



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
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The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornrud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantefoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Hon. Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
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]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two additional pages of petitions to present today on behalf of constituents from the community of 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 open in Shaunavon to provide full service to the community and surrounding areas.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these two pages are part of a continuum of pages including 619 signatures. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm very pleased to rise today on behalf of people who are concerned about the lack of cell coverage in the Porcupine-Weekes area and the implications it has on their life. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to ensure that SaskTel provides cell coverage in Porcupine-Weekes area.

The people that have signed this petition are from Weekes, from Saint-Front, and from Naicam. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to maintain full service of the SaskPower office at Rosetown. Mr. Speaker, the petition is concerned that the Rosetown SaskPower office currently supplies personal service for SaskEnergy and SaskTel customers, making it a one-stop office for payments of all three Crown utilities. 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 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.

The signatures on this petition come from the community of

Rosetown. And I'm pleased to present it on their behalf.

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

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

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

The signators, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Livelong . . . [inaudible] . . . and Turtleford. I so present.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents of mine who are very concerned about the condition of Highway No. 18. And the prayer reads:

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

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Gladmar and Minton. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from citizens who are opposed to possible reduction of health care services in Wilkie. The prayer reads:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to once again rise in this House and present a petition on behalf of frustrated parents from across Saskatchewan who for the past eight years have been lobbying the government for a dedicated children's hospital within a hospital in Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

The signatures come from the constituencies of Saskatoon Fairview, Saskatoon Greystone, 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. I rise once again with a petition from citizens of rural Saskatchewan that are extremely concerned about the potential loss of lab services at the Lafleche and District Health Centre. As we know, this would present an undue hardship on residents and particularly seniors. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary 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 in total by the good citizens of Lafleche. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from Livelong and Loon Lake. 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 that is concerned with the condition of Highway 368 starting 4 miles south of Lake Lenore to 4 miles south of St. Brieux that 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 the necessary repairs to Highway 368 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people from Jansen, Lanigan, Humboldt, St. Brieux, and Lake Lenore. I so present.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to present yet another petition requesting an allocation of funding for a dedicated provincial children's hospital within a hospital in Saskatchewan. I will read the prayer for relief, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from the constituencies of Martensville, Saskatoon Eastview, and of course Saskatoon Southeast. I so present on their behalf, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of questions that I shall on day no. 34 ask the government the following question:

What was the total number of patient days spent in acute care beds by patients waiting for placement in a long-term care facility in Cypress Hills health region for the fiscal year 2002-2003?

And instead of reading every one of these questions, it's the same question for many different years. It's for the years 2002-2003, '03-04, '04-05, '05-06, and '06-07. And not only that, Mr. Speaker, it's for every health district in the province. I so present.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have quite a number of questions but I will try to summarize them into groups. My first question, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on day

34 I'll ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: how many violations under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 were there in the fiscal year 2002-03? And of these violations how many were made by Crown corporations, government departments, or government agencies?

Mr. Speaker, I have that same question for all the fiscal years from 2003 to the current fiscal year.

My second set of questions, Mr. Speaker, are . . . that I'll be asking on day 34, again:

To the Minister of the Environment: what was the nature of the violations under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 in the fiscal year 2002-03?

And I have that same question for all the other fiscal years up to the current fiscal year, Mr. Speaker.

The third question that I have and that I will ask on day 34 once again:

To the Minister of the Environment: how many prosecutions and penalties were made under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 in the fiscal year of 2002-03? What were the offences and the penalties assessed for each offence?

Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for each of the succeeding fiscal years up to the current fiscal year.

And my fourth series of questions, Mr. Speaker, that I'll ask on day 34 once again:

To the Minister of the Environment: what was the total amount of financial penalties paid under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 in the fiscal year '02-03?

And I have similar questions for all the succeeding fiscal years up to the present, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 34 ask the government the following question:

How many new foster families were recruited in the year 2006-2007 fiscal year?

I give notice that I shall on day no. 34 ask the government the following question:

How many foster families were lost during the period 2006-2007 fiscal year?

I give notice that I shall ask the question:

What is the net number of foster families for the year 2006-2007 fiscal year?

I also give notice that I shall on day 34 ask the government the following question:

What is the cost of the recently announced foster families recruitment program?

I also have one other question, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 34 ask the government the following questions:

When will the Oyate Safe House be receiving new residents?

[13:45]

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 34 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: how much of the payment to Murdoch Carriere was for general damages?

Mr. Speaker, all of these questions are for the same date and to the same minister, so I'll just read the question:

How much of the payment to Murdoch Carriere was regarded as taxable income? How much of the payment to Murdoch Carriere was regarded as taxable costs? In the settlement with Murdoch Carriere, which party asked for non-disclosure to be included in this settlement? Was the Carriere settlement made *ex gratia* or was it made with an admission of liability or guilt on behalf of the government? How much of the payment to Murdoch Carriere was characterized as pay in lieu of notice?

What date was this settlement signed personally by Murdoch Carriere? What was the negotiated amount and the date of the cheque that was sent to Murdoch Carriere's solicitor? What date were the minutes of settlement and settlement releases for the Murdoch Carriere settlement actually signed? What date were the funds forwarded to Carriere's solicitor? What date was the settlement agreed to? What date was the settlement signed by the government? And what was the date recorded on the cheque that was given to Murdoch Carriere in settlement for this government?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the members of the Assembly today I'd like to introduce my daughter, Jodi, my soon-to-be son-in-law, Guy Hodgins, my granddaughter, Lauren, and my grandson,

Austin. My grandson is in today. He's doing a school project, and the subject that he's decided to do his school project on is the legislature and of course me being a big part of that in his life.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to thank you for having your picture taken with him this morning and the Sergeant-at-Arms. And going to be approaching the Premier later on to see if he would do the same. I would ask all members . . . and just remind them that he's taking shorthand up there, so your behaviour later on in question period will be recorded in the Eston archives for perpetuity.

So I would ask all members to welcome them here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatchewan Party Leader's Annual Dinner

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday night TCU Place in Saskatoon was abuzz with excitement. More than 900 community leaders, business people, entrepreneurs, labour representatives, and student leaders and others turned out for the Sask Party's annual Saskatoon leader's dinner to hear our leader deliver an inspiring and dynamic speech about our province and the future of this province. He spoke about everything from the need to be part of the energy council — maybe the Industry minister was listening — to adopting a complete growth agenda.

The dinner was the largest ever hosted by the Saskatchewan Party in Saskatoon, and it was attended by numerous dignitaries including many, many First Nations chiefs and the chief of the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], Lawrence Joseph. Mr. Speaker, Ed Carleton, the defensive coordinator of the University of Saskatchewan Huskie football team introduced our leader, offering his own perspectives as only a former college roommate can. I would like to thank Barry Ghiglione and Judy Harwood and their organizing committees for doing a tremendous job.

I should note, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP [New Democratic Party] held a similar dinner in Saskatoon last November, but, Mr. Speaker, they would have had to take all of the political staff in this building and then some to even come close to having the same number of people in the audience. Less than 500 turned out at the NDP dinner.

Mr. Speaker, our leader will again address a large crowd next month at the annual leader's dinner here in Regina. Last year 1,000 people came to listen to the Premier, more than double that came out to hear the NDP at their dinner. Mr. Speaker, we hope that this trend continues when the NDP get the courage to call the next election and the Saskatchewan Party will . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina

Wascana Plains.

Rural Women's Month

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every March in Saskatchewan we recognize Rural Women's Month and for good reason. Women from rural areas of our province — just like my grandmothers, aunts, and cousins — have made and continue to make major contributions to Saskatchewan's development, both economically and socially. In addition to running farms and businesses, rural women have always played an integral role in the development of health care, education, and social services. It's important that we recognize their achievements, Mr. Speaker, and their continued efforts toward building strong futures for Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, Rural Women's Month is observed in conjunction with a variety of women's groups in communities across the province. These events are organized in association with the United Nations' International Women's Day. Mr. Speaker, observing Rural Women's Month might not be a reality if not for the diligence of groups like the Saskatchewan Women's Institutes, the Partners for Rural Family Support of Humboldt, rural women's issues committee of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan representative to the women's advisory committee of the National Farmers Union.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to join with me in thanking these groups and in thanking rural women for their invaluable contributions to the Saskatchewan way of life.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Community Hero Award

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a long time supporter of conservation in Saskatchewan was recently recognized for his dedication to wildlife. Frank Mosley of Estevan was presented with a Community Hero Award by Alliance Pipeline for 2005-2006. This award is presented to one person in each province and state in which Alliance Pipeline is involved. Of course Frank didn't believe he was worthy of this award, and he just wished his wife, Maggie, was here to share his joy. Unfortunately Maggie passed away last fall.

Mr. Speaker, Frank is one of the original members of the Estevan Wildlife Federation which was established in 1945. And Frank's still going strong. Time will not permit me to mention all his accomplishments, but this award does include a \$2,500 cheque which Frank, in his generosity, donated to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating and thanking Frank for his contributions to our province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Accomplished Prince Albert Resident Receives Prestigious Awards

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to congratulate one of my constituents on two outstanding accomplishments. In March 2005, Dr. Lalita Malhotra became the second inductee into the Prince Albert Women's Hall of Fame. And in April '06, Mr. Speaker, Governor General Michaëlle Jean granted her one of the most prestigious awards in our country, an appointment to the Order of Canada.

At the age of 16, Lalita's father had told her that she would some day be a doctor. And just eight short years later she received a degree in medicine from her native New Delhi. In 1975 Dr. Malhotra's husband, with whom she had attended school in London, was offered a job in Prince Albert, where the two relocated along with a young daughter. In 1976 Lalita became Prince Albert's first female obstetrician.

Three decades have passed since she moved to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and she has made great contribution to the lives of people in this province. Dr. Malhotra has delivered more babies than anyone else in the province, including two daughters and a son of her own — all of which have now received medical degrees. She has also assisted in establishing a women's wellness centre. And if this wasn't enough, Mr. Speaker, Lalita also frequently talks at local schools about the importance of education. Mr. Speaker, I want all of the members to join with me in congratulating a great citizen of our province. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Autism Research Breakthrough

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, on February 19 the front page of *The Globe and Mail* contained an article regarding a breakthrough in autism research. A DNA [deoxyribonucleic acid] test has been developed that will identify autistic children as soon as they are born or possibly even before they are born. Currently autism is diagnosed by psychological tests performed on children as they age and after they have exhibited symptoms of autism spectrum disorder.

This valuable research was done by Peter Szatmari and Steve Scherer at the McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton. While this research does not provide a cure for autism spectrum disorder, it does allow families to be able to identify whether they are likely to have autistic children and, more importantly, to be able to start intervention and treatment at the earliest possible time. It is well known that children with autism spectrum disorder benefit the most from early diagnosis and early treatment — the earlier the treatment, the greater benefit for the child and the more likelihood that the child will grow into a functional adult.

Autism affects more than 1 in 165 children. It is important that we as a province ensure that adequate resources are provided so that treatment can be initiated early. As a society, we owe it to these children to provide them with resources so that schools,

families, and other support agencies can provide full and appropriate treatment.

I call on all members to provide continuing and increased support for autism research and autism treatment and support for the families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Plans for the Province

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you may recall that the Saskatchewan Party members claimed to have a plan when it comes to running the economy of this province. They call it Enterprise Saskatchewan. This plan is basically an acknowledgement that they can't run an economy. Instead they'll have to hire a bunch of smart people to do it for them. Those are the basics of Enterprise Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. But why stop there?

We know that they have a plan when it comes to Crown corporations. They call it privatize Saskatchewan. They also have a plan for denying their histories with the Devine government, Mr. Speaker. It's called alibi Saskatchewan. What about our province's most important issue, health care? Well of course they have a plan for that too, Mr. Speaker. They find isolated, however tragic, cases and use them to discredit the entire system. That one is called sensationalize Saskatchewan.

The Sask Party members always promise to spend, spend, and spend if they ever form government, and that is also part of a plan, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to suggest the name capsize Saskatchewan. Of course, the Leader of the Opposition even has a policy development plan, Mr. Speaker. It's called improvise Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Public Reaction to Government's Settlement with Murdoch Carriere

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week our office received a letter from Ms. Audrey Tate of Mossbank. And I would like to share this letter with the Assembly as I think it echoes the general public sentiments on this very important issue. To quote Ms. Tate:

I am really upset and angry at our government for paying Mr. Murdoch Carriere an out of court settlement of \$275,000.

What have you taught our young people? In my opinion you have taught them that females are not worth much, and no does not mean no. You have taught them that males can do whatever they want and going to court results in a reward.

This man was awarded two and a half times what the women were awarded as a group. The women were the victims, then victimized again. There is no excuse for this discrimination. This is totally disgusting.

What would you have done if these women had been your daughters, sisters, wives, etc.? I really believe the outcome would have been totally different.

Yours truly,
Ms. Audrey Tate

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Tate expresses very well the sentiments of most people across Saskatchewan. Listen to any talk show on the issue, stop and listen to the conversation in any coffee shop or mall or any place people are gathering, and people in general and women in particular find the NDP government's action to quote Ms. Tate, "totally disgusting." Mr. Premier, apologize and do the right thing.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Population Statistics and Policies

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proud people of Saskatchewan woke up this morning to some disturbing news. Since the current Premier took office, 10,776 people have disappeared from our great province. This tired, old NDP government has driven Saskatchewan's population down to its lowest point since the 1976 census — and this in the middle of an unprecedented economic boom.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why is this tired, old NDP government continuing to lose people in the middle of a boom?

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — You know, Mr. Speaker, I think it's typical of the official opposition that they're quoting outdated numbers. Mr. Speaker, the member is referring to a preliminary census estimate which is usually off by tens of thousands as in 2001. But these are numbers that came out last spring, Mr. Speaker. But that member should be aware that a revised population figure was already released, Mr. Speaker, by Statistics Canada for October 1, 2006 — which showed what? It showed, Mr. Speaker, the most current figure as of October 1 was 986,000 people, not 968 as the figure this morning. It showed, Mr. Speaker, the population was rising in the last two quarters. It showed, Mr. Speaker, 15,000 people moving to Saskatchewan in the first three quarters. That's what's happening in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, there are only two provinces in Canada that are not seeing population increases during this period, that is Saskatchewan and Newfoundland. That, Mr. Speaker, is not the league that we should be playing in. This province has so much potential and so many resources. Saskatchewan should be doing far better than it is under this Premier and this tired, old NDP government. Mr. Speaker, even in Manitoba the population is up by 28,000 people over the same period. Mr. Speaker, why are there fewer people right now in Saskatchewan than at any time in the last 30 years?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — The member refers to tired and old. I won't, I won't talk about the US [United States] congressman that met with the member and I in Washington, and asked the member when he was going to retire. I won't, I shouldn't mention that, Mr. Speaker. But the member's quoting figures from a year ago, Mr. Speaker. The member should be aware before he retires that, as I said, 15,000 people moved from other provinces to Saskatchewan last year, Mr. Speaker. Immigration was up 26 per cent and, Mr. Speaker, 20,000 more people are working in Saskatchewan today than a year ago, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — So that member, before he retires, can spread his doom and gloom far and wide as much as he wants. But what's happening in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? I'll tell you what's happening, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan . . .

The Speaker: — I think the member's time has elapsed. The Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, let me assure you . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. The member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure you and the people of Saskatchewan that that minister will be retired many years before I will.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, I recently heard a story on the radio about government employees being asked by this government to identify people who have moved back to the province so the Premier could name them in the Assembly. Well that won't be a problem for Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. According to Statistics Canada, there is one extra person in the city compared to five years ago. And if the Premier, if the Premier had really moved to Saskatoon, there would be no new people.

Mr. Speaker, why can't this tired, old NDP government come up with a plan that brings even more than one new person to the city of Moose Jaw in five years? Why can't they come up with a plan that brings so many it will be impossible for the Premier to name them all in the Assembly?

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I don't think members of the Legislative Assembly with the maturity of that member should be quoting figures from a year ago. I think he should be more up to date than that.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that people in Saskatchewan know that the economy is on a roll. I was talking to a business person from southern Saskatchewan today, and do you know what he said to me, Mr. Speaker? He said this, he said his people that he was hiring were having trouble finding houses to rent or buy in Assiniboia because so many people were moving there. I had a member from the Swift Current City Council — who's very well-known to the Leader of the Opposition by the way — tell me that there was no more industrial land in Swift Current. I had the mayor of Battleford tell me there was very little land left in the city of Battleford.

And these people want to convince the people of Saskatchewan that our economy isn't working? People aren't going to buy it, Mr. Speaker. There are 20,000 people more working here than a year ago. We're on a roll and we're going to keep rolling right along with that opposition, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Stewart: — I'm not surprised to hear that population is falling in rural Saskatchewan. The roads are a disaster. The education portion of property tax is higher than in any other jurisdiction in the country. Schools are closing and every community that still has a hospital . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. It seems that I am able to hear almost everybody else except the person who's been designated to speak. And I would ask members . . . I would ask members to . . . Thank you. Now the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — And every community that still has a hospital has to keep a garbage bag handy to put over the sign on the highway when there's no doctor in town to treat people. Mr. Speaker, this government is sitting on record revenues — a pile of money. Why isn't this Premier and this tired, old NDP government sharing some of that revenue with rural Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out to the member that if what he is saying is true that there are fewer people in Saskatchewan, notwithstanding what the latest report from Statistics Canada says, I'd like to know why it is that they report in the *Leader-Post* in February that Saskatchewan will lead the nation in housing sales in 2007 whereas the rest of the country is declining.

If we're building these houses, Mr. Speaker, and we're leading the nation in building these houses, who's going to live in the houses, Mr. Speaker? I think it's going to be people. It's going to be people that are working in Saskatchewan, people that are moving to Saskatchewan.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? I think that member should stop scaring people away with his doom and gloom because this province, Mr. Speaker, has a great future and the people know it. And those people should get on board with this government's building the economy of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Complainants' Right to Speak About Carriere Case

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister said that there was no gag order on Murdoch Carriere's victims. She said there was nothing to prevent them from talking about the harassment incidents and how this government has treated them. So I want to give her one more chance to clarify this issue. Were these women ever told by anyone in their department or in government that they were not to talk about the harassment they suffered at the hands of Murdoch Carriere or the settlement?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much. Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard the members of the opposition tell us that there was a hard drive that had been erased. Turns out not to be true. Then they said that the complainants had been given a gag order and it turns out not to be true. Then they had their House Leader stand up and say that as a result of comments I had made, this has impeded their ability to be members of the opposition. Turns out not to be true, Mr. Speaker. Every allegation that they've made in the last couple of days has turned out not to be true.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2003, on the same day that he sent out a memo transferring and praising Murdoch Carriere, Deputy Minister Terry Scott sent another memo to Carriere's victims, and I quote:

I want to specifically caution you to treat this decision and any information related to this matter with strict and absolute confidentiality. As a complainant you will have been provided with a copy of the investigator's report and the information it contains must remain confidential. You have a very significant personal responsibility to ensure that this requirement is satisfied.

Mr. Speaker, it sounds a lot like a gag order to me. How can the minister say that there was no gag order on these women?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, the settlement with the women occurred in the spring of 2004. There was no gag order around the settlement and that was the question that that member was clearly asking in the legislature, was there a gag order with the settlement? And, Mr. Speaker, we have said very clearly that there was absolutely no gag order.

Now I wanted to also make this point, that when allegations of harassment come to the attention of officials in department, there are privacy issues around harassment allegations, Mr. Speaker. And as we all know, the report that was drawn up by the investigator, Mr. Gillies, did become a public document in the spring of 2003.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, these women all received this memo from their deputy minister. He told them to keep their mouths shut. They are working under the assumption that they are not to speak about this, that their harassment complaints were to be treated with strict and absolute confidentiality. Has the NDP government ever told these women specifically that they are free to talk about this and, if so, when were they told?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, we have clearly indicated that people who have settled with the Government of Saskatchewan regarding the Murdoch Carriere case are free to speak about their settlement. We have clearly said that. The members opposite have asked in this House on several occasions, was there a gag order around the settlement? And we have clearly said, yesterday and today, that there was absolutely no gag order regarding their settlement, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, in today's paper, the minister is quoted as saying, and I quote:

... the women "are free to comment on the events that have taken place in the last several days," ...

Mr. Speaker, these women weren't harassed in the last several days. These incidents took place over the past decade. And as far as they know, they are still bound by the order imposed by Terry Scott in 2003. They have never been told otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister guarantee that these women will not be fired or reprimanded in any way if they choose to speak now?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I can guarantee to the women if they choose to speak, they will not be fired. I have said that in the past, I said it yesterday, and I will say it today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Disciplinary Action Regarding Murdoch Carriere

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, to deflect from the NDP's bungling of the Murdoch Carriere case, they chose to make Terry Scott the scapegoat and give him nearly \$200,000 as a severance package.

But Terry Scott didn't make this decision on his own. Who else approved the original decision to keep Murdoch Carriere on the payroll, move him to Regina for three days a week, and impose the gag order at that time on his victims? Who approved that decision?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — The opposition continues to imply, continues to imply that members of the elected had something to do with the Murdoch Carriere case and what took place. I want to say to the opposition very clearly, Mr. Speaker, that there is a differentiation between the elected and the public service.

The elected do not involve themselves in hiring and firing and discipline. I have sat with the members opposite where they have said on many occasions that the elected are the political masters, that we master all of the public service. And I want to say again to the members opposite, who really do want to be government — and I clearly remember the 1980s when Grant Devine was around — there is a clear distinction between the elected and the public service, and we do not involve ourselves in the day-to-day discipline, hiring, and firing of a professional public service.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's obvious the NDP don't want to answer this question. Well that's quite okay because Justice Laing answered that question in a ruling he made on November 22, 2005. Justice Laing said this, and I quote:

Mr. Scott testified that he had decided on the discipline to be imposed on Mr. Carriere ... before doing so he had discussions with a lawyer in the Civil Branch of Justice, the head of the Public Service Commission, and with his boss, the Deputy Minister to the Premier.

[14:15]

He said, "... everyone he consulted approved of the discipline ..." from this document, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister to the Premier was one of the people who approved the original decision not to fire Murdoch Carriere. Did he ever discuss this decision with the Premier?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have clearly said on numerous occasions that we need to understand ... I know the members opposite don't understand this — clearly they don't — because they come from a background, a history of Grant Devine, where ministers in the Devine government regularly gave the order, fire so-and-so, get rid of so-and-so. And in fact the former leader of the opposition had his hit list going into the 2003 election campaign where literally hundreds ...

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — And in fact, Mr. Speaker, prior to the last election campaign, the leader of opposition had a hit list where literally hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people were on a hit list that they were somehow going to fire. Well, Mr. Speaker, we came to government in 1991 and we said to ourselves, never again, never again would we have to witness what happened to the public service in the 1980s. And the way the system works now is the professional public service — they discipline, they hire, they fire. And the politicians do the public policy work, as it should be, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, it's a very simple question. Did the deputy minister to the Premier discuss this decision with the Premier?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, as a result of the events that led up to the Murdoch Carriere dismissal where the then minister of the public service recommended to the Premier that Mr. Carriere be fired, we have introduced a new anti-harassment policy. And what does it do? It says that no reported incident of harassment will go unaddressed, and it now says that deputy ministers, who are the permanent heads, who are the only people that can fire, are required to consult with a panel of peers to determine discipline as stated in the human resource manual which, Mr. Speaker, I tabled with the legislature yesterday.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's really hard to believe that the deputy minister would never have briefed the Premier about this situation in 2003.

I remember about a year ago the Premier making a big point about how the Leader of the Opposition should have been aware of everything going on in the previous governments. The Premier said, and I quote, "I am [pretty] sure that anybody that works in my office ..."

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier said this, and I quote — and I daresay that the member from Moose Jaw won't argue with the quote from the Premier — it says, "I am [pretty] sure that anybody that works in my office has a pretty good idea what goes on in my office."

Mr. Speaker, was the Premier, the Environment minister, or any member of the cabinet made aware of the initial disciplinary action on Murdoch Carriere prior to the story becoming public on April 1, 2003?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can certainly understand how the members of the opposition don't understand the notion of separation between the elected and a professional public service because they come from a history, they come from a history where the ministers and the premier of the day were directing certain civil servants to be hired — hired, Mr. Speaker, and fired, Mr. Speaker.

And we made a decision when we came to office in 1991 that we were going to go back to the days where we had a professional public service, where the ministers sitting on the front bench did not instruct their deputy ministers to fire so-and-so and hire so-and-so. And what do we have now today, Mr. Speaker? We have a professional public service. And if those folks were in charge, we know where they'd go. They would be directing who should be hired and who should be fired. And we think the public of Saskatchewan needs to know that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — You know, Mr. Speaker, all of this just doesn't pass the smell test. Let's take a look at this. Murdoch Carriere was the director of fire management and forest protection for the province. In February 2003, just as the province was heading into a forest fire season, he was suddenly moved out of his job, suspended for three months, and transferred to Regina. Didn't someone in cabinet ask why? Didn't the minister of the Environment at that time ask why? Mr. Speaker, what did the deputy minister tell the Premier?

What did the deputy minister tell the Environment minister about why Murdoch Carriere was being transferred?

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite just don't get it, and that member in particular doesn't get it. And he's the former Labour critic, Mr. Speaker. He's the former Labour critic.

Mr. Speaker, the way the system works, we have this thing called The Public Service Act, which is a piece of legislation passed by this legislature. The Public Service Act clearly distinguishes between the elected and their role, and a professional public service. The professional public service, they discipline, they evaluate, they hire, they fire. That's their job, Mr. Speaker. Now I know the micromanagers over there, because that's certainly what they did in the 1980s, they would be involved in the discipline, the hiring, the firing, because that's what Grant Devine's government did in the 1980s.

And I know that they'll probably say, oh, we're not Conservatives, but when a member of the public was introduced as a former Progressive Conservative candidate, what do the members of the opposition do yesterday? They applauded loudly, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Well Mr. Speaker, it's evident by the comments of individuals in the papers, on radio, and in television that the people of Saskatchewan get it about this government. Mr. Speaker, Justice Laing goes on to say the following, and I quote:

In the period which followed Mr. Scott had brief telephone conversations with the Premier, the Premier's Deputy Minister, and the Minister in charge of the Public Service Commission. Minister Crofford determined the discipline which had been administered [to be] insufficient, and the Deputy Minister to the Premier communicated that to Mr. Scott.

Isn't that interesting, Mr. Speaker? It wasn't the Premier who stepped in to fire Murdoch Carriere. It was the former minister for the Public Service Commission. Why didn't the Premier take any action? Was it because he had been aware of the original decision regarding Murdoch Carriere?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Why is it that the members opposite clearly don't understand the process of what I've been trying to say in the House? In The Public Service Act the only person that can fire an employee of the Government of Saskatchewan is the permanent head. Mr. Scott was the permanent head. Mr.

Scott had meted out his discipline which I've said in a letter to that member opposite but obviously he doesn't understand it.

And when the minister of the Public Service Commission became aware of the seriousness of the situation, she made a decision to recommend to the Premier that Mr. Carriere be fired. The Premier gave that instruction, Mr. Speaker. It was highly unusual. And, Mr. Speaker, guess what? That's why we have had to settle with Mr. Carriere because we did not follow the process or due process, Mr. Speaker. That is obvious.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 45 — The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 45, The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture and Food that Bill No. 45, The Agricultural Societies Repeal 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 this Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Next sitting of this House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 46 — The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 46, The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007 be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 46, The Crown Minerals Amendment 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: — The 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. Cline: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 47 — The Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2007

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 47, The Fatal Accidents 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. 47, The Fatal Accidents 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 the Bill be read a second time?
The Chair recognizes the minister.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 48 — The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 48, The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007 be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 48, The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax 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: — The 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. Cline: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 24

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 24 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this particular Act makes a number of changes dealing with both alcohol consumption and with gaming in this province, both of which affect a large number of people in their choices of entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, in making some of these changes though, which are in some cases fairly broad especially when you take a look at some of the changes and the impact that the changes to alcohol consumption will take, Mr. Speaker, they will have a significant impact on a good many people in this province.

What this piece of legislation does is it's a tie-in to what the government previously did in banning the consumption of alcohol in the provincial parks and provincial-controlled sites on long weekends. This extends that particular ban to regional parks now when the regional park authorities pass a bylaw implementing a ban on long weekends.

I guess one of the questions that need to be asked and that I have been contacted by interested groups that they want asked is, what kind of consultation took place with those people that operate either in the provincial parks or surrounding the provincial parks and the regional parks with the implementation of this particular piece of legislation?

While we support the concept of banning the alcohol on individual long weekends, Mr. Speaker, I think the government needed to consult with and talk to the people who operate both in the provincial parks such as White Bear, Duck Mountain, and there's a number of other provincial parks, Mr. Speaker, that have commercial interests operating within them. These are simply not wilderness parks, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

In particular in the case of Moose Mountain, there's a village which is not a part of the provincial park itself that resides within the provincial park which is excluded from the operation of the provincial park. And a ban on liquor on a long weekend in the provincial park side can have a very serious impact on the commercial interests operating in that area, Mr. Speaker.

Now Moose Mountain Provincial Park was one of the areas where there was problems in the past, but the park officials, the second year, took steps to mitigate the occurrences of disorderly behaviour and destruction within the park by making changes. And those changes that they implemented were significant and had a major impact. Unfortunately other parts of the province at the same time that year, the second year, had difficulties as well, and that's when the government decided to implement a complete ban, particularly on the Victoria Day weekend, Mr. Speaker.

But if you remember the news reports that came out last year after the long weekend, a good many of the provincial parks and the regional parks that implemented the alcohol bans had very few people actually visiting them. One can certainly understand that when a family goes to a provincial park for a recreational visit on a weekend . . . and people have more of an opportunity to do that during a long weekend because they have three days away from work. They can travel the distances that are necessary to visit the beautiful provincial parks or regional parks that we have in this province. They're more apt to be there on the weekends. They don't want their recreation disrupted. They don't want to deal with some of the issues that have arisen when they have their families there with them at the provincial park.

So I think there is a benefit to doing this, but there also needed to be and continues to be a need to consult with the operators, the commercial operators, in and around the parks on how this can be dealt with in a manner that provides the protection and safety both for the individuals visiting the park and park facilities as well as providing the entertainment opportunities that the people of Saskatchewan want to be able to exercise in the provincial parks.

So with this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, it gives the regional parks the authority to issue an alcohol ban. So I guess the question has to arise, under what authority then did those regional parks ban alcohol last year? Did they have the legal authority to do so at that particular point in time? Because it's my belief, Mr. Speaker, that there were a number of regional parks that did implement alcohol bans, and yet the government is now bringing forward legislation to allow them to do so which would seem to indicate that the legal authority to implement that kind of a ban was not in place at that particular point in time. So I think the minister needs to be prepared to answer that question: under what authority did the regional park authorities have in banning alcohol last year?

So, Mr. Speaker, that's one of the issues, is the issue of banning alcohol in the regional parks that will be taking place on specified long weekends, determinations to be made by the provincial park authorities and/or by the regional park authorities as they see fit. My suspicion is, Mr. Speaker, that you're going to see this happen in the main on the long weekend in May. And that will be part of the reason why this Bill is brought forward — to give those regional parks the authority to make those kind of implementations.

The second part of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, deals with the gaming side of liquor and gaming. And it allows for gaming authorities to give grants to entities that are licensed by either Liquor and Gaming, the Saskatchewan gaming . . . Liquor and Gaming

and/or by First Nations gaming authorities, Mr. Speaker, as licensing authorities under the Criminal Code.

I guess the question is, is what are these grants for? Why are these grants being transferred from Liquor and Gaming to these licensed authorities? And some of them are listed here: Hospitals of Regina Foundation, Royal University Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, and the Saskatoon City Hospital.

But it also allows for others. Now in the minister's comments on this particular issue, she talked about, you know, 4-H clubs, the local rink, the swimming pool committee, and all of those kind. But, Mr. Speaker, it talks about licensed authorities that have the ability to receive these grants. So does that mean that the local 4-H club has to be licensed by Liquor and Gaming before they could receive some of these grants? And the government is talking about providing 25-cent dollars, so for every dollar that the local swim club would raise, the government would give them a matching grant of 25 per cent.

Now that's a story that I've heard a number of times from this government going back to their initial implementation of VLTs [video lottery terminal] in this province and the licensing of casinos — the more Las Vegas-style casinos that we have seen rather than the agricultural society casinos that were in place previous to this. We had the initial promise of \$10 million. Then it was going to be some money for the communities and money going to the 911 implementation, and finally those promises all disappeared with no money actually being transferred to the communities. Now we're seeing the government come forward just before an election with a promise of 25 cents on the dollar to those that are approved by Liquor and Gaming, Mr. Speaker.

You know, so these are promises that are being made, but you wonder, Mr. Speaker, in light of the history on this just how well those promises will be kept. So, Mr. Speaker, I think there's a number of questions here on this particular piece of legislation that needs to be answered by the minister when they come forward.

One of the issues though that is interesting about this particular piece of legislation is it's one of the Acts that have been translated, Mr. Speaker, and this is Francophone Week. It's one of the Acts that have been translated into French as well as English and presented to this House in that manner. So if you look on the left-hand page of a Bill, you see the English version. If you look on the right-hand side of the page, you see the French version.

And that works very well, Mr. Speaker, except in this particular Bill. It seems that when you get down to section 7 in this Bill and you look at the translation . . . and I'll read it on the English side, and then I'll read it on the French side, Mr. Speaker. And it says, "Regional park authority may make park . . . [laws]." and it goes on to list it. If you look on the French side, it says, "Regional park authority may make park bylaws."

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is no translation there. The rest of the Bill is in English. There is no French. Mr. Speaker, the minister's department clearly is in error here. They have failed to do the proper translation of this particular piece of legislation. And there are two clauses, basically a full page part

of this Act, that they have failed to meet the requirements of the translation, Mr. Speaker, that has been presented wrong. And the minister is either going to have to go back to the drawing board and redo this properly or come into the House with a House amendment to correct this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

So I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there is some need to continue to look at this and to look at what the government is doing on this particular piece of legislation, and that the stakeholders and my colleagues both need the opportunity to consider this a bit further, so I would move that we adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Cannington that debate on second reading of Bill No. 24 do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Bill No. 15

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

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Chisholm: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to speak to Bill No. 15, The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2006. This Bill allows the corporation to lend monies as part of an agreement or an exchange for securities. It is attempting to provide for, in legislation, the provision to lend monies and not have to utilize debentures as was done in the past. This really is legislation that is following the present practice to legislatively allow the practice of the day.

As such, Mr. Speaker, at this point we do not anticipate problems with this legislation, and to facilitate the process, I would move that this Bill be moved to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 15, The Municipal Financing Corporation 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 Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would move that Bill No. 15 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 15 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. Bill 15 stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 13

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

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

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly today to speak on Bill 13, An Act to amend The SaskEnergy Act. Mr. Speaker, and at the outset I will say that I've had a look at the Bill. I find no errors with it as far as I can see. I'm not sure if the member for Cannington has anything to add at a later time, but perhaps he'll have comments later on.

Mr. Speaker, this Act as I read it does several things. By amending The SaskEnergy Act, it will allow for the number of board members on the SaskEnergy Board to increase from 10 to 12. It will permit the Crown corporation, SaskEnergy, to enter into business of transporting energy-related products and by-products other than natural gas. And it provides the corporation with the ability to, in certain situations, to reroute pipelines where there's encroachments or essentially gives the corporation additional options to deal with landowners if there's an encroachment with a building that's been built on a line or running over top of the line. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll try to deal with each one of these at a time, beginning with the board members.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment to The SaskEnergy Act included in Bill 13 increases the board members, the maximum number of board members, to 12. And I understand that this Bill will or this change will bring SaskEnergy in line with SaskTel and SaskPower which have somewhere in the neighbourhood of 11 or 12 board members each. And certainly there's a great deal of responsibility to being a board member. There's legal obligations to oversee the operations of the corporation.

I, myself, Mr. Speaker, am a member of a board back home, and it's a great opportunity for me to serve on a board in my community. And we're nowhere near the size of a company like SaskEnergy. It's a community-based organization, and in our board meetings we deal with thousands of dollars of decisions, not millions like SaskEnergy. And so certainly there's a fair

amount of work and obligation to be a board member of a Crown corporation. And certainly the latest annual report of SaskEnergy outlines the work that the board does and also includes, I found quite interesting, the attendance of board members. And it's very good to see that nearly all the board members attended all the board meetings in that calendar year.

[14:45]

But there are questions of why there is a need to increase the number of board members. Perhaps there's increased workload on the board and other responsibilities that I think members of the Assembly and members of the committee will need to be made aware of. Perhaps it was just an attempt to keep up with SaskTel or SaskPower as they have 11 and 12 board members on their boards. So I'm curious to see if it was a recommendation from Crown Investments Corporation or perhaps from the board themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I won't say very much about the new section 36 because I believe there's probably some positive changes in that part of the amendment that deal with safety measures and providing options to the corporation for situations that might warrant moving buildings or moving pipeline. While these amendments allow the corporation options of removing private buildings at the owner's expense, I trust that the corporation will put in place or has already put in place policies that ensure there's fair consultation before there are any modifications to buildings or to pipelines that will result in a bill for that private individual.

Mr. Speaker, I would move to my final comments on clause 4 of Bill 13. These are probably the most contentious parts of this Bill. It allows SaskEnergy to get into the business of transporting energy-related products and by-products other than gas through their pipeline facilities. And also allows the corporation the ability to construct and operate, I imagine, I suppose, new pipeline facilities for this purpose. I think that would have to be clarified. The minister in his comments, in his second reading comments, and in the information provided to the members of this legislature suggests that new products could include carbon dioxide, hydrogen, ethanol, and other products.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have some questions and some concerns that this would mean that SaskEnergy will now be moving into business that is already conducted by private business. And I'm not sure that that sends the right signals to the business community and others that are looking to invest in Saskatchewan.

Perhaps I can understand that SaskEnergy is looking to recoup some lost revenue by the fact that people of Saskatchewan are becoming more conscious with their energy decisions. And I'm not sure if this is the right way of giving the corporation the avenue to recoup some lost revenue. Quite frankly it's a good thing that people are becoming more conscious with how they use energy, and I don't really think the people of this province should be penalized with the increasing rates just to make up for being conscious citizens.

And so at this time, Mr. Speaker, I know other members of this Assembly will have comments on this before we move it to

committee. So I'd now move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy that debate of Bill No. 13, The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2006, second reading be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Bill No. 7

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 7 — The Public Health Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today on the second reading of Bill No. 7, The Public Health Amendment Act. This Bill, certainly it talks about adding regulatory powers to public health inspectors and also the reporting of public health inspections, allows the public disclosure regarding the inspection of eating establishments and the related enforcement of actions such as orders or convictions.

This Bill, you know, it's only one page long. It's a short Bill but it has some significant, it really does talk about some significant changes that affect each and every one of us in this province, whether you're an owner of a restaurant or whether you eat in a restaurant, which we all do at one point or another.

And so it talks about a huge industry in our province. All you have to do is drive up and down pretty much the main street of any small town in Saskatchewan and, kind of, the local coffee shop is the place to meet, but it's also a restaurant that will be impacted by this piece of legislation. You know, whether it's in the larger cities where there's a number of establishments where people can choose where they're going to go out for supper or lunch, or in the smaller communities where there may only be one, it does have an impact.

And what this Bill does, give the health inspectors the ability to inspect and gives them a few more powers in the inspection, but more importantly . . . And it was interesting because this Bill was first read on November 8 and that same day the minister put out a news release talking about the Bill and the need for the Bill. And I was interested in reading this news release.

Once the legislation is passed, Saskatchewan Health will begin consulting with health regions, restaurateurs, industry and others with interest in this issue . . .

I'm interested in that and, you know, not having been on the government side, but that there would be no consultation prior to this Bill being introduced or read. Because the news release says that once the Bill is passed then they'll start consulting with restaurateurs as far as the impact. I guess maybe they're leaving it up to us and that's our job then is to consult with restaurateurs, the general public, anybody in the food serving

industry as to what the impact of this Bill will have on their business. Because most definitely it will have an impact.

I don't think, and talking to the restaurant association of the province and a number of . . . I talked to the association but I've also talked to a number of restaurant owners as members in the opposition representing all of rural Saskatchewan and so many of the small towns that have local cafés or that type of thing, a restaurant in their community. Most of us I think would know the owners of most of those restaurants. And we stop in and quite often they have talked about this piece of legislation and there is definitely some concern with it.

And the concern comes from what will be reported and how it will be reported. And the minister talks about this in his news release that after the Bill is passed then they'll consult with the restaurateurs and others in the food industry regarding:

. . . the type of information [that is] to be made available and the most appropriate way to share this with the public.

And those are kind of the two most important parts. What information is going to be made available and how will that be made available?

Now if a restaurant has a couple of, has an inspection and there are some things that they need to improve on, does that then go out to the public as a black mark on that restaurant when . . . and perhaps they didn't know there was an issue with the way they were handling the food and they were going to correct it and move on and then the next inspection it is corrected. But I think there is some concern that number one, on what the information that will be disclosed to the public and also how it will be disclosed.

I understand that the health authorities in the Department of Health are going to work with the restaurant association because I don't believe . . . And talking to the restaurant association they have no problem with disclosing information as to how the industry is doing. And I think you'll find that the industry in our province is doing a very good job of handling food and their inspections I think for the most part are very positive, very clean. And I don't think the food industry has a problem with disclosing information that the public needs — and it may be a black mark on a restaurant or two, they have no problem with that — but disclosing all the information that an inspector takes in on the inspection of a restaurant can be disconcerting for a restaurant.

Because for example if, you know, if it's in the washrooms and the faucet is leaking, is that something that will be disclosed? And maybe it won't be disclosed in full information, that it's simply just a faucet leaking in a restroom, but will it be looked at as restaurant X has a black mark against it? How is it going to be reported? And what is the information going to be reported? You know, that's kind of a, you know, a hypothetical example. I don't if that would even come forward, but that's a concern of the restaurateurs.

They have no problem with disclosing information on inspections as long as they have some input as to how it is disclosed and what information is disclosed — you know, whether it's in the facility or surrounding the facility, whether

it's in the restrooms or whether it's, you know, in the food handling area, all of those issues. The restaurateurs are, as I said, concerned, as long as they have input. Now the minister has talked about consulting and we certainly would push him on that, because they need to have a say and a stake in how this information is going to be reported.

I do know, as I've said before, in rural Saskatchewan there are many, many communities that that's the only business left open in that community, and it is the coffee spot. And people, you know, that's where people meet in the mornings. I think a lot of great discussions take place in those coffee shops, in fact, attending a few of them myself. There's certainly very interesting conversation and it, you know, it would be a shame to see a restaurant in a small town close because of — and not saying that they would be — but an overzealous health inspector saying, you haven't fixed this, or this is a problem, we're going to report it, we're going to make it public and, you know, and it affects that establishment's business.

So as I said, as long as proper . . . the due diligence is done, the consultation is conducted with the industry so that they have input, Mr. Speaker, I think the Bill is, as far as intent, is going in the right direction as far as intent, as everything it's in the regulations and how they disclose the information and what information is disclosed is the key area. So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would move this to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 7, The Public Health 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 Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 7, The Public Health Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 7 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: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Why is the member from Regina Dewdney on his feet?

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To facilitate the work of the Standing Committee on the Economy and Crown and Central Agencies, Mr. Speaker, which will meet for some hours yet today, I would move that we do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Dewdney, Deputy 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: — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:56.]

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Premier

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Minister Responsible for Seniors

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