

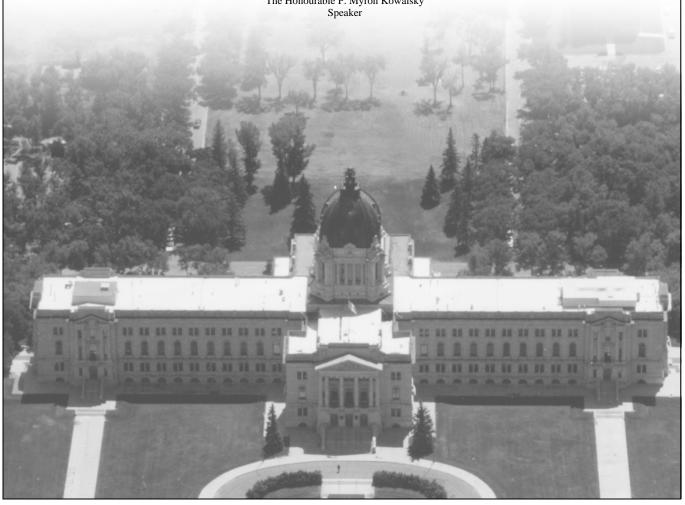
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky



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	
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Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale	
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Crofford, Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont	
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Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy	
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Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains	
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt	
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast	
Hart, Glen	SP SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood Martensville	
Heppner, Nancy Hermanson, Elwin	SP SP	Rosetown-Elrose	
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow	
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River	
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview	
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Fan view 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	

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN April 30, 2007

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege again to present petitions on behalf of the number of residents in the Broadview and surrounding areas and communities in regards to the need for a dialysis unit at the Broadview Union Hospital. And I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement a strategy that will see a dialysis unit placed in Broadview Union Hospital.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition I present today is signed by the good folks of the community of Broadview. I so present.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present on behalf of citizens of the province. This petition addresses the lake levels of Echo and Pasqua Lake. I so present:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to work with and to lobby the federal governments to put in place a long-term agreement that deals with the issue of the water structure at Fort Qu'Appelle.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from Lebret, Dysart, and Fort Qu'Appelle. I so present.

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the dangerous practice of transferring patients from one ambulance to another on the highway. 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 cease the transfer of patients from one ambulance to another while en route.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals all from the city of Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again today I present petitions of citizens concerned with the safety when driving on Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Annaheim and Humboldt. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to present another petition from the citizens of Biggar concerning health care cuts. The prayer reads:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise with a petition from citizens of southern Saskatchewan that are extremely concerned that the withdrawal of lab services at the Lafleche and District Health Centre would cause undue hardship to residents, particularly senior citizens. 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 the good citizens of Lafleche and Fir Mountain. I so present.

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

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of my constituency that are concerned with the potentially dangerous situation in our health care system that's

arising in that area. 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 improve timely access to medical treatment.

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

Mr. Speaker, signatures of this petition are from the community of Shellbrook and Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here from citizens concerned about the underfunding to school divisions:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the Imperial, Govan, Nokomis, and Drake schools remain open.

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

This particular petitions are signed by the good citizens from Nokomis, Strasbourg, Lockwood, and Drake, Raymore and Quinton and also Regina. I so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition calling for mandatory drug and alcohol testing in certain conditions where motor vehicle accidents are involved. The prayer states:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the public is protected from operators of motor vehicles who are involved in an accident causing injury or fatality, and that those operators be required to undergo mandatory drug- and alcohol-level testing.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Watson and Englefeld. I am pleased to present it on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise a petition regarding highway signage. 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 actions to increase highway signage at the junctions of Highways 6 and 39.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from Radville, Saskatoon, and Regina. I so present.

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 Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 58 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: who is the insurance carrier for the Lanigan, Dellwood watershed authority?

In addition, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of CIC: was the contract to manage the entrepreneurial fund put to tender and if not, why not?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of CIC: was the contract to manage the First Nations and Métis Fund put to tender and if not, why

In addition:

To the Minister of CIC: was the administration for the Gradworks internship program initially put to tender in 2002?

And finally, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of CIC: why was the administration of the Gradworks internship program transferred from McNair Business Development to CIC?

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 58 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Highways: has the department assessed all the damages been done to Highway 15 and if so, when will the highway be reopened and what will be the projected cost of repair?

Thank you.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 58 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Justice: in the 2007-2008 budget, how much money is allocated to fighting Internet crimes involving children and to cracking down on child pornography? Of the total allotment, where is the money being targeted and in what amounts?

I so present.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 58 ask the government the following questions:

To the Minister of Government Relations: what was the total amount of money spent on staff travelling with the minister during the fiscal year 2006-07?

To the Minister of Government Relations: what was the total amount of money spent on ministerial travel in the fiscal year '06-07? How many staff were employed by the minister's office during the fiscal year '06-07? How much money was paid out in severance, and to whom during the fiscal year of '06-07? What was the total payroll for the minister's office during the fiscal year '06-07? How many legal actions are pending against the department? How many legal actions were taken against the department in the fiscal year '06-07, and what cost was attached to the settlements? How much money was spent on specific advertising campaign the department undertook in the fiscal year '06-07, and which agency received the contract? And how much money did the department spend on advertising and communications in the fiscal year '06-07?

And, Mr. Speaker, I have the same questions that I will be asking to several other departments. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly a potential future member of this Assembly who is sitting in the east gallery today. It's the Saskatchewan Party candidate for Saskatoon Greystone, Rob Norris, someone involved extensively in a senior capacity at the University of Saskatchewan, committed to growing the economic potential not only of the university of Saskatoon, but the entire province. And I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming him here to his Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you

and through you to all members of this Assembly I'd like to introduce a young lady that is seated in your gallery. Tracy Tytlandsvik is a grade 12 student from Oungre high school and Tracy is shadowing me as a school project this week. She will be entering the University of Regina this fall taking human justice. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Tracy to her legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: —The member for Moose Jaw North, why is the member for Moose Jaw North on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave of the House to make a statement of clarification of a previous statement.

The Speaker: — The member for Moose Jaw North has requested leave of the House to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Moose Jaw North.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Clarification of Previous Statement

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify the public record. On Thursday, April 26, 2007, in my response to questions raised by the member for Canora-Pelly regarding the misappropriation of funds by a former NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus staff member who was hired under a false identity in 1992, I made statements that were incomplete, and therefore misleading to this legislature.

For the record, I have provided information to the legislature last Thursday that at that time I believed to be accurate. This information was provided to me by the NDP caucus chief of staff, who based his briefing to me on his memory of events surrounding a caucus personnel matter that occurred in 1992 and presented to me without related files or notes available to him

Mr. Speaker, I stated on the public record that, and I quote from *Hansard*:

... that when the information was received that there was the possibility of misappropriation, that information was given to the Regina city police immediately. The fact of the matter is the Regina city police recommended an audit to determine the actual facts. That was done. And it was that copy of that special audit [that] was provided to the Regina city police who subsequently, Mr. Speaker, who subsequently chose to not lay charges, considered that not the appropriate course of action. That's a decision of the Regina city police, Mr. Speaker.

It has become apparent that this statement is not congruent with the public record as described by Cal Johnston, the chief of police for the Regina Police Service, who has stated on the public record that the audit was not made available to the investigators at the time in 1992. Chief Johnston did confirm that the information was available to the investigators in 1994.

My statements, Mr. Speaker, were made with the best information I had at the time and, as I stated previously, my statements were informed by the recollection of the NDP caucus chief of staff. As this legislature is aware, Mr. Fodey has resigned.

It is clear that the statements I made in the legislature do not correspond to the Regina city police's public record and accordingly I wish to correct the statements. As the Chair of caucus in 1992, I was informed by Mr. Fodey that he had received a letter from Ann Lord confessing that she has taken money from the NDP caucus. It was decided that Ms. Lord would have to be fired and that Jim Fodey, as the administrative head of the NDP caucus, would bring the matter to the attention of the Regina city police.

As the political Chair of caucus, I relied on the caucus chief of staff for informations about his dealings with the matter. In September 1994, as a result of further internal investigations by a staff member of the NDP caucus, the file regarding those funds that were taken from the caucus in 1992 was turned over to the police. Investigators recommended a forensic audit take place.

The NDP caucus administrative committee chose to conduct a complete audit of caucus financial records. Further to this, I am tabling today the financial statements that accompany the audit of 1994 that were made available to me today. These financial statements were confirmed today with KPMG.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to correct the statement by myself in this House with the best information available to me today. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the Premier today has requested that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner conduct a review of this entire matter, and I welcome that. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Prince Albert Mintos Win Telus Cup

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was an exciting weekend for hockey fans for the city of Prince Albert and the surrounding area, Mr. Speaker, as the P.A. [Prince Albert] Mintos made history on Sunday afternoon by becoming the first team to win the Telus Cup midget hockey championship two years in a row. Last year's final went into triple overtime, and this year's final in Red Deer, Alberta went into double overtime with Mintos' Ryan Fox scoring the tie-breaking goal just 48 seconds into the second overtime period.

The Mintos defeated the Red Deer Optimist Rebels by a score of 3-2, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately many avid hockey fans from across the province and certainly in the P.A. area were deprived of the chance to watch that victory as the Toronto Sports

Network, otherwise known as TSN, decided to cut from the overtime play to an NBA [National Basketball Association] game, Mr. Speaker. That notwithstanding, this is the Mintos' second Telus Cup title in as many years. It follows on two regular seasons in which the team entered the playoffs with an undefeated record. As this year's Telus Cup, the Mintos went from a seven and oh record in the regular season to 14 and oh by the end of the championships.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition Saskatchewan Party, I'd like to congratulate the P.A. Mintos hockey team on a well-fought championship and a well-deserved victory. We also want to acknowledge the head coach, Tim Leonard, the other coaching staff, the rest of the staff of the Mintos, the volunteers, all the family members that are involved in the Mintos organization. They're all part of a winning team that Saskatchewan is very proud of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in offering my congratulations and the NDP caucus's congratulations to the Prince Albert Mintos who, as has been said, defeated the host Red Deer Chiefs in the final Midget AAA Telus Cup to defend their national title. And they indeed are truly national champions.

Last year the Mintos needed a third overtime period to secure the title. This year cheers went up all over Prince Albert, for those who were listening on the radio, as Ryan Fox scored the game winner just 48 seconds into the second overtime. Ryan Fox is one of six members of last year's championship team. The other five members that contributed to both Mintos' Telus Cup wins are Tommy Brown, Jadon Potter, Curtis Kulchar, Lewis Laczko, and Owen Roschuk.

This victory marks the first time any team has won back-to-back national championships in the 29-year history of the Telus Cup. Once again the Mintos completed the tournament with a perfect seven and zero on their way to the title.

I want to say that many of the Mintos also received individual awards for their play at the Telus Cup. Carsen Chubak was awarded the top goaltender, Tyler Fiddler was awarded the top forward, and Lewis Laczko was named the top defenceman.

I would like to, Mr. Speaker, ask all members to join with me in giving a great round of applause for a great hockey team from Prince Albert. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

100th Anniversary of Early's Farm & Garden Centre

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there are a number of businesses

in Saskatoon celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2007 and I would like to take the opportunity to recognize one of them today.

Early's Farm & Garden Centre got its start in 1907 when Spencer A. Early started the S.A. Early & Company Limited Hay Grain and Feed Store on 20th Street East in Saskatoon. The business grew and prospered at several locations in Saskatoon. The company's first spring catalogue was published in 1942, and to this day people in Saskatoon and across the province look forward to receiving their catalogue and seeing what new and interesting items the company has to offer.

In 1948 the company became Early Seed & Feed to more accurately reflect its business. In 1982 following a major restructuring, the company became Early's Farm & Garden Centre and relocated to 2615 Lorne Avenue. A branch store was subsequently opened in 1995 at 502 51st Street also in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, the secret to success in this case is a strong commitment to customer service, hard work, and dedication as well as the ability to embrace change.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating owner and president Spencer Early, who is the grandson of the founder, and everyone else who has had a hand in developing Early's Farm & Garden Centre and will help it continue to remain a viable business and an important community institution in Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

New Democratic Party Candidate Chosen in Lloydminster

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday I had the great pleasure of attending the NDP nomination meeting for the constituency of Lloydminster. It was a great event, Mr. Speaker, and I'm extremely pleased to share with this Assembly that Grant Whitstone is the new NDP candidate for the constituency of Lloydminster. And, Mr. Speaker, he will be the next MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to represent that constituency in this Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Mr. Speaker, Grant Whitstone was just one of the excellent candidates standing for nomination and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Shawn McKee for the enthusiasm, the energy, and the ideas that both he and Grant Whitstone brought to this nomination contest.

Mr. Speaker, Grant Whitstone is a member of the Onion Lake First Nation. He is a man of intelligence, energy, and drive, actively involved in sports and in his community. He is focused on youth, Mr. Speaker. He is currently the recreational director of the Onion Lake First Nation, he is a member of the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] sports and recreational board, and participated with team Saskatchewan at the North American Indigenous Games in 1995. Mr. Speaker, Grant has a firm belief in his culture and is the founding

member and singer of the Pipestone Cree drum group.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Grant Whitstone on his nomination win, and I have every confidence that he will prove to be an outstanding representative for the constituency of Lloydminster.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear. hear!

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

Maple Creek Wins Women's Bantam B Championship

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, southwest Saskatchewan is proud to add another team to its list of provincial champions. Mr. Speaker, the Maple Creek Female Hawks recently captured the Bantam B championship with a victory against the Kindersley Klippers in Kindersley. Mr. Speaker, the first game against the Klippers ended in a tie, and the Maple Creek Female Hawks showed great team effort and determination to score a win on the road to bring home the provincial banner.

Mr. Speaker, women's hockey continues to grow across the province and I would argue they are following in the footsteps of Shaunavon's Hayley Wickenheiser. And now the Maple Creek female bantams have proven that our southwest female athletes can still place among the top in the province.

Based on their performance at the Bantam B division hockey championships, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we will hear more and more of this team's success in years to come. I am also hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that we will see some of these young women on the ice at higher levels in the future, perhaps even at the Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the Maple Creek Female Hawks on their recent victory and to thank head coach, Murray Bertram, assistant coach, Don Parsonage, and all the parents and fans for their efforts in helping the girls secure a provincial title. And I would ask all members in this Assembly to join me in congratulating the Maple Creek Female Hawks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Attitudes Toward Labour Policies in Saskatchewan

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saturday being the Day of Mourning for workers killed and injured on the job, and tomorrow being May Day, I've been thinking all that Saskatchewan working people have achieved. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a province of innovation and co-operation. It's no accident that among Saskatchewan's many firsts can be counted Canada's first trade union Act, the first minimum wage, the first 40-hour work week, and the first occupational health and safety Act.

Over the years these and other forward-looking Saskatchewan labour policies have been met with resistance and outright hostility from anti-labour groups. The Saskatchewan Party is the current leader when it comes to speaking out against labour and enlightened labour policy here in the province, Mr. Speaker. People are willing to work for less than minimum wage, says one. Unions are job killers, says another. And of course there's the opposition leader's famous pronouncement about, quote:

... red tape and regulations that have been foisted onto business community by this government, be it through Workers' Comp or occupational health and safety or various pieces of labour legislation . . .

The opposition leader also talks about going to war and going on the offensive to roll back this province's labour legislation. To the working men and women of Saskatchewan, there is nothing more offensive than that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Citizens' Response to Mailer

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, responses to the Saskatchewan Party's mailout on the Murdoch Carriere scandal continue to come into our office, and I would like to again share some of those responses with members opposite. From Regina, and I quote:

As a female working in the province of Saskatchewan, I was out outraged to learn that Carriere received a settlement for inappropriate behaviour in the workplace. Under Calvert's government, intimidation and harassment appears to be acceptable in the workplace and is handsomely rewarded. Calvert, it's time for YOU and your out of touch policies to GO!

Again from Regina, and I quote:

With the NDP keeping this harassment a secret, it makes a person wonder if Carriere had some information that Premier Calvert and the NDP party are hiding from the public. What a waste of taxpayers' money!

Again from Regina, and I quote:

As a female employee of a provincial crown, I have seen first hand how harassment *is <u>rewarded</u>* under Premier Calvert's 'responsible government'. It is not responsible government — no matter how many times you do it Mr. Calvert.

Mr. Speaker, another from Regina, and I quote:

As a taxpayer I'm angry. As a woman, I'm outraged. As a person, I'm offended. Making a secret deal with this person was irresponsible. Supporting a premier who would do the same again is impossible. Hiding the details of this agreement is a betrayal of the public trust and totally indefensible.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, also from the Queen City, and I

quote:

I cannot support a government that rewards this kind of behaviour, UNFORGIVABLE.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL OUESTIONS

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

Misappropriation of Funds

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again we only get the real story from the NDP after they get caught. But the problem is, they're still not telling the whole story.

Minister of Culture and Recreation still has not answered the fundamental question. When the NDP found out that taxpayers' money had been stolen from their office in 1992, why didn't they immediately go to the police? Why was this information withheld from the police?

Mr. Speaker, the minister admits he read Ann Davey's confession letter. It was addressed to him. Who made the decision to conceal this confession letter from the police?

The Speaker: — Order please. I do want to bring to the member's attention that this matter that has been dealing with here is not really the responsibility of executive government. I do rule it out of order, but I will allow member to respond if he wishes. The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As House Leader I'll voluntarily take that question. Mr. Speaker, in 1992 under false identity, Ann Lord was hired to the staff of the NDP caucus. In the summer of 1992 in late August upon return from a brief holiday, the chief of staff received a letter that she had left indicating that she had misappropriately received funds from the caucus.

Mr. Speaker, that letter then was shared between the chief of staff and the caucus Chair, myself, and as a result of that, the decision was made that Ms. Lord would need to be fired and that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Regina city police. The chief of staff was instructed to do that, and, Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge at that time, that's exactly what was done.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the minister said when they learned about the missing taxpayers' money, the proper course of action was to immediately notify police and turn the confession letter over to police. But that didn't happen.

The NDP did not contact the police. They did not turn the confession letter over to the police. In fact when they were questioned about Ann Davey's disappearance, they never even mentioned the confession letter. They deliberately concealed it from police. So the question is, who decided to conceal the confession letter from the police? Did Jim Fodey do this on his own, or was he taking direction from the minister?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, on reflection of the facts, the House would be aware, as I said earlier today, that when I made my statement last week, both following question period on Wednesday and then in the House on Thursday, it was based on the best information provided to me by the chief of staff who was basing his advice, without access to be able to refer to file or notes, based on a 15-year-old memory. Mr. Speaker, the advice was given to me regarding the procedures at that time, which I then stated publicly, and as I've referred to earlier today here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, it is clearly the case that there is a discrepancy between the information that was provided to me and to the public comment made by the chief of staff, Mr. Speaker, and we will be recognizing the chief of staff . . . and to the chief of police, I should say, and we'll recognize the chief of staff has offered his resignation.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, did the minister recall whether he told Jim Fodey to take the confession letter to the police?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the matter was brought to my attention late August by the chief of staff. And the chief of staff and I discussed the matter, confirmed, agreed that Ms. Lord would need to be fired and that the matter should be taken to the police. Subsequent to that time, the handling of matters related to the police was in the hands of the administration and, Mr. Speaker, I had at that time no reason to believe that anything different from what was appropriate was taking place.

Mr. Speaker, that is incongruent with the comments of the chief of police, stated on Friday of last week. And, Mr. Speaker, subsequent to that time, the chief of staff of the NDP caucus has resigned.

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 a pretty simple question. In 1992 the minister received a confession letter in which Ann Davey admits to defrauding nearly 6,000 taxpayers' dollars and asks the minister to please keep this quiet. And I quote from the letter, Mr. Speaker:

It is a serious situation and one that I would hope you could keep confidential so that these other complications that some day may arise from the states, will not be cloudied and I could remain free.

Mr. Speaker, the minister had two options. He could take this information immediately to the police. He could take this information immediately to the police, or he could follow Ann Davey's request and keep it quiet. Which one did he do? Did the minister direct that the confession letter should immediately be turned over to the police, or did he decide to conceal this letter from the police?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I did not make a decision or direction to keep this letter from the chief of police. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the direction was given to the chief administrator, the caucus chief of staff, to take the matter to the police. And to the best of my knowledge at that time, matters were proceeding.

There were investigations that took place because of the police's checking of another incident unrelated to this that brought them to the building and during which there were interviews with staff members from the caucus at that time, Mr. Speaker.

What we have today, Mr. Speaker, is an incongruity between the advice given to me and the statement of the Regina chief of police. And, Mr. Speaker, there was an announcement made today that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner would be reviewing the matter.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, the minister wants us to believe that to the best of his knowledge he can't remember whether that order was given. Mr. Speaker, in the memo the woman says "fraud is fraud". That simply defies belief that this . . . There was a bizarre series of events. First a caucus employee suddenly disappears. She leaves behind a confession letter admitting to stealing \$6,000 and asks, asks the minister to keep it quiet. A few days later her car bursts into flames here at the Legislative Building. And a few days after that, police show up and say she's been arrested for 85 counts of fraud committed in the United States. And her real name isn't Ann Lord; it's Ann Davey. And now the minister wants us and the people of the province to believe he doesn't really remember any of that.

Mr. Speaker, I think the minister remembers everything. He's just not telling us. Who made the decision to conceal the confession letter from the police?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, the advice that I was given at the time was that this was information that was made available to the Regina city police. That's different from the public record as stated by Chief Johnston on Friday. Mr. Speaker, the matter is currently under review, as we know, by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and I welcome that review.

Mr. Speaker, it is normal, and in cases that when there is suspected misappropriation of funds to confirm, to confirm the facts. And I do point out that, as after receiving advice, that there was a special audit that was being done by the New Democratic caucus in 1992, and that special audit, Mr. Speaker, was tabled in this House last week.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if Jim Fodey was acting on his own when he concealed information from the police, why doesn't the minister just say so? If the minister directed Jim Fodey to turn all the information over to the police and Fodey defied that order, why doesn't the minister just say so? The fact that the minister won't answer this simple question seems to suggest that he was part of the cover-up.

Mr. Speaker, was Jim Fodey acting on his own when he concealed the confession letter and the audit from the police, or was the minister aware that he was concealing information from the police?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has a bit of a track record in the House of asking questions by innuendo, and that's clearly what's happening here. Mr. Speaker, I repeat, that after meeting with the chief of staff, the decision was made to fire Ann Lord and to bring the matter to the attention of the Regina city police. Mr. Speaker, I was never given reason to believe that information was being withheld from the police in terms of the comments and reports that I had from the chief of staff.

Mr. Speaker, I also point out that this complete matter was reviewed in 1994. And as a matter of confirmed public record, that information was considered by the police in 1994, which included the letter from Ann Lord as well as the audited statement tabled in the House here last week, Mr. Speaker. And that was then considered by the police in its entirety again in 1994, and no charges were laid.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister said that members of the NDP's administration committee also knew

about the confession letter. Those same members would have also known about the audit. Any one of those members could have stepped forward and said this is wrong; we are taking this to the police. But that never happened. The article in November of 1992 says that that had not happened. Instead it must have been concealed information that was kept back from the police.

Mr. Speaker, which NDP MLAs were on the administration committee in 1992? Which other NDP MLAs knew about the confession letter and the audit and did nothing?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, to state the obvious, a special audit was requested by the New Democratic Party caucus from the auditor of record of caucus at that time. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this was information that was well known by members of the admin committee. It was understood by members of the admin committee, and the reason for it.

Mr. Speaker, again I point out that there was ... this entire matter was reviewed in 1994. And all of the files were turned over to the police, Mr. Speaker, at that time which did include as the chief has concerned ... has confirmed, did include the letter from Ann Lord as well as the special audit and that subsequent to that time, Mr. Speaker, there were no charges laid and the matter was dealt with as a personnel matter.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, which other NDP MLAs knew about the confession letter? Which other NDP MLAs knew about the audit? And why did none of them take that information to the police?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, at this point I'm sorry I don't have the list of members of the admin committee of caucus in my memory bank at the moment, Mr. Speaker. But again I point out, I point out that the sequence of events was the awareness of the letter from Ms. Lord, the direction that she be fired, that the matter be brought to the attention of the police.

The belief of the caucus was that the advice of the police was to confirm the facts, and therefore a special audit was required, Mr. Speaker. And that in the course of the interviewing with caucus staff by the police on another matter, that the information of the circumstances with ... related to the investigation to Ms. Lord's conduct were communicated to the police at that time. That's the best information that I have available to me, Mr. Speaker, and that's why ...

The Speaker: — Member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party has obtained a letter from NDP lawyer Wil Olive to NDP MLA Pat Lorjé, dated August 17, 1994. Olive was reporting on the events of 1992 after Ann Davey's sudden disappearance. He says that on August 31, 1992, Jim Fodey found Ann Davey's confession letter. Fodey, and I'm quoting now from this letter: "... reviewed this material, spoke to Glen Hagel and then called the writer" — the writer being of course Mr. Olive. At that point, the minister could have said we should call the police, but he didn't.

Mr. Speaker, what did the minister do when he was advised of the confession letter dated August 31, 1992?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker — again to state the obvious — it's not an unusual thing for the chief of staff to contact, to have contact with the counsel to the caucus when dealing with this sort of matter. Mr. Speaker, that is nothing different from what has been said before.

I point out again that after meeting with the chief of staff at the end of August when he received the letter, the decision was made between the two of us that Ms. Lord would need to be fired and that the matter should be brought to the attention of the police. Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, the matter was communicated to the police, and there was a recommendation to proceed in the special audit in order to confirm the facts of the matter. That was done. All of that information was turned over to the police without doubt in 1994, and again reviewed by the city police in 1994.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, in his statement prior to question period, the minister said it was decided that Jim Fodey would bring the matter to the attention of the Regina city police. Mr. Speaker, there is no indication of this in Wil Olive's letter. Why did the minister say that Fodey was directed to take it to the police, then that does not appear to be the case in this letter?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, again I can only repeat the facts as I know them. And as I've already said, that the matter was brought to my attention by the chief of staff at the end of August. As a result of that discussion, the decision was made to fire Ann Lord and for the matter to be referred to the Regina city police.

It is clear that in addition to that, the chief of staff consulted with the counsel to the caucus at the time. And, Mr. Speaker, there was an audit that was done subsequent to that. That audit was completed. And, Mr. Speaker, although . . . and it was my understanding at the time that the information related to the letter and to the audit was communicated to the Regina city police. That's why I was surprised, Mr. Speaker, to hear Chief Johnston on Friday say that that was not the public record. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd point out again it was all reviewed in 1994.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, in his letter of August 17, 1994, Wil Olive goes on to outline the NDP's course of action. The course of action was to get an audit done, try to locate Ann Davey, and try to seize some of her assets. Nowhere in the course of action does it say, call the police. Nowhere does it say, turn the confession letter and the audit over to the police. It does say this, and I quote, "Jim Fodey would report the plan of action to his superiors."

Mr. Speaker, they all knew. They all knew about the cover-up. The minister knew. Other NDP MLAs knew. Maybe even the Premier knew. Mr. Speaker, who were Mr. Fodey's superiors and why didn't they go to the police?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, if this was a cover-up, it's one of the strangest cover-ups in the history of law enforcement, Mr. Speaker. I point out again that in 1994 the entire file was turned over to the police — crystal clear. And subsequent to that time, after review, the police advised that charges were not pending.

I point out as well, Mr. Speaker, that the counsel to the caucus, subsequent to the time that the member is referring to, attempted to get restitution, attempted to make contact with a lawyer for Ann Lord and to determine if restitution was available to the caucus, both of which were unsuccessful in their ability to be realized, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Wil Olive's letter says, and I quote, "Jim Fodey would report the plan of action to his superiors."

That plan of action did not include turning the confession letter over to the police. That plan of action did not include turning over the altered cheques to the police. And it did not include turning the audit over to the police. The minister wonders what the definition of cover-up is. That's a pretty good definition, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — This was a plan to cover up. And Jim Fodey reported the action plan to his superiors. Who were Jim Fodey's

superiors? Which NDP MLA knew about this cover-up?

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, again, there was no cover-up. If there was a cover-up, it was the oddest cover-up I've ever seen because, as I point out, that the whole matter was referred once again in its entirety, with the assurance of . . . And this is publicly verified, Mr. Speaker, with the information that the member talks about — the letter from Ann Lord as well as the audit. Mr. Speaker, no charges came of that.

And it should be known here, it should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that the victim, the victim in this case was the NDP caucus — the NDP caucus. And the plan of action involved a taking of a review of the financial statements, and with the special audit, Mr. Speaker, that was done. And to the best of my knowledge, that was information that was also shared with the police at that time, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that for two years that member realized — should have realized — that that information was not passed on to police. He should have realized that. And he asked no questions. He did not do that.

Mr. Speaker, they remember everything that went on in 1992 very well. They just don't want to talk about it. Any one of those members on the committee could have taken the confession letter to the police. Any one of those members could have taken the audit to the police. But not one of them did.

On Friday night, Chief Cal Johnston said our investigators were asking the right questions; they just were not getting any answers. Any one of the NDP MLAs could have provided these answers. Instead they covered it up. And now they blame it all on their chief of staff — what a cowardly act from a government that has completely lost its way.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: who knew about this fraud and why did they conceal it from the police?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — You know, Mr. Speaker, what's rather odd is that the member addressed the question to the Premier when everyone can see . . . is not here in the Assembly, Mr. . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The member's an experienced member; he ought to know he should not be referring to whether a member's presence or absence in the Legislative Assembly.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — The Leader of the Opposition says, where is he? Mr. Speaker, the Premier is on his way to a Premier's meeting is where he is. And so I think that is rather obvious, Mr. Speaker.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, here is that when the information became available, that the decision was made to fire Ann Lord, take the matter to the police. To the best of my knowledge, appropriate sharing of information with the police took place.

And, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that this matter was crystal clear, in 1994 the entire materials were made available to the police. That has been on the public record. No charges were subsequently laid, and the matter was dealt with as a personnel matter, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I wish to table a report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on the financial statements of the Crown agencies for years ending in the 2006 calendar year, April. And it's dated April 2007. It's from the Office of the Provincial Auditor.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I'll be tabling responses to written questions 1,296 and 1,297. And I would ask leave to . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. Order please. Once again I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — And, Mr. Speaker, I also ask leave to table a correction, written question 1,278.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 1,296 and 1,297 have been submitted, and a correction to question to 1,278 has been submitted.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I request leave of the House to present a motion granting absence to two members.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to present a motion. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Leave of Absence

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Opposition House Leader, by leave of the Assembly:

That leave of absence to be granted to the members for Saskatoon Eastview and Martensville for Tuesday, May 1 to Thursday, May 4, 2007, inclusive to attend the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians outreach program in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories on behalf of this Assembly.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader, the member for Moose Jaw North, seconded by the Opposition House Leader, the member for Melfort:

That leave of absence be granted to the members for Saskatoon Eastview and Martensville for Tuesday, May 1 to Thursday, May 4, 2007, inclusive to attend the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians outreach program in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories on behalf of this Assembly.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:28.]

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Hon. Graham Addley

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Hon. Pat Atkinson

Minister of Advanced Education and Employment Minister Responsible for Immigration Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Joan Beatty

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