Government of Saskatchewan, in what capacity, position, and location did Carriere work, and what were the yearly timelines in each new capacity, position, or location?

Mr. Speaker, I have a series of questions dealing with a number of fiscal years. The question is this. I shall ask on day 33:

To the Minister of the Environment: for the fiscal year '92-93, were there any allegations of harassment against Murdoch Carriere by any Environment department employee and if so, how many and how was each one handled?

I have the same questions, Mr. Speaker, for each fiscal year through to 2002-2003.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister responsible to the public service. On day 33 I shall ask the following question:

In which year would Murdoch Carriere have been eligible for full government pension?

And, Mr. Speaker, on day 33 I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: will Murdoch Carriere be receiving a full government pension in the settlement made with the government?

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I have one question. On day 33 I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Environment: were there flight logs kept on any government-paid trips taken by Murdoch Carriere during his career with the Government of Saskatchewan, and if so will these documents be tabled?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to present to you and through you to all members of the legislature, the large number of people in the galleries — both the public and your gallery and a few over here. I'd like to introduce each of them by name, but unfortunately my memory retention classes haven't worked that good so I'm going to omit that particular item. But, Mr. Speaker, these individuals represent farmers and producers and business people from the southwest part of the province. They've come from communities and constituencies right from the Alberta border to just southwest of Regina. They're here to plead their case for assistance as a result of drought that has impacted their operations recently.

And I would like to salute particularly Doug Davidson, the gentleman who is heading up the southwest drought disaster committee who has coordinated this effort here today, and I would like us all to welcome this group of producers to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to welcome those who have travelled from a distance in the Southwest to be here in the legislature to put forward their case. I met with a group of them prior to the session and we talked about the solutions that we see in front of us and the timing on those, Mr. Speaker. And I think that there has been a lot of commitment to working through this. And so I would ask others to join me in

welcoming them to their legislature and to thank them for their consistent work on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to join my colleague and the minister in welcoming the southwest drought committee to their Legislative Assembly. A lot of these people are friends and neighbours and I do realize the hardships that people are going through.

We are particularly pleased to see them here today because of the inaction of the NDP [New Democratic Party] government over the last number of months on this file. So in order to get a little bit of attention I'm very, very pleased to see you all coming to the Legislative Assembly today, to your legislature. So I would ask again that people welcome the southwest disaster drought committee to their Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a guest in your gallery whom I'm sure you will recognize. This a long-time broadcaster in the Prince Albert area. For nearly 50 years people in Prince Albert and district woke up to the sound of CKBI's *Wake Up Shake Up Show* and the host, Jack Cennon.

Jack is very well known in our province. He has been involved in many initiatives. He has been inducted as a Member of the Order of Canada. He has been the former president of the Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce. He is a pioneer in addictions treatment. He even one time slipped into politics and was a member . . . no, was actually a candidate for the Progressive Conservative Party in a national election. Jack as well has been a member of the National Parole Board. He is one of the Kinsmen who is responsible in no small way for launching Telemiracle. And most importantly he's a favourite son of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

With Jack today is his wife Darlene and business associates Robert Condon and Susan Raymond. The group is currently visiting Regina meeting with First Nations leaders concerning promising new treatment options for children suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Jack, Darlene Cennon, Robert Condon, and Susan Raymond. Welcome Jack.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member from Prince Albert Northcote in welcoming Jack Cennon to the Assembly. You know we didn't live in Prince Albert but close enough that the *Wake Up Shake Up Show* woke up and shook up more than the people of Prince Albert.

It certainly is an icon in the broadcasting business, and not only in his professional career but his volunteerism with Telemiracle. We certainly have seen the tremendous good work that is a result of those pioneers who had the foresight to provide this kind of service to our great province. So on behalf of the official opposition, welcome to your Assembly, Jack. It's great to see you here.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add my welcome to Jack Cennon, also my welcome to the farmers from the Southwest.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House two constituents from Saskatchewan Rivers. We don't often get visitors down because it's a long travel but I would like to introduce to you first of all Jaclyn St. Denis — if Jaclyn would give a wave. Jaclyn is 13 years old. She's in grade 8 at Rivier Academy. She has a number of special interests which includes dancing at the Performing Arts Warehouse in Prince Albert.

She's also a volunteer, puts in many hours of volunteer work at the safe shelter for women in Prince Albert, and Mr. Speaker, she has a very keen interest in politics. Her plan is to study law and at some point go into politics. She hasn't decided yet whether that would be provincial or federal, but it has crossed her mind that she could some day be the first woman premier of the province.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Borgerson: — Mr. Speaker, she is chaperoning her mother Ann St. Denis who is here as well, and she is a national representative for the Canadian Union of Public Employees. I would like all members to welcome Jaclyn and Ann St. Denis to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's already been mentioned there's a number of producers from the Southwest, but I noticed in your gallery, there's one from the Southeast. And that would be my great uncle, Max White. And he's joining us today in your gallery. And true to form, through my entire life he has been a great uncle, a wonderful man, and I'd like to ask all members to welcome him here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Team Saskatchewan Succeeds at 2007 Canada Winter Games

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few weeks ago I had a great pleasure and a great privilege of bringing greetings to the members of Team Saskatchewan and wishing them good luck before their departure to Whitehorse to participate in the 2007 Canada Winter Games. Well, Mr. Speaker, the winter games wrapped up on Saturday, and I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly today and congratulate each and every Team Saskatchewan member on a job well done.

They were worthy ambassadors of their individual sports and worthy ambassadors of this great province. Mr. Speaker, Team Saskatchewan was 344 members strong: 259 athletes, 65 coaches and managers, 16 mission staff and — because there is a big culture component to the games — four Saskatchewan artists, all under the leadership of Chef de Mission, Ross Lynd. Many of the team's families made the trip north as well, both to support our athletes and to experience the spirit of the games for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Team Saskatchewan's final medal count was 9 gold, 13 silver, and 15 bronze for a total of 37 medals. This is an excellent showing — as a matter of fact one of the best ever. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Team Saskatchewan on a job well done representing their sports, their arts, and their province at the 2005 Canada Winter Games.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[14:00]

Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

Mr. D'Autremont: — Merci, Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée. Aujourd'hui est la première journée de la neuvième annuelle Rendez-vous de la Francophonie. Cette célébration continuera jusqu'à 25 mars.

Ici dans le province de Saskatchewan, nous sommes fiers de notre héritage culturel et la communauté francophone a joué un grand rôle dans l'histoire du province.

Les prochaines 13 jours, les citoyens du Saskatchewan et du Canada viennent ensemble pour fêter les plusieurs contributions de la communauté francophone. Pendant la célébration de la Rendez-vous de la Francophonie cette année, nous célébrons les plusieurs contributions du peuple des Premières Nations et les Métis. C'est un honneur aujourd'hui de la part de l'Opposition Officielle de participer aux célébrations de Rendez-vous.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the first day of the ninth annual Rendez-vous de la Francophonie. This celebration will continue until March 25. Here in the province of Saskatchewan, we are proud of our cultural heritage, and the francophone community has played a large role in the history of this province.

In the next 13 days, the citizens of Saskatchewan and of Canada

will come together to celebrate the many contributions of the francophone community. During the celebration of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie this year, we will be celebrating the many contributions of First Nations and Métis people. It is an honour today on behalf of the Official Opposition to participate in the Rendez-vous celebrations.]

I would like to encourage citizens from across the province to join with the more than 20,000 Saskatchewan francophones in celebrating Rendez-vous. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the weeks of March 9 to March 25 have officially been proclaimed les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie.

Les Rendez-vous rendent hommage à la richesse de la langue française et de la culture francophone. Dans ce contexte, j'aimerais exprimer ma fierté en reconnaissant le rôle de leadership que les organismes communautaires francophones ont joué en matière de diversité culturelle à l'échelle nationale.

[Translation: The Rendez-vous pays homage to the richness of the French language and francophone culture. In this context, I would like to express my pride in recognizing the leadership role that francophone community organizations have played in matters of cultural diversity on the national scale.]

Over the last couple of years, community representatives have travelled the province, meeting citizens and discussing the importance of diversity in their own francophone communities and in the community at large. These consultations led to a declaration of inclusiveness that invited French speakers, regardless of their origins, to actively participate in their communities as proud Fransaskois.

Partout au pays, ces expressions claires de citoyenneté est citée comme un exemple à suivre. Ces actions, associés à notre collaboration continué avec les Fransaskois sur le plan de l'immigration, contribuent à consolider notre réputation comme province ouverte et accueillante pour les nouveaux citoyens provenant du Canada et du monde entier.

[Translation: Across this country, these clear expressions of citizenship are cited as an example to follow. These actions, along with our continued collaboration with the Fransaskois on the level of immigration, contribute to the consolidation of our reputation as an open and welcoming province for new citizens coming from within Canada and around the world.]

Mr. Speaker, March 20, International Francophonie Day, is the focal point for the two weeks of festivities celebrating the French language and culture. I encourage all my colleagues to take the opportunity to celebrate les Rendez-vous à la Francophonie.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatoon Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday morning, I had the privilege of attending the Saskatoon Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, the largest of its kind ever to be held in Saskatoon, and we're told the largest of its kind ever to be held in Canada with over 2,300 people in attendance.

It was an honour to participate, to pay tribute to Saskatchewan soldiers and police officers who've lost their lives in the line of duty during the course of the last year. They include of course, Mr. Speaker, four soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan: Corporal Shane Keating of Dalmeny; Corporal David Braun of the Raymore area; Corporal Bryce Keller and Master Corporal Jeffrey Walsh of Regina; and RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] constables, Robin Cameron and Marc Bourdages who tragically lost their lives this summer after being shot near Spiritwood.

Mr. Speaker, I will note that Mrs. Keller has told me that it's very important for her and the families that their sons, that their children's sacrifice be honoured and not forgotten, and that's exactly what happened on Saturday morning.

I'd like to thank Mayor Don Atchison for his leadership in reinstating the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in that city, and the amazing team of volunteers led in no small way by a gentleman by the name of Don Funk for putting it together.

I'd also like to thank the hard work of representatives of the Canadian Forces base Dundurn and Canadian Tire who donated hundreds of hockey sticks and pucks to Saskatoon's Kinsmen Inner City Hockey League as part of the event.

I would invite all members of this Assembly to join with the opposition in congratulating and thanking all of those who were involved in putting on a very successful Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Scott Collegiate's Basketball Successes

Hon. Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Scott Collegiate has earned itself quite a reputation in junior basketball. Though it's a small high school compared to others in Regina, Scott's boys' and girls' junior basketball teams have enjoyed a lot of success.

Both teams, Mr. Speaker, recently competed in the city finals of their respective categories. The boys found themselves pitted against the Balgonie Greenall Griffins at the University of Regina Centre for Kinesiology, Health and Sport for the coveted Regina Intercollegiate Basketball League junior title.

The girls, Mr. Speaker, took on the Luther Lions in the RIBL's [Regina Intercollegiate Basketball League] junior small schools

final. The success of Scott's girls' team was particularly remarkable considering that the program was only established two short years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate coaches, Corey Matthews and Bill Nagel, and captain, Brandon Ironchild, with the junior boys' team, and coaches, Jennie Davies and Keely Skrypnik, and captain, Ashton Knipfel, of the girls' teams for their dedication to their respective teams and for their great success. The Scott Collegiate Blues have made the entire Regina north central community very proud. Great work, Scott Blues. Next year, all the way. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Highway 368 Fundraising Dinner

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I had the honour of attending the Highway 368 supper in Lake Lenore. Nearly 150 people packed into the Lake Lenore community centre for supper and to hear local committee reports on efforts to have work done on Highway 368.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the charge per couple for the dinner was \$36.80, while refreshments were \$3.68. Much to everyone's disappointment though, the committee reported that they had gotten nowhere with the current NDP government. Those at the dinner and residents of the area are concerned that if something isn't done soon, Highway 368 could be closed this spring due to impassable conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Highway 368 is the lifeline of the communities of Lake Lenore and St. Brieux and all the small outlying towns along the way. St. Brieux is a pocket of manufacturing, and it is home to Bourgault Industries, Tillage Tools, Dry Air, Free Form Plastics, and other companies.

Many families who are employed in St. Brieux by these companies rely on the highway for their livelihood, and many of their kids attend the new St. Brieux daycare. The companies themselves rely on Highway 368 to bring raw materials in and to ship out all the finished product. Damage to product while in transit has become all too regular an occurrence.

I would like to thank organizers and all those who attended the dinner, demonstrating the amount of concern in the area for the dangerous conditions of Highway 368.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Don Allen Saskaloppet in La Ronge

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, last weekend the Don Allen Saskaloppet celebrated its 24th annual gathering in La Ronge, with more than 300 skiers participating from across the province. This event is for all ages, making it challenging and

fun. This year the Saskaloppet organizing committee was chaired by Susan Folkerson with Vice-Chair, Russell Merasty, and it also included more than 200 volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, this year 70 skiers came from southern Saskatchewan; 73 came from the North, with the largest group of students coming from Pinehouse. Indeed perhaps the most exciting part of the event was seeing the involvement of the young people and children. There were four skiers under the age of five. By the way, the oldest participant was 77 years old. The committee is happy to announce that again this year no one was lost, and no one was left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Assembly joins me in congratulating the organizing committee and their volunteers that helped to make the event so successful. Without the dedicated work of these individuals, events like this could not take place.

I want to close by saying that I invite all members of this legislature to volunteer or perhaps challenge the course next year when the Don Allen Saskaloppet celebrates its 25th annual ski event in La Ronge. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Drought Disaster Assistance for the Southwest

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we mentioned earlier, the galleries are nearly full today with producers from the southwest part of the province — farmers and ranchers and business people and others who support them. And as you know too, Mr. Speaker, that NDP government across the way knows that this isn't their first visit here. First, they had five people. Then they had 50. Today we might have 200.

Mr. Speaker, they have been here two times previously at their own expense. These farmers and ranchers have better things to do than to come to Regina pleading to be treated fairly.

For two years now, these farmers and ranchers from the Southwest have been facing a severe drought. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Agriculture tell us today what he has done since the last time these producers were in this House? Has he done anything to bring fairness to their desperate situation?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the reality that the people in the Southwest — and not exclusively the Southwest — are facing in dealing with a drought.

And we have been in discussions with the federal government.

We have now got in place the parameters, framework for disaster program, but we do not have yet agreement on how that program will actually work out.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, in Quebec, where they had a disaster with golden nematode attacking potatoes, the federal government fully funded the disaster program there. We expect the same kind of treatment for our farmers in Saskatchewan that farmers in Quebec would get from the federal government. And to that end, we have been pressing for a federally funded program, as members opposite also in statements that they have made have said, that it should be fully funded, Mr. Speaker. And I do have quotes from members opposite saying so.

So clearly we are on the same page in terms of where the funding should come from. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear that the only time this minister meets with the producers from the Southwest is when they actually come here, having come at their own expense, having dug deep into their own pockets, taking their own time to come to this legislature to plead for fairness.

What kind of leadership is that, Mr. Speaker? It doesn't sound like leadership. It sounds like a minister trying to save face rather than doing what is right. Mr. Speaker, I have a word for the minister that I'd like to pass on in front of the producers in the House today. That kind of leadership is simply not good enough.

Mr. Speaker, will that minister stand and admit that the only time he meets with farmers and ranchers is when they're so desperate that they need to protest here at the legislature? Will he admit that his government needs to show some leadership on this file?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly we have been engaged in leading this struggle around disaster support and putting a disaster program in place. One of the things that the leadership of the Southwest group has said — which clearly I agree with — is that farmers need to know what kind of programs are in place, so they can make adequate decisions about whether they can go ahead, whether they need to change what they're doing in their lives.

And so what we're looking for, broadly, are programs that are predictable, programs that they know what they will be getting given certain circumstances. And yes, I have been engaged in many discussions with our federal government and with our provincial counterparts to try and develop that kind of a program that will provide long-term understanding of the payments for disaster.

In the short term, Mr. Speaker, we are committed, despite the fact that members opposite and many others are asking for full funding from the feds, we will do 90/10. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time the province has experienced a weather-related disaster. Last year there was extensive flooding in the Northeast. Those farmers faced the same sort of hardship that these farmers and ranchers are facing now, yet — yet — the NDP had no problem treating those producers in the Northeast fairly. However we've seen no willingness from this NDP government to even talk specifically to the federal government about the southwest drought conditions.

Will the minister show some leadership and pick up the phone and talk specifically about the southwest disaster that is similar to the northeast disaster of last year? The farmers and ranchers here, that are here today, are getting tired of the runaround. They've had enough.

Will the minister today promise these farmers and ranchers in the gallery that he will lead the cause on their behalf with the federal government specific to the southwest drought disaster? Will he, after waiting three months, finally try and get something done?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important to note that there has been no waiting of three months. We have been working since we first became aware of the situation in the Southwest to try and get a solution, and that has been the tone of our discussions with the leadership of that southwest drought disaster committee.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in the previous answer, this government is committed to paying 10 per cent of whatever program we're able to put together with the federal government — and that, Mr. Speaker, despite members opposite saying that it is a 100 per cent federal responsibility. We will put 10 per cent forward, Mr. Speaker, which could be significant.

As recently as Friday, Mr. Speaker, I was speaking with the federal minister about the southwest drought situation and saying to that federal minister we must have a solution immediately because these people are in trouble. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to getting a solution as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[14:15]

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that if the minister has done all of this good work that he's talking about, why was that not communicated to the people of the Southwest? Why are they in here today? If he had done some work, why wouldn't he tell the producers and ranchers from the Southwest what is transpiring?

Also 10 per cent, Mr. Speaker, he's talking 10 per cent. Let's see now, \$25 an acre Northeast, \$10 an acre ... What percentage is that? All these producers here are looking for is some fairness. It's a shame, Mr. Speaker, that the farmers and ranchers that are here today are forced to become activists. They have to come here to get the attention of this NDP government. All they're asking for, all they're here today for is to ask to be treated fairly. Because of the minister's inaction, this problem will continue.

These people are going to face a potentially worse situation. Snowfall has been light in the Southwest. Some producers are facing back-to-back droughts. Others are facing back-to-back-to-back droughts. Will the minister stand here today and admit that he was wrong for not doing anything specific to this? And what does he plan to do immediately to help these southwest ranchers and farmers, and will he deal with it in a fair and equitable manner?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no question that we will deal with this in an equitable manner, and we'll do our utmost to be fair. Mr. Speaker, these circumstances are different from the circumstances in the Northeast.

We will, Mr. Speaker, have to note very clearly that there was no federal disaster framework in place and this government did make an ad hoc payment — which I've also been very clear with the southwest drought disaster committee about — that it wasn't a precedent, it was an ad hoc payment at that time where there was no federal-provincial program in place.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to just note that the members opposite clearly, and I will quote the member of Melville-Saltcoats, clearly says that the federal government should pick up 100 per cent of emergency aid.

The Sask Party, including the member from Melville, presented a petition for emergency farm aid to the federal government placing onus directly on the federal government. Gerry Ritz, Member of Parliament for the Conservative Party in Saskatchewan, he said, 100 per cent that's what we're going to do; the federal government, I commit to you, will do 100 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's what he said.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Disposition of Murdoch Carriere's Computer Hard Drive

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, last week it came to light that a senior official in SERM [Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management] had ordered Murdoch Carriere's hard drive to be erased. The minister responded that she would be looking into this over the weekend and would have an answer for us today. My question is simple: who ordered Jim Pattison to erase Murdoch Carriere's hard drive?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have now had time to review the events. And what I can tell the member opposite is that at approximately 1:46 p.m. on the afternoon in question, a Ms. Kellsey sent an email to Mr. Pattison and others involved directing that Mr. Carriere's hard drive, and I quote, "... should be removed ... not erased ... and sent to my attention."

And Mr. Pattison sent a return email at 2:35 saying that he had, and I quote, "... just now [sent the hard drive to Ms. Kellsey] via traceable mail," appropriately packaged to preserve and protect.

And Ms. Kellsey put the hard drive in the vault. The hard drive was never erased.

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the ...

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the RCMP were investigating the Murdoch Carriere case. So my question is, was this information on the hard drive handed over to the RCMP? And if not, why not?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the members opposite is that the hard drive was never erased. Today it's preserved in the possession of the Department of the Environment. So what I can also tell the members opposite is that there was nothing on the hard drive, Mr. Speaker, that was erased. It's now in the hands ... As I said earlier, the disk is in the hands of Justice and, Mr. Speaker, the evidence is preserved.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Government's Settlement with Complainants in the Carriere Case

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, Murdoch Carriere gets a

payment of \$275,000, and the women that he harassed receive \$15,000. We've been told that the \$15,000 offer made to Murdoch Carriere's victims was made to all nine women at the same time. The victims were brought together and told that the offer for \$15,000 was the only money that would be offered to them. They were told if they didn't sign the agreement right away and if all of them didn't sign, none of them would get any money.

After all that these women have been through, why were they put under such pressure to sign this agreement?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member opposite that there are two issues here. The first issue is harassment in the workplace, and the second issue involves how the public service is to be hired and fired.

Mr. Carriere received no compensation — no compensation for his actions while he was employed by the Government of Saskatchewan. And to suggest that he was paid for harassment is totally insensitive and outrageous, Mr. Speaker.

Secondly, what I can say is that Mr. Carriere was fired for cause. But the way he was fired was wrong, Mr. Speaker, and the Justice officials advised us that we were going to lose the case because of employment law and we settled, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, these women were pressured into signing this agreement and apparently that agreement came with conditions, including a gag order. Why did the NDP put a gag order on all of these nine women?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, once again the new member from Martensville does not have the facts. What I can report to the member from Martensville is that there was no gag order ever, ever issued for the complainants in this case. And I could also tell the member opposite that the complainants had the benefit of legal counsel, and legal counsel and the complainants are aware that there was no gag order ever made as a part of this agreement, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Well, Mr. Speaker, they are of the belief that there is a gag order, but they wouldn't know for sure because the women that were involved in this weren't allowed to keep a copy of the agreement that they signed. There's only two copies in existence; the government has one and the other one is to stay at the lawyer's office.

What's the point? What's the secrecy all about? Why were these women forced to sign this order and then were not given a copy of the agreement?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, the women had benefit of legal counsel. I'm sure that the legal counsel can give the . . . They can have a benefit of the order that's in legal counsel's possession. But I will say again to the member opposite, there is no gag order. There is no gag order.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — If the NDP is confident that this agreement was signed and it was fair to all nine women, will they table this agreement today?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, is the member opposite implying that the complainants' own legal counsel won't share the agreement with them? I can't imagine that, Mr. Speaker.

But I will say this, Mr. Speaker. On the weekend — Thursday, Friday, Saturday — I was out and about the city of Saskatoon. And what were the people of Saskatoon talking about, particularly around International Women's Day, which I observed none of them bothered to attend. What I can tell the members opposite, they are talking about what the federal government has done to the Status of Women offices all across the country. They can laugh, Mr. Speaker, but that's the women of Saskatoon and area. That's what they're talking about, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants to have a discussion about equality, perhaps she could explain to women in Saskatchewan how Murdoch Carriere got \$275,000 and his victims got \$15,000. How does that constitute equality?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — When the member opposite was the communications adviser to Bev Oda, who is the minister in Canada responsible for the Status of Women, what happened? They took the equality provision out of the Status of Women's mandate. What do they do? They close Status of Women's offices all across the country, Mr. Speaker. And guess what, Mr. Speaker? On International Women's Day that's what women were talking about — not Murdoch Carriere, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, these women do not have a copy of the agreement that they signed, but they do have a bill. And the bill says that the settlement deal, and I quote, are for "services rendered in connection with potential claims against Murdoch Carriere and the Government of Saskatchewan."

Mr. Speaker, I understand why the government would want to protect itself from being sued, but this suggests that the government is also protecting Murdoch Carriere from being sued. Why is the government protecting Murdoch Carriere?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, the other thing that women of Saskatchewan, during International Women's Day, were talking about was the \$5 billion deal that the provinces signed with the previous federal government for over 250,000 new child care spaces all across the country. And what did it mean for the province of Saskatchewan? It meant \$150 million to create child daycare spaces for women with small children, Mr. Speaker. And the Harper government . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I thought that was a pretty easy question, so I'll ask it again. The Bill seems to indicate that in return for a \$15,000 payment the women take no further legal action against the government, but it also appears that they take no further legal action against Murdoch Carriere. Does the government settlement with the nine women prevent the victims from suing Murdoch Carriere?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, the women, the complainants, had the benefit of legal counsel. The women had the benefit of legal counsel, Mr. Speaker. The women, based on the advice of their legal counsel, chose to settle, Mr. Speaker. There is no gag order. These women are free, are free to comment on the events that have taken place in the last several days, Mr. Speaker. Well I can say to the member is there is no gag order, and that's all I can say. What else can I say, Mr. Speaker?

The members opposite are trying to confuse the two issues. Murdoch Carriere was never, was never compensated for sexual

harassment. He was compensated because we fired him inappropriately, and we would have lost the court case, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered the question. Maybe the Premier would like to answer the question. The question was direct, and it was blunt. It's one thing for the government in their settlement to try to protect itself from being sued, but why were they interested in protecting Murdoch Carriere from being sued, Mr. Speaker? Answer the question.

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with a set of legal principles. And as I understand it, the government would have to pay if we and the employees who are in the employment of the government were found liable, Mr. Speaker. But I can say to the members opposite — and this is an important point because it has been reported in the media and it's been reported by the members opposite — that there is no gag order. There is no such order.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, for those who might have been listening to the radio this morning, they would have heard a victim who came forward to talk about this, and was so concerned about whether or not she is free to speak about it that they had to mask her voice and hold her identity anonymous, Mr. Speaker. That's how the victims are feeling, notwithstanding the claims by this minister. And who would blame the nine women for not trusting a word that government has to say about this file?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, my question again is to the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan. Does he think it's fair? Does he think it's reasonable that the one who did the harassing, someone fired for harassment and then convicted of common assault would get \$275,000, Mr. Speaker, and the women, the victims, would get \$15,000? There's something wrong when the NDP treats the bad guy a hundred times better than the people who were affected. Can the Premier explain this appalling decision he's made in his government, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I can certainly understand

why the members opposite are trying to make political hay, but they really are, Mr. Speaker, not representing the facts. The facts are that there is no gag order. The facts are that senior people did not issue an order to erase the hard drive. And the third item is, Mr. Speaker . . . there are two different issues here. One issue has to do with harassment, and the second issue has to do with the way in which Mr. Murdoch was fired. And the way in which Mr. Murdoch was fired was simply wrong, Mr. Speaker. We were advised by the Department of Justice officials to settle because we would lose the case. Employment law was on the side of Mr. Murdoch, and we settled, Mr. Speaker — two different issues.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, in a letter that is directed to someone we don't know — it's blotted out, but we'd be happy to table the document — a letter from the lawyer for the victims, it's signed to the victims. There's a paragraph that says and I quote:

At this point in time the releases [referring to the document signed by the victims] have all been signed by the parties and pursuant to the trust conditions imposed by the Government of Saskatchewan, there are only to be two releases. One has been returned to the Government and the other one remains on my file.

What are the other conditions related to the trust conditions? Will the minister commit to table all of those conditions that would have bound the victims on this particular settlement, Mr. Speaker? Will she do that?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what I understand is that money is always put in trust before it's released to the clients of the lawyer. But what I can say to the public — and this is important — that we made it very clear when it came to our attention of the circumstances surrounding Mr. Murdoch Carriere's discipline, that we wanted to put in place a harassment policy that in the future would mean that the most serious cases of harassment, once they are substantiated, dismissal will be the employer's response in the absence of significant factors that dictate otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, the entire anti-harassment policy was reviewed, and it is now in place. This happened four years ago. We have an anti-harassment policy in place that's very clear what the permanent head has to do. There is zero tolerance to any cases of harassment, Mr. Speaker. And I can table that harassment policy for the benefit of the members opposite.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the nine women do not believe this government has a zero tolerance policy. People listening to the story across this province don't believe it because they see the government effectively rewarding the person that did the harassing to the tune of a quarter of a million dollars plus a pension top-up while the women get \$15,000. Mr. Speaker, the Premier has said — he's on the record as saying — that he would rather settle this. He'd rather use the taxpayers' money to pay off the person who did the harassing just to make it go away, Mr. Speaker.

He's asked the people on this side of the House and people of the province, what would you rather be done, that we take this to court to try to fight to ensure that Mr. Carriere receives not a thin dime of taxpayers' money? And the answer is, that's exactly what should happen, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — In the meantime, these women feel victimized again. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Premier had said from his seat a couple of days ago that the women were told. They were consulted before this settlement was reached on so many accounts. He owes an apology to these nine women. Will he do that, Mr. Speaker? Will he apologize to these victims?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what I can say to the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, what I can say to the members opposite — and it's obvious from the way they have framed their questions and their observations in this case — that if the members opposite had been the government of the day, what they would have done, Mr. Speaker, was taken this to court. That's what they would have done, even, even, Mr. Speaker, when their legal counsel and their own Justice critic was saying . . .

The Speaker: — The members will come to order. Order please. Order. Order. The Chair recognizes the Minister of the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, it's obvious from the way the members have responded that they would've taken this to court. That's what they would've done, even in the face of legal advice from the Justice officials, even in the face of advice from their own Justice critic that said you don't draw out losing cases that you can't possibly win, Mr. Speaker. It is clear what these members opposite . . . They would simply have done the political thing. They would've had a fight for the sake of . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order please. I would invite the minister to complete her statement. The minister of . . . Order. Order please. The minister.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what they would have done is done the politically easy thing. They would've had a fight just for the sake of having a fight. They wouldn't have

listened to the Justice minister. They wouldn't listened to the Justice officials. They would've drawn this out just to have a fight and lose, Mr. Speaker. That's what they would've done.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 43 — The Payday Loans Act

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 43, The Payday Loans Act be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 43, The Payday Loans Act be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, pursuant to sessional order adopted by the Assembly in October 30, 2006, I hereby designate Bill No. 43, The Payday Loans Act as a specified Bill subject to rules 31 to 33.

The Speaker: — At request of the minister and pursuant to a sessional order adopted by this Assembly, Bill No. 43, The Payday Loans Act is hereby designated as a specified Bill subject to rules 31 to 33.

Bill No. 44 — The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2007/*Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs*

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 44, The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2007 be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 44, The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2007 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Next sitting of the House.

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

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a question of members' privilege.

The Speaker: — Would the member state his position please.

PRIVILEGE

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this morning I wrote a letter to your office indicating our concern under rule 7(1) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly* to raise a question of privilege. On March 7 the Minister of the Public Service made the following statement during question period with regard to the recent out-of-court settlement with Murdoch Carriere, and I quote:

... I want to make this point: ... what this settlement does is that it ... All members of the legislature, they're not held liable for anything that we said in the past, including the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, it clearly implies there is an agreement put into place by the government that binds all members of this Legislative Assembly to that agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that under the rules of privilege that any omission or information that's withheld or constructs or impedes any member to discharge their duties is considered a breach of privilege. And, Mr. Speaker, because this agreement implies or has been implied by the minister that this binds all of the members of this Assembly, I believe that it's incumbent on the government to table this legislation for the benefit of all members to consider it. And on that basis, Mr. Speaker, I believe that I would propose to move a motion of privilege asking for this information to be tabled with the House on behalf of all members.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I think it may bring clarity to the matter to simply quote the relevant paragraph addressed by the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission to the hon. member for Canora in reference to this matter and having to do with the freedom from being pursued by the legal system for comments made by hon. members on both sides of the House in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. The Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission said, and I quote:

In settling the lawsuit, the government obtained from Mr. Carriere a full release of all possible claims that he might

have against the government, its employees, and all members of the Legislative Assembly, past and present. The unusual scope of the release was based on the government's concern that certain individuals, including members of the Opposition, had made statements in April of 2003 that, although not the subject of the lawsuit brought by Mr. Carriere, were arguably defamatory. For the reasons outlined below, we believed that it was in the public interest to conclude all matters related to the dismissal of Mr. Carriere in April of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the action taken was to ensure that all members, all members on both sides of the House were ... [inaudible interjection] ... Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that.

Clearly the procedure taken, Mr. Speaker, was to ensure that all members, both sides of the House, would have the protection that is ascribed to hon. members when they become members of this Assembly. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is not a point of privilege that's in place. And I am confident that, on review, that you will review that and find it the same way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I thank the members for the information provided. The job of the Speaker is, when a request of this type is made, is to determine whether or not a prima facie case has been established.

Earlier today the Opposition House Leader gave notice of a question of privilege. The notice concerned a statement made by the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission regarding a settlement agreement and its impact on members of this Assembly. Before making my ruling I wish to remind members that questions of privilege should be raised at the earliest opportunity. The statement at issue was made on Wednesday, March 7 and raised with my office only this morning. Nevertheless the Speaker has the discretion to waive this requirement, and I do so in this instance.

The crux of the case is whether the government's recent out-of-court settlement with Murdoch Carriere in any way impedes the ability of members to carry out their duties. It is the Opposition Leader's contention that the government's decision to withhold the details of the settlement agreement constitutes a breach of members' privileges. He then cites in support of this view the minister's statement that the agreement affects, quote, "All members of the legislature ... including the opposition" and page 193 of Maingot's *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada, Second Edition*.

I find that the citation from Maingot is not relevant to the circumstances at hand. The context of the citation refers to situations where the Assembly has issued an order that has not been abided by. For example, if the Assembly had issued an order for the production of a document, and the custodian of that document refused to produce it, then a contempt of the Assembly's privileges might have occurred. In the current case, the Assembly has not issued an order for the production of the settlement agreement, nor has a minister refused to comply.

In addressing the circumstances at hand, I find that the refusal to provide details of the settlement agreement do not obstruct

members in performing their parliamentary duties. Members continue to be protected by privilege while participating in parliamentary proceedings.

[14:45]

The ability of members to speak, debate, or ask questions in this Chamber or the legislative committees is in no way impeded by virtue of the settlement agreement having been reached. Indeed it is not uncommon for ministers to decline to divulge details of matters on the ground of *sub judice*, commercial sensitivity, or which are of confidential nature such as personnel matters.

I therefore find that the prima facie case of privilege has not been established.

MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, members, I wish to advise members that today is Commonwealth Day and I do have a message from the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty the Queen. I would ask all members to rise while I read the message.

A message from Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth:

Today's Commonwealth is home to nearly a third of the world's population. Its almost two billion citizens come from so many faiths, races, cultures and traditions.

I think that one of the reasons for the success of this organisation is that it draws not only on certain shared values, but also from the principles and practices of everyday life, which can be observed day after day in the cities, towns and villages of our 53 member countries.

Over thousands of years, the very basis of community life has been the pooling together by individuals of their resources and skills. Rather than having to be good at everything, people were able to practise their own skill or craft. The lesson of community life is that to flourish we must help each other. To do this, there has to be a sense of fairness, a real understanding of others' needs and aspirations, and a willingness to contribute.

Despite its size and scale, the Commonwealth to me is still at heart a collection of villages. In close-knit communities like these, there are beliefs and values we share and cherish. We know that helping others will lead to greater security and prosperity for ourselves.

Because we feel this way, our governments and peoples aim to work even more closely together. And as individuals, we find that taking part in Commonwealth activities can be inspirational and personally rewarding.

In today's difficult and sometimes divided world, I believe that it is more important than ever to keep trying to respect and understand each other better. Each and every one of us has hopes, needs, and priorities. Each of us is an individual, with ties of emotion and bonds of obligation —

to culture, religion, community, country and beyond. In short, each of us is special.

The more we see others in this way, the more we can understand them and their points of view. In what we think and say and do, let us as individuals actively seek out the views of others; let us make the best use of what our beliefs and history teach us; let us have open minds and hearts; and let us, like the Commonwealth, find our diversity a cause for celebration and a source of strength and unity.

This is a thought worth bearing in mind as we gather on Commonwealth Day: we are a thriving community; we value our past; we make the most of our present; and we are working together to build our future. By respecting differences and promoting understanding, that future will be a better one for us all.

Thank you, members.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 23

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this Bill deals with the transfer of securities. It is part of what we hope ultimately will become a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional approach to the transfer of securities. And it will recognize the electronic age in which we live in, and deals also specifically with the fact that in most cases share certificates are not issued in specie any longer, but in fact are just a notation on a record-keeping method.

It is our hope . . . And we will be looking as we go through the consultative processes this Bill goes through, through the committee process, how the money judgment Act — which is not yet introduced, but we expect to be introduced later in the session — how it will affect seizure and sale of shares. Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to this Bill being forwarded to committee at this time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 23, The Securities Transfer Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 23, The Securities Transfer Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 8

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

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to rise on behalf of people across the province who will be affected by Bill No. 8, The Paramedics Act.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to meet with a number of people right across this province, from North Battleford to Canora, to discuss the provisions of The Paramedics Act and how it will affect them. And, Mr. Speaker, as outlined initially when the Bill was introduced . . . Of course, this is a Bill that has been in the works for many, many years. I understand, you know, eight to ten years have been spent to try to reach the stage where a professional organization will have a self-regulating Act. And I believe that the intent of this Bill is to achieve that goal and become a self-regulating body.

Mr. Speaker, as I've talked to people who are in the EMS industry, the Emergency Medical Services business, my understanding is that there are about 1,400 individuals who fit into that work sector. And currently, Mr. Speaker, there are about 100 members who belong to the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics.

I raised the concern with a person who is a paramedic, and I was fortunate to receive a phone call from Mr. Dale Backlin, who acts as the chairperson for the college, to discuss some of the concerns that I was expressing on behalf of individuals who had contacted me.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of concerns. And I don't know that these are concerns that should cause the Minister of Health to amend some of the clauses. I don't know that they're at that stage. But I do know, Mr. Speaker, that there should be a far greater amount of education. There should be a far greater amount of communication.

And as I spoke with Mr. Backlin, as I indicated, when you look at 1,400 members, 1,400 individuals who work in that emergency medical sector and only 100 of them currently belong to the college — and it's my understanding that a lot of the work and a lot of the communication and a lot of the consultation occurred with members of the college — well that would mean, Mr. Speaker, then that there are 1,300 people approximately who maybe feel that they haven't been consulted with enough.

And I can tell you honestly that that is the feeling of a number of people in the Canora-Pelly constituency. They have some questions. They want some explanation.

And as I look through the Bill, Mr. Speaker, and clearly it says that as soon as this Bill comes into force, that the membership of the college consists of, and I'm quoting directly from the Bill, Mr. Speaker, under the membership section, section 5, it says:

The membership of the college consists of:

- (a) those persons who, on the day before section 1 of this Act comes into force, hold a licence issued pursuant to section 22 of *The Ambulance Act* . . .

Mr. Speaker, that means then that the 1,400 workers, excluding the emergency response workers at the local level who will still remain under Saskatchewan Health's jurisdiction, that those people will automatically become members of the college.

It's probably a good thing, Mr. Speaker, if you're going to determine a self-regulating body, that it's now going to put in place standards for education, standards for termination, standards for discipline, standards for fees. Those are things that should involve everyone. But, Mr. Speaker, the concerns that have been expressed by many individuals is that a lot of their questions have not been answered.

There is reference in the Bill to the bylaws, the bylaws that will be drafted by the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics, and I understand that that is in the works. There are draft copies, but many of those 1,300 workers don't have those draft copies at the moment. So they make reference to questions that they've asked about whether or not the bylaws will refer to the amount of fees that they will be required to pay. Is the fee going to change? Who will be responsible for making that payment?

It talks about the discipline procedures that are identified in the bylaws. It talks about education programs. What are these programs? And if you are currently working in Saskatchewan and your education does not fall within the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics that the College of Paramedics prescribes, what then? Those are valid questions, Mr. Speaker.

And just prior to the legislative session beginning for the day, I

had the opportunity to talk to a person who represents the group in Canora to tell her that Mr. Backlin has, and again through, I think, a very good initiative on his part, he has agreed to meet with these people. He's agreed to meet with anyone who has questions regarding what some of the clauses of the Bill mean and what effect it will have on these individuals.

And, Mr. Speaker, those meetings I hope are going to take place in the very short time. I haven't been able to establish an exact meeting day that will accommodate Mr. Backlin's calendar, but I will be getting in touch with him and the people in Canora, and that first meeting is planned to take place.

Mr. Speaker, The Paramedics Act was developed in its draft stage, and there were focus groups. There were focus groups that were held across the province to try to identify concerns, but a lot of the people who are not currently members did not attend. And as a result, there is a lack of communication.

I don't know that the communication is such that it will prevent the complete understanding and support by individuals, because, as in any Act, in the end I'm sure if the Act goes forward, and the College of Paramedics becomes the regulatory body, there will be some people that will be not supportive, and they will not be happy.

But on the whole, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a possibility for this Act to be developed further, to be communicated, all clauses to be communicated to individuals who are not members today but will be members of this group as soon as this Act passes. And there is a commitment on behalf of those individuals and Mr. Backlin to meet, to discuss, and to arrive at some explanation.

And, Mr. Speaker, until those kinds of things have been cleared up, until I feel comfortable that the people in my constituency have had the opportunity to be heard, I would move that this Bill be now adjourned.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Canora-Pelly that debate on Bill No. 8, The Paramedics Act, second reading, be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

[15:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Asking leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Centre has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Centre.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and to the opposition. I'd like to take a moment to introduce Karen Pozniak. She's the executive director of the Canadian Parents for French, and she's up here in the east gallery. She was here this morning as we raised the Fransaskois flag in recognition of the special two weeks as we celebrate the French culture here in this province. So I'd ask all members here to give a warm welcome to Karen and to recognize the good work that she does and her organization does for the French community here in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Canora-Pelly on his feet?

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, requesting leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The member from Canora-Pelly has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to join with the minister in recognizing Karen Pozniak. And I guess, Mr. Speaker, this may then date me just a little bit . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well as the member opposite says, if it dates her, then there is a bit of a situation.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of teaching Karen back in her school days, back in the school at Invermay when I was a teacher there from 1972 to 1983 — 1983. I gave her a lot of leeway there. Karen was a great student and was a joy to have in my classes and I knew that Karen was going to do well. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the members on this side of the House in joining with me in welcoming Karen Pozniak to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 25

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

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

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to rise and speak briefly on this Bill and on Bill No. 26, the consequential amendments.

This Bill is largely a translation of the changes that have been made to the Legislative Assembly's working process. It's part of the modernization process that we've been working very diligently on over the last number of years and months. And, Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the work that both the government and the opposition played in modernizing these procedures. And certainly to have them fully translated into French is a good move and a part of the requirements of changing the Legislative Assembly legislation.

And I think that at this time, it would be appropriate that both this Bill and the next Bill, No. 26, be referred to committee for consideration.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 25, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? 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: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 25, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2006 be now referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 25, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2006 be now referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Bill stands referred.

Bill No. 26

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

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is that the motion moved by the Hon. House Leader for the government that Bill No. 26, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Consequential Amendments Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, once again I move that Bill No. 26, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Consequential Amendments Act, 2006 be also referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 26 be also referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Bill 26 is referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 19

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this Bill is titled The Securities Amendment Act (No. 2), indicating that it's the second in a series of amendments trying to update this legislation.

While we're somewhat troubled that we're into doctoring our Bills and trying to cobble things together and not having any kind of comprehensive plan to keep things in one cause or direction, we recognize the need to support the passport memorandum and some of the other changes that are in this legislation, and want to see this Bill forwarded to committee so that it can get some further scrutiny and further discussion. We have no objection to this Bill going to committee at this time, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 19, The Securities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 19, The Securities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) be now referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 19, The Securities Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 11

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

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You caught me by surprise. I wasn't ready to deal with Bill 11 but pleased for this opportunity. It's an interesting Bill. It's regarding an international treaty which gives the power to amend . . . which gives up the power to amend actually, Mr. Speaker, which is of some concern. For this reason the official opposition has continued to allow this Bill to sit on the order paper because we wanted any interested parties, any stakeholders to be able to respond regarding that concern. This Bill also gives up some provincial control over these matters and cedes them to the federal government.

Now on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, if this Bill does not pass, it is possible that some lenders might not finance the airlines, and that obviously is a concern because we want to have good air service in the province of Saskatchewan. Goodness knows, under an NDP government we have seen commerce and business decline. We've seen particularly decline in relationship to other provinces, and that has impacted negatively air services in Saskatchewan. So we certainly do not want legislation or lack of legislation in this province that would further erode air service to the province.

Mr. Speaker, we also understand that this Bill might help maintain international or cross-jurisdictional flights. And we understand that perhaps the passing of this Bill will assist the airlines — any Saskatchewan airlines in particular — procure the financing they need to maintain their business, perhaps

expand their operations, particularly as it regards to purchase of aircraft.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, the reasons I've detailed to you, the fact that this legislation could be beneficial to the industry in Saskatchewan, the fact that we have allowed time for the stakeholders to come forward with any concerns that they might have whether they be positive or negative, and the fact that many other jurisdictions have in fact agreed with this legislation — a legislation that was initiated many years ago and which has been signed on to by many countries around the world — and now is being signed on to by provinces and states, including the province of Saskatchewan, if in fact we pass this legislation.

With that as the background, Mr. Speaker, I think the appropriate thing now is for this Bill to advance to committee, and that is what the official opposition would like to see. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 11, The International Interests in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly read for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 11, The International Interests in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act be now referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 11 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This Bill No. 11 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 18

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this Bill allows for airports' metal detectors to be used in courthouses. It also allows for the searching of individuals as they pass into our courthouse, or our court facilities. Mr. Speaker, it's a bit of a sad state of affairs that now in a post-9/11 era we have to have this kind of security, but unfortunately it's a reality in which society now finds itself.

In addition to the international terrorism and that type of problem, we also have numbers of individuals in our own society and in our own province that pose a significant risk. It's imperative that we as legislators and we as a province ensure that the people and staff that work in our court system and work in our courthouses and other individuals that are attending for other business in our court system are given adequate safety and security. And it would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Speaker, to move this Bill to committee, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 18, The Court Security Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I will move that Bill No. 18, The Court Security Act, be now referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 18, The Court Security Act, be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 10

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this is unfortunately yet another example of a Bill that has to be amended. This Bill was initially passed in the 2004 session and is now being caught up with and re-reviewed and changes being proposed.

This Bill changes The Limitations Act in that it provides an ultimate limitation period of 15 years to prevent limitation periods from running indefinitely on the discoverability of some torts. Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to allow this Bill to go forward, so we can have some consultation and some further discussion as this Bill goes through committee.

This Bill would have been a good example when it went through committee in the first time to have had public hearings and to allow more input from insurers or people that were affected by it. And perhaps this is one we would want to have some public hearings on as this Bill goes forward at this time. It's troubling that a Bill that we barely passed, the ink is barely dry, that we're having to look at it again. Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to this Bill going forward to committee at this time.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 10, The Limitations Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 10, The Limitations Amendment Act, 2006 be now referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 10 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Bill No. 10, The Limitations Amendment Act, is now referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

[15:15]

Bill No. 21

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

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

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill that probably should be entitled the, I'm sorry Act. What this Bill does in summary is it prevents legal liability for a declaration that an apology is an admission of guilt.

I sort of thought of this piece of legislation in the context of the Murdoch Carriere situation, and I thought of the members opposite and thought, if they had this Bill in place before and they stood up and said they were sorry, perhaps they wouldn't have been sued for it. The reality, Mr. Speaker, is they may have avoided some litigation on it, but they would never have avoided the outrage of the voters because, Mr. Speaker, that outrage is not going to go away and will not go away past the next election.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill can go to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 21, The Evidence Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall Bill 21 be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 21, The Evidence Amendment Act, 2006 be now referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 21, The Evidence Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill No. 21 stands referred.

Bill No. 27

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

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

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise today to enter into the debate on Bill 27, An Act to amend The Film Employment Tax Credit Act.

Mr. Speaker, many provinces have introduced film tax credits over the years as incentives for a very lucrative industry. Films produced here are an opportunity for us to showcase our province and the people of our province. And I think you'll agree with me that we have a great story to tell in this province with the people and the places often that are captured in films and videos across the province.

More so from an economic point of view, the film industry works well in creating jobs and spinoffs. Credit has to be given to the tax credit which goes back to 1998. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that it's in a better way to invest in the industry than picking winners and losers to take . . . Members on this side of the House do not support government taking equity positions in companies. Rather, something that benefits the entire industry such as the film tax credit would be better use of taxpayers' dollar.

I don't know how many films have benefited from the tax credit over the years, but I do know that there are some. And certainly *Corner Gas* is one, the most high-profile of them all. Recently I had a chance to watch the Pèrre Murray story from the Notre Dame Hounds. That was done here in Saskatchewan, and I would suggest that that was a good film. We've had many good films.

We've had some unfortunate circumstances, you know, around the Tommy Douglas movie. That's one that should have been something for everyone in Saskatchewan to celebrate. I was disappointed to see that there was a political twist, if you like, or some revisionist history that took place in that movie, and that caused a debate that really didn't need to take place. And there's some contention on whether that movie should be shown in schools in our province or certainly as part of the curriculum. So the industry, the film industry has benefited Saskatchewan, but we have to be careful that political involvement doesn't creep its way into certain films.

Mr. Speaker, I've had a chance to review the notes, and I've found that since the inception of the rural bonus program, the total production costs for the eligible film that is incurred in Saskatchewan has been interpreted to exclude the salaries paid to non-resident personnel who have been deemed to be Saskatchewan residents for the purpose of the tax credit.

However, Mr. Speaker, in 2006 a production company appealed this interpretation, arguing that because these personnel were paid in Saskatchewan, they should be considered to be included in the definition of total production costs for the eligible films that occurred in Saskatchewan. The government legal counsel agreed that the argument had merit, and the appeal was supported by the government at that time.

The government says that it wasn't the intent of the program to provide the rural bonus on salaries paid to personnel who are not Saskatchewan residents. This indeed was a loophole that needs to be fixed, and the proposed amendments are designed to exclude salaries paid to non-Saskatchewan residents, whether or not they have been deemed to be Saskatchewan residents for the purpose of the tax credit program.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is one area where we will take the government at their word on it. We will hope that this will not create a barrier to growth in the industry. In consultations that we've had, the industry people that we've talked to said that they don't think that it will, and we're agreeable to that and hopeful that it won't.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that we would allow and suggest that this Bill now go to committee at this time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 27, The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall Bill 27 be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 27, The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2006 be now referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 27 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Bill No. 27 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate the good work of the Standing Committees on Human Services as well as Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:20.]

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