



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Calvert, Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
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Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
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Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
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McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
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Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
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Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
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Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Cumberland

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand today to introduce three students who are articling with the Ministry of Justice. They are Adam Breker who is from Saskatoon, Leslie Dawson and Lee Hnatiuk from Swift Current.

Mr. Hnatiuk indicates that he hasn't met the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from there, but he has heard good things about him. Mr. Breker has worked on one of the Bills that will be introduced later today. They are here today observing proceedings from the Speaker's gallery. They are joined by Lee Anne Schienbein, executive assistant to the deputy minister of Justice.

Adam, Leslie, and Lee are all graduates of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. These students began their articles in June 2007 and are being exposed to a diverse and challenging articling experience with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. I am pleased that these individuals are interested in public service and have chosen to article with the ministry. I'm sure they will find their time with us will equip them with general practical knowledge of the justice system and how it works to serve Saskatchewan residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Adam, Leslie, and Lee to the Legislative Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce a number of individuals that are involved with the midwifery profession. I will have more to say about that profession later on today, but I would like to introduce Debbie Mpofu, member of the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan. If you can just give a wave as I introduce you. Thank you.

Sonya Duffee is a member of the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan and also a member of the midwives transitional council. Ray Joubert is the Chair of the midwives transition council. Linda Muzio is a member of the midwifery transition council. Karen Pollock is interim executive director and registrar of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives. Andy Churko is midwife program consultant. Margaret Baker is the director, primary health services branch, Ministry of Health. Darby Semeniuk is Saskatoon Health Region, communications; Debbie Vey, member of the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan; and Gail Rosseker, also from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

I'd like all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly I'd like to introduce some guests in your east gallery. Sitting at the back are Gord Campbell, president of the Health Care Council of Saskatchewan; Judy Henley, the treasurer of health care council; Sinda Cathcart, president of CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] Local 3967. Below them, Debbie Hubick, recording secretary of CUPE Sask division; Chris Larson, executive member. Lower down, Mike Keith, representative with the Canadian Union of Public Employees; Erin Morrison, executive assistant to the Saskatchewan division of CUPE; and Tom Graham, the president of the Saskatchewan division of CUPE. I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure, especially in times of such financial bounty in the province of Saskatchewan, to present a petition on behalf of citizens that by expanding and renovating the Moose Jaw Union Hospital, the facility will be better positioned for success in retention and recruitment of health care professionals and that residents in Moose Jaw and the surrounding area will benefit from improved health care and improved wait times for surgery. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to provide funding for the expansion and renovation of the Moose Jaw Union Hospital.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, these are signed by residents of the city of Moose Jaw.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I humbly submit a petition on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, these petitioners note that with regard to school closures, the Sask Party's actions have not met their promises. They ask the Sask Party to live up to their promises . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I'll remind the members that a decision

was made a number of years ago that we read the prayer and not get into a long dialogue on the petition. If the member would read the prayer, it would be appreciated.

Mr. Wotherspoon: —

Therefore the petitioners ask that the Sask Party government develop, announce, and implement a plan to address school closures.

Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to present several pages of petitions to the Legislative Assembly today on behalf of the citizens of the province of Saskatchewan concerning the withdrawal of the proposed essential services legislation and the withdrawal of the proposed amendments to The Trade Union Act. The prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the new government to withdraw both Bills and hold broad public consultations about labour relations in the province.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The petitions are signed by people from Pilot Butte, Strasbourg, Indian Head, Watrous, and Regina. Mr. Speaker, I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — Recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

International Women's Day

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 8, International Women's Day was celebrated around the world. Canadians have marked International Women's Day by celebrating progress towards women's full participation, reflecting on challenges and barriers that remain, and considering future steps to achieving equality for all women in all aspects of their lives.

Here in Saskatchewan women fill significant roles, not only in our families and our communities, but on the family farm, in industry, and in business. Our contributions are considerable. Saskatchewan has one of the highest percentages of women with children attached to the workforce. We are business owners, professionals in all sectors — industrial and retail — and volunteers.

The number of women graduating from post-secondary institutions is continuing to climb, but we continue to struggle with such basic issues as pay equity, child care, and work and family balance. We comprise 52 per cent of our population but are still under-represented at an elected, executive, or decision-making level.

Progress has been made. It is a day to celebrate, but it's also a day to recommit to the continued progress on issues important to women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in acknowledging International Women's Day and the numerous groups around the province that plan and host events in their communities to celebrate the collective power of women — past, present, and future. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

International Women's Day Marked in Prince Albert

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each year on March 8, Saskatchewan marks International Women's Day and recognizes the importance of equality for women in all aspects of society. The day was proclaimed internationally by the United Nations in 1975, but it originates in women's activism from the early 1900s. Today it has evolved to provide support and recognition for women in all their diversity.

Events will take place throughout the month as communities and organizations honour women and work to improve the status of women everywhere. Celebration International Women's Day in our province, Mr. Speaker, is a way of recognizing how Saskatchewan women contribute to our families, communities, and economy in so many ways.

This past Saturday I had the honour of attending the Prince Albert Council of Women Hall of Fame ceremony, along with Minister Hickie, who brought greetings. Melba Jenkins was introduced into the Hall of Fame that day for her volunteerism and contributions to the community.

We are proud to be a part of a global community that celebrates women and envisions a future in which all women are safe from violence and recognized as equal members of society. Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to take the time to honour the women in their lives and ensure that future generations of Saskatchewan women have equal opportunity to find security and prosperity in our province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Regina & District Labour Council Awards

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of March 7, several of my colleagues and I had the privilege of attending the Regina & District Labour Council's annual awards dinner for 2007. Mr. Speaker, this awards banquet provides an opportunity for working people to come together and distinguish council members who have assumed a crucial role in building community by strengthening their unions and concurrently providing support for the less fortunate and underemployed.

Kelly Diebel, president of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union Local 481 received the Labour Activist of the Year Award. Ms. Diebel is a busy mother of two children and a strong leader in the union movement.

The second award of the evening, the Labour Community Services Award, was awarded to Barb Cape, president of the Service Employees International Union Local 299. She was presented with a print of a mural created by artist Crystal Howie which was the winning entry in a competition sponsored by the Saskatchewan centennial workers celebration. Ms. Cape is a committed community activist and worker.

Mr. Speaker, the Regina & District Labour Council has a long, established history of community support for the working people in Regina and area. I would like to invite all members of the House to join me in offering congratulations and support for the efforts of the Regina District Labour Council towards ameliorating the welfare of working people. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

Social Work Week

Mr. LeClerc: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in the House today to bring to the attention of the hon. members that this is Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. Social workers are a unique group of individuals who spend each day working to help others. They may be working with children in foster care, young people in conflict with the law, parents who need some help, individuals who have experienced emotional trauma, patients in the hospital, people with disabilities, students, or the elderly.

In a world and a society that is growing ever more complex, the principles and values that guide the profession of social work remain much as they have always been. While technology is propelling us forward at breakneck speed, the field of social work remains firmly grounded in the values of social justice, service, dignity, and the worth of the individual. It is built upon a foundation of human connection and relies heavily on human relationships.

As human beings our need for personal empowerment, a willingness and understanding ear to listen to our problems, a skilled professional to guide us as we seek solutions, and someone to sympathize with, encourage, or advocate for us, cannot be met by a computer.

Every day across this province social workers use their knowledge, experience, and skills to meet these needs. Every day they work to help Saskatchewan people improve the quality of their lives. On behalf of this House, I sincerely thank the hundreds of highly trained, caring, and committed social workers who work tirelessly to help those in needs, their efforts to make this province a better place to live for all of us.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Scott Blues Win Junior Boys' Basketball Title

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, a week ago tonight, in thrilling style, the Scott Blues won its second Regina Intercollegiate Basketball League junior boys' small city title in a span of four seasons when the Blues defeated the Lumsden Devils 56-50 at the University of Regina's kinesiology centre. In a column he wrote last week, *Leader-Post* sports reporter Rob Vanstone said that, and I quote:

There is not a better story in high school sports than the Scott Blues.

And I couldn't agree more, Mr. Speaker. Let me quote at length from Mr. Vanstone's excellent column:

[13:45]

The Blues' successes are remarkable when you consider that the inner-city school's basketball program was dormant for 15 years until it was revived by head coach Corey Matthews in the fall of 2003.

Despite Matthews' immense contributions, he is quick to defer to the players. When approached for an interview after Monday's gold-medal presentations, Matthews' first words were: "Do you want to talk to one of the kids?"

Matthews quickly introduced the reporter to Junior Pratt, whose involvement with Scott basketball precedes his enrollment at the school.

To create interest in basketball, and to create alternatives for inner-city youth, Matthews has held open-gym sessions at Scott Collegiate. Pratt was one of the . . . [kids that showed up]. Look at him now.

"It kind of reminds me of when I was back in Grade 8," Pratt said after the city final. "I never thought I'd be here."

Daynen McKay and Brandon Ironchild used to be waterboys on Matthews' team. This season, they were key contributors to a championship effort.

"When we started this, we heard a lot . . . [that] the kids couldn't do — that they couldn't commit and they wouldn't show up," Matthews recalled. "The kids not only bought in, but they started to excel."

[And] the results speak volumes.

Mr. Speaker, in my home neighbourhood, north central, we are very proud of Coach Matthews, Coach Nagel, and our city champions, the Scott Blues. And I'm very proud to bring word of their success to this Assembly. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Rural Women's Month

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their significant contributions to this great province, March has been declared Rural Women's Month in Saskatchewan.

We can never have enough opportunities to showcase the achievements of rural women in Saskatchewan. From the very first permanent settlers in this province, rural women have been there. It is through their hard work that Saskatchewan has prospered. Whether through working the land, educating the youth, or providing tireless volunteerism, we would not be here today without them.

As a woman who has lived in rural Saskatchewan all my life, I have witnessed the hard work and contributions of rural women first-hand, especially in tough years when they have had to go out in the fields, run the machinery, and do the work of a hired hand so the family farm can survive for another year. It is this dedication and work ethic that has allowed rural women to nurture not just their families but the very land that they depended on for their livelihood.

As Saskatchewan takes its place as a leader in the new West, our resource-rich rural areas will be critical. This showcases how rural women will continue to be the most critical resource for our province, as we would not last long without them. It is through their tireless efforts, leadership, and experience that Saskatchewan will continue to prosper.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Launch of Expanded Practical Nursing Program

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to receive an invitation to the February 14 launch of the expanded practical nursing program at the faculty of nursing at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] Kelsey, 4th Avenue Centre in Saskatoon. I was invited to the launch by a number of constituents that work for the program.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been part of the former government's team that worked along with SIAST in the response to rapidly growing nursing education needs throughout our province.

With increased accessibility to training throughout the province, delivery of this practical nursing program includes additional practical nursing seats, delivery partnerships with First Nations and regional colleges, and online program delivery. These elements help to ensure quality care to Saskatchewan residents who need acute care, home care, and long-term care delivered by well-trained, competent, professional nurses.

Mr. Speaker, these goals have long been shared and addressed by the former government, which recognized the importance of imaginative new ways to expand nursing education programs to

meet continuous demands within Saskatchewan's publicly funded health care system. The launch of this new program includes an expansion of SIAST Kelsey Campus to a downtown facility in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend SIAST, which continues to be widely acknowledged and recognized throughout the world for innovative programming and teaching as it offers courses and programs to almost 12,000 registered students.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Labour Relations Board

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday we learned that the Sask Party had dismissed without cause the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Labour Relations Board — three eminently qualified professionals. These firings were just the latest in a string of civil service firings which began less than a week after the Sask Party was sworn in.

The minister has already announced a new Chair, but when asked why the former Chair was replaced, he ducked the question and refused to answer. Can he now tell the citizens of our province why he saw fit to replace the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Labour Relations Board?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Advanced Education and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. It's the natural course of action, as governments come in, that changes are made. And these changes were simply reflective of the broader changes. I'm sure the member opposite will remember 1991 and '92 when over 200 members of the civil service and boards and other agencies were let go. So the melodrama may stop now.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I think he's including people who worked for the Grant Devine government in ministers' offices in that number.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've established that the new Chair is a qualified man, but that does not mean that the previous Chair and Vice-Chairs were not. The minister responsible would like to focus attention strictly on the new Chair. He'd like to sweep his firings under the carpet. He'd like to repeat his three-line prepackaged answer, but that's simply not good enough for the people of our province.

On Friday he called any concerns, quote, "a tempest in a

teapot.” He did the same thing last fall in this House when he accused the NDP [New Democratic Party] of, I quote, “inciting unnecessary fear” by asking questions. Can the minister explain to the citizens of our province why he thinks that concerns over the removal of professional civil servants constitute a tempest in a teapot?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — I appreciate the question. Obviously the honourable member was not at the event which was the launch of the skills competition, and therefore she’s simply misquoting what exactly I said about a tempest in the teapot.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I think if your lips move on TV that’s actually a direct quote.

Anyway the Saskatchewan Party has had it in for the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board for some time. Their Minister of Enterprise and Innovation once said that the Labour Relations Board, and I quote, is seen, “. . . as a board that is biased against management, and heavy-handed in the abuse of the powers that they . . . have.”

The member from Biggar has called the Labour Relations Board and I quote, “unfair and biased and pro-union.” And even the Premier has said that the decisions of the board, and I quote, “come down more often in favour of unions than they have in favour of employers.”

Why won’t the minister just come out and admit it? Just admit that these people were fired because the government wants representatives that are closer to their version of pro-business.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, what we see is the appointment of a gentleman with a tremendous skill set, relevant education, tremendous experience, a reputation that’s respected in the HR [human resources] community and the legal community, and we’re delighted that he’s serving the interests of the people of this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier now raised a real brouhaha last year about the Labour Relations Board Vice-Chair who was not reappointed after his term expired. And here is what the Deputy Premier had to say to the *Leader-Post* and I quote:

Krawetz told reporters outside the House that every person should be concerned when there is a question of political interference with an independent body of the government.

Well we are concerned. Unfortunately now that the Deputy Premier finds himself as a member of government, he’s changed his tune. Compare the Deputy Premier’s statement with the minister’s excuse that these firings were part of, and I quote, “broader change.” Can the minister explain how come this flip-flop?

Two years ago the Sask Party claimed to be very concerned about alleged political interference with the Labour Relations Board when the person’s term expired, and now they have their fingerprints all over the board before these three people’s terms expired as representatives on the Labour Relations Board.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister of Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the soliloquy, but the question actually is that the political legacy of the previous government, we’ve addressed that. And that’s why we were elected. This is part of being elected. There’s a change of government. There is a change of boards, agencies, and commissions. And, Mr. Speaker, we’re delighted with the individual that has been appointed to the LRB [Labour Relations Board].

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I know he’s got three lines that he’s supposed to say. But, Mr. Speaker, he really should tell us the truth. And what he should tell us is that they simply want a Labour Relations Board that reflects their values and represents their version of what it is to be pro-business in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to quote again from the illustrious Deputy Premier. And he says:

I believe it’s extremely important for everyone — workers and business owners — to know their labour disputes are dealt with fairly and expeditiously. I believe it’s important to conduct a very open and public investigation into these troubling matters.

Well what else has he said? He’s said, and I quote, “To remove someone because of complaints without even bothering to investigate the legitimacy of these complaints is not proper.” Now what I ask the member opposite is, did the minister perform any investigations into the decisions and rulings of the members that were fired?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister Responsible for Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, maybe the member opposite can account for what happened to the LRB Chair in 1992.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, we know from last fall that it's going to cost about \$4 million to settle with deputy ministers that were fired. And earlier this year, we had another round of firings of professional civil servants.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Chair and the Vice-Chair at the Labour Relations Board were fired without cause. The Chair's term was set to expire in October. One of the Vice-Chair's appointment ran until July of next year, and the other Vice-Chair was to sit on the board until 2012.

Well, Mr. Speaker, these people are entitled to compensation. How much is the Sask Party vendetta against the Labour Relations Board going to wind up costing the people of our province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, we thank the Chairs and Vice-Chairs past for their work, and obviously we look to the future. We have a person with a skill set, education, and experience that is set to serve the people of this province very, very well.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, he is using the same three lines that are made up down at communication central. But, Mr. Speaker, they didn't just fire the Labour Relations Board. They fired them in the middle of a hearing. The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour has likened the situation to firing the judge in the middle of a trial. Now meantime the part-time Minister of Labour hides behind The Trade Union Act and says the members can continue with their cases. Well let's overlook the irony of that member using The Trade Union Act in his defence. Let's look at what The Trade Union Act actually says and I quote:

If the term of a member of the board expires after the member has begun hearing a matter before the board but before the proceeding is completed, the member may continue as if his or her term had not expired for the purpose of completing the proceeding.

Well, Mr. Speaker, these folks were fired. Can the minister explain what's going to happen to the 30 cases that are presently before the fired Labour Relations Board?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister of Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, no disruption was necessary. In fact verbal instructions were given that the cases could continue that had already been started. And as far as commenting on cases before the LRB, this minister won't be engaged in that activity in this House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, The Trade Union Act is very clear. They can continue if their term has expired, but these three members of the Labour Relations Board were fired.

Now, Mr. Speaker, does he have a legal opinion on this ranting of his that they can continue, because I don't think he does. Mr. Speaker, if these members were to continue, is it possible that the losing party could in fact appeal the decision? Mr. Speaker, I ask the member: does he have a legal opinion saying that these fired members of the Labour Relations Board can continue their hearings on these 30 matters before the board, or is it simply a firing, Mr. Speaker, that is going to lead to hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent by both business and trade unions because of their incompetence?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister Responsible for Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member opposite's views on incompetence. She probably has quite a track record to examine on that. But what I will say, Mr. Speaker, what I will say, obviously within the Act there is provision that these cases can continue, Mr. Speaker. The fact that there was a disruption actually speaks more to grandstanding than it does to anything in the Act.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Speaker: — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, who is he accusing of grandstanding? Is he accusing one of the Vice-Chairs for indicating that she had been fired, Mr. Speaker? And she had to do this as a result of speaking to all three lawyers representing the unions and business, Mr. Speaker. Did they ask her to continue? Did they say that she could continue? Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe the answer is no.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know this. I know that people apply for these positions through the Public Service Commission. Can I ask the member opposite to outline in great detail what kind of process was followed before hiring this individual? Did the minister discuss the potential openings with either business or labour? Did the Public Service Commission interview this

individual along with other individuals for this new Chair?

Mr. Speaker, he needs to tell us precisely what process the Sask Party went through to appoint this individual as Chair of the Labour Relations Board.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite works her way up to the minutiae, I think the people of Saskatchewan are actually more interested in the 13,300 new, full-time jobs that have been created in the last year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Norris: — I think they're more interested in 15,000 people moving back to the province, Mr. Speaker. And the minutiae of these details, Mr. Speaker, what I can say is we have found a skilled, educated, experienced, insightful, qualified, capable Chair of the LRB, who will serve the interests of this province, and his record will stand the test of time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, we have a quasi-judicial board that was fired by the Minister of Labour and the Sask Party government. Mr. Speaker, we have a board that was in the middle of a hearing that had gone on for some months, Mr. Speaker. We have 30 cases before the Labour Relations Board. This is going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars for the people, both the unions and business to deal with this. Now he might call that minutiae, Mr. Speaker, but from where I come from, that costs money to the people who are before the Labour Relations Board.

And I ask the member again, what process did he go through to hire someone to sit on that board, and did he have any legal opinion whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, that these hearings could continue? And finally, Mr. Speaker, I'd be curious to know when that member knew that these people had been fired because I have a hunch he didn't know until after the fact.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, during another time, perhaps didn't know what was going on in her ministries, but I certainly know what's going on in mine.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, what we can say is we have a qualified, skilled, competent individual who, at the head of the LRB, the people of Saskatchewan are going to be well served

by this individual.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Political Staff and Election Promises

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has a great deal of difficulty answering any questions. We'll see how the Premier does today.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has made many very clear promises and commitments to people of Saskatchewan — one very specific promise about the cost of his and their political staff. On December 18, 2007, the member from Canora-Pelly stood in this House and said about the cost of their political staff, and I quote, "And above all, Mr. Speaker, the cost of government by the Saskatchewan Party . . . will be less than the cost of that former government."

That's what he said. And do you know, Mr. Speaker, when he was pushed by the journalists out in the rotunda to explain that, what did he say? Well he said it's so because the Premier said it will be so.

And do you know in that, just that same month, Mr. Speaker, on December 20 the Premier said, and I quote, "We also promised them, Mr. Speaker, that we would have lower political costs than the outgoing government."

So, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Does he stand by the statements that his Deputy Premier made and that he made in December of last year?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. If I may, on behalf of the new government, we welcome he and his colleagues back to the Assembly as we welcome you back to the Assembly for this spring session of the legislature which will be marked by this new government's first budget, Mr. Speaker.

And the hallmark of that budget will be that this government will continue to keep its promises made in the election campaign, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Additionally, additionally the hallmark of this government will be to deal with an infrastructure deficit left behind by the outgoing administration, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — And we will do that, we will do that to ensure we can keep the current momentum in the province moving forward, Mr. Speaker. That's what people voted for on November 7. That we've set out to do since then, and we'll

continue through the spring, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I fear the Premier is now learning from his part-time Minister of Labour. I'm not sure if there was an answer there.

Very simple question — does he stand by his commitment that the political cost of his government will be lower than the political staff costs of the former government? Because, Mr. Speaker, we know that ministerial staff in this building have done very, very well under this new Sask Party government.

We know when they were elected, they were busy telling the people of Saskatchewan the fiscal circumstances of the province is stark. That's what they were saying, but meantime behind the closed doors of government they were increasing, significantly increasing the salaries and pay to their political staff in their ministerial offices.

So I have another question for the Premier. What today — Mr. Speaker, I ask the Premier — what today is the total cost of ministerial staff in the Legislative Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we're happy to talk about promises made and promises kept. Just over 100 days in to this new administration, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that we made a promise for a smaller cabinet. We've kept that promise. We made a promise to eliminate the NDP used car sales tax. We've kept that promise. We made a promise to get tough on drunk drivers, get tougher on drunk drivers. We've already kept that promise.

More accountable government, Mr. Speaker; that Bill was introduced in December. Mr. Speaker, the creation of Enterprise Saskatchewan, asked and answered. Fixed election dates in the province, Mr. Speaker, another promise that was kept. There are 16 promises already kept by this brand new government.

And I'll say this. Overall the cost of political staff of this government will be less than what we had under the NDP. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll say something else. The budget of this Premier's office, the political budget of this Premier's office, will be much lower than what we got — people can argue about whether it was a bargain or not — when that member was in the office I'm in now, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier refuses to answer my question. Perhaps I can shed a little light on the answer, Mr. Speaker.

Documents released by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

show that the annual cost of ministerial staff under this Sask Party government is now \$4.7 million a year; information provided by this government to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, released publicly when this government wouldn't release it, \$4.7 million a year.

Now interestingly, since that information was made available to the Taxpayers Federation, they've been about hiring even more people in the ministerial offices so that the staff costs today exceed \$5 million on an annual basis. Now that, Mr. Speaker — that, Mr. Speaker — is \$13,000 less than the costs in the ministerial offices of the former government, with one less office, Mr. Speaker, one less office, and after 16 years in government where the staff had reached the top of their pay range.

After three months, three months of this government, we have one fewer offices with virtually the same cost to the people of Saskatchewan. Is this how the Premier intends to keep his promises?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I mean I welcome the question. Ostensibly the question is, you are keeping your promise but just not good enough. I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition, the important part of these political costs to the taxpayers are also those costs in the office of Executive Council, in the office of the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, we made a commitment that we would provide that service to the people of Saskatchewan at a much lower cost than we had when the member for Riversdale was the premier of Saskatchewan. And that's also a promise we've kept.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, we'll see about the last statement the Premier just made.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to talk about the Premier's own office staff — his political staff. Now in December again the member from Canora-Pelly was indicating to all the people of Saskatchewan the cost of the Premier's office staff would be considerably lower. He indicated, and I quote again, "Mr. Speaker, in the Premier's office today the cost will be \$193,000."

Now the Premier in the month of January said to the people of Saskatchewan, through the journalists, that he was shocked. Shocked was the word he used when he discovered that the costs of the Premier's office staff on a monthly basis were not 193 but 300,000 a month.

Well my question is for the Premier: what are the costs of your staff today?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, typically these kinds of questions — which are absolutely appropriate for this Assembly — are asked at the end of session during Premier's estimates.

But apparently the opposition has nothing else to talk about, Mr. Speaker, because they're asking these on the very first day. I guess they don't want to talk about the fact that today Saskatchewan is leading the country in terms of so many different economic categories — leading the country in terms of employment, leading the country in terms of growth, leading the country in terms of vehicle sales, Mr. Speaker. The message that we have for Canadians, and even for those in the United States, is a compelling one — that Saskatchewan is the place to be.

And if I'm looking at some of the reviews already from the people of the province, even from online polls this very day, the people of Saskatchewan appreciate the fact that this new government is this province's best hope to keep that great momentum going. And that's exactly what's going to happen, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, these questions are as much about the Premier's credibility and his willingness to keep his word to the people of Saskatchewan as they are about the hard numbers.

But here are the facts, Mr. Speaker, here are the facts. The cost of the Premier's office staff today are not \$193,000 as the deputy leader said they were. And they are not 300,000 as the Premier said he was shocked to find out. No, in fact today they are over \$400,000 a month. That's \$100,000 a month more, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier: how does he explain this huge discrepancy from what he promised and what he said about political staff costs and the reality of today?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The Minister of Health has asked, says usually after Premier's estimates there's a prorogue party. I'm not sure if there's one planned over there or not.

We're prepared to stay here, Mr. Speaker. We're looking forward to this session. We're looking forward to introducing a budget that keeps still more promises in addition to the 17 promises already kept. We're looking forward to introducing a budget that very much keeps the promise that I have made, that costs for Executive Council will be lower than what we had under the NDP. It will be another promise made and another promise kept.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. I've been trying to follow the debate and listen to the discussion. I think it's rising just a little bit. I ask members to respect the right of others to speak, and I recognize the Premier and allow him to finish his comments. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — November 7 has occurred in intervening . . . Mr. Speaker, I would just say that when we see the budget — and it will be tabled soon — without getting into the details, the budget will be about this government keeping its promise and keeping the momentum going in the province. One of the promises that we have made with respect to Executive Council costs being lower than what we had under the NDP will also be kept.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, then the Premier's going to have to do some fast trimming in Executive Council and some fast trimming in his ministerial offices because here are the facts.

Today in the province of Saskatchewan, with information provided in cabinet documentation and in information provided the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, on an annual basis the cost of the Premier's political office, his staff, and the cost of ministerial offices on an annual basis will exceed ten and a half million dollars. And, Mr. Speaker, that's \$1.2 million more on an annual basis than what was being spent in the previous government after 16 years in government, Mr. Speaker. In three months, in three months they've raised it \$1.2 million on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, how can we have confidence in anything that the Premier says or has said in the past?

The Speaker: — Order. I've been having difficulty hearing the Leader of the Opposition place his question, and I would ask members to give the Leader of the Opposition the opportunity to place his question.

Mr. Calvert: — Well let me . . . [inaudible] . . . in this fashion, Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier answer this question: why is it, why is it that rewarding his friends and his cronies, as they're being called, why is it that rewarding his friends and cronies is more important than keeping his promises?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I look at the list of some of the people that have joined the government since the change in government, I see names like Myrna Bentley, nominated by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association to Enterprise Saskatchewan. Is she a crony of the Sask Party? What about Gary Merasty, Mr. Speaker, nominated by the Prince Albert Grand Council? Or Michael Fougere? What about Chief Darcy Bear or Chief Alphonse Bird? What about Janice MacKinnon, Mr. Speaker, also involved with the Government

of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know maybe, maybe if that Leader of the Opposition were paying a little bit more attention to his new role as the Leader of the Opposition — difficult as it may be for all of us to get used to new roles and particularly that one — instead of focusing on things like a report card for the opposition, he also might want to weigh in on the fact that we've already received a report card, in fact significantly from the economy itself where Saskatchewan continues to post As and Bs in almost every category . . . is the talk of the country.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, that report card that we're just watching today on two different online polls, 70 per cent of Saskatchewan people say A plus or B plus. That's the grade for the government of Saskatchewan today, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Question period time has elapsed.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

The Midwifery Act

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today to do a ministerial statement on The Midwifery Act and the proclamation of many of the sections. I want to apologize to the critic of Health from the opposition. I didn't get the remarks over to her very early at all — in fact, just before session. But we'll try and do better on that in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a proclamation of additional sections of The Midwifery Act, sections that will allow for the delivery or regulate midwifery services in Saskatchewan. This is a proud moment for the government, Mr. Speaker, and a proud moment in particular for midwives of Saskatchewan, some of whom are seated in the gallery and I've introduced earlier today.

For years they have been working with other health care providers and the Ministry of Health to develop this legislation. And I want to thank them for their patience — their extreme patience — and dedication as they waited for this Act to be proclaimed. Establishing a new health profession in the province is a complex undertaking. But the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan and the other members of the midwifery implementation committee were steadfast in their commitment to ensure midwife services are available in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's appropriate that we are proclaiming this legislation just a few days after International Women's Day when we celebrated the economic, political, and social achievements of women.

Midwives have been helping women through childbirth for thousands of years. Today, midwives are respected members of the health care community, providing safe and flexible care centred on the needs of the mother and her family. With this proclamation, midwives take their place among Saskatchewan's provincial organizations and self-regulated health professionals.

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and the Saskatoon Health Region will be the first health regions to offer midwifery services, with midwives expected to be on the job later this year. Services will be expanded throughout the province as more midwives are licensed.

Midwives will have privileges to do deliveries in the hospital or, if appropriate, in the client's home. They will be able to order tests and assessments, including ultrasounds. They will also be able to prescribe and administer many common drugs that are used during pregnancy, birth, and throughout the postpartum period.

The Saskatchewan College of Midwives will regulate the practice of midwifery in Saskatchewan. It will have the powers to enact bylaws and manage the affairs and business of the profession.

Mr. Speaker, in developing this legislation, the government has consulted closely with the midwifery implementation committee. The committee has a membership representing the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the midwifery association of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists. I want to thank all these parties for their involvement and hard work and support.

In particular I would like to recognize the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan. The college has had to pass a bylaw under The Medical Profession Act that allows midwives to provide postpartum care, which was never in the legislation in the first place. During this session of the legislature we intend to amend The Midwifery Act to give legislative force to the right of midwives to provide postpartum care.

Mr. Speaker, this government has made an important commitment to the people of Saskatchewan — a commitment to improve our publicly funded, publicly administered health care system. The midwives of Saskatchewan, who have waited so, so long for this day to come, will help us meet that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to thank the minister too in saying that he'll get to me earlier next time. But this one, I do know a lot about this Act and I do want to welcome the many people who are up in the gallery today, many of who I recognize from the work I did as the SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] president. I sat on working groups for midwifery.

When the member from Nutana and I were associate minister and minister of Health, we actually had the pleasure of introducing The Midwifery Act. So I recognize many of the people and I thank them very much for their patience and for all the collaborative work that they did to get us to this point where there's a lot of partners to make something like this happen.

This is a new profession introduced into this province. As an obstetrical nurse I appreciate the valuable contributions that midwives will bring to women in labour and actually in postpartum and all through the pregnancy. I think this will be a wonderful contribution to a woman's experience.

And I do want to thank them again for their patience and for their hard work. And I am very happy today to see this proclaimed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Speaker: — Prior to orders of the day I have a message from Queen Elizabeth II regarding Commonwealth Day. I would ask members to rise as I read her message.

Last year, Commonwealth heads of government met in Uganda on the edge of Lake Victoria and agreed to an action plan for tackling climate change. It was an appropriate place to do so: from there, the waters of the River Nile begin a three-month journey to the Mediterranean.

The Nile, throughout history, has served humankind in many ways. But for all its impressive size and importance, this river is a fragile ecosystem and its vulnerability grows with the number of people dependent upon it, so that a single incident of pollution upstream may affect the lives of countless numbers downstream.

The example of the Nile illustrates many of the challenges facing the global environment as a whole which cannot alone sustain our lives as once it did. The competition for fresh water by a growing population is itself becoming a source of potential conflict. Our own attitudes to the environment, and the use we put it to, may have consequences for people on every continent and for every ocean and sea.

The impact of pollution falls unequally. It is often those who pollute the least — notably the world's least-developed nations — who are closest to the razor's edge: most affected by the impact of climate change and least equipped to cope with it.

And it is most important to remember that the environmental choices available in some countries may not be an option for others. In some parts of the world, for example, fossil fuels can be used more sparingly and buildings can be made of more efficient, sustainable materials; but it is far harder to expect someone to adapt if he or she relies on the trees of a local forest for fuel, shelter, and livelihood. If we recognize the interests and

needs of the people who are most affected, we can work with them to bring about lasting change. Happily, this approach has always been a strength of the Commonwealth. An awareness of environmental issues is now widespread with the determination that future generations should enjoy clean air, sufficient fresh water, and energy without risking damage to the planet. Few are more aware or energetic in controlling climate change than young people, and we should support them.

In the Commonwealth, governments, businesses, communities, and individuals should each strive to match words and good intentions with deeds. Every contribution has its part to play. Whatever we do or wherever we live, our actions in defence of the environment can have a real and a positive effect upon the lives of others, today, and into the future.

Thank you. Please be seated.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day it is my pleasure to submit supplementary estimates accompanied by a message from his Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

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

The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008 and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

The Hon. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

Please be seated.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 1 — The Growth and Financial Security Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 1, The Growth and Financial Security Act.

This Bill reflects that this government and its economic growth agenda will be built on a foundation of sound financial management. It recognizes that sound financial management requires more than just fiscal stabilization. Sound financial management will be achieved through balanced budgets, the establishment of the Growth and Financial Security Fund, the establishment of a Debt Retirement Fund, stipulations on the

use of annual surpluses, and ensuring efficient government services.

Mr. Speaker, in this Bill the government is required to plan for and achieve a balanced budget each and every year with exceptions only in the event of natural disaster or war. To ensure long-term planning, each year a financial plan and a public debt management plan for the next four years are required to be tabled.

This Bill establishes a Growth and Financial Security Fund for the purpose of providing for financial security from year to year and promoting and enhancing the economic development of Saskatchewan. The Debt Retirement Fund is established for the purpose of assisting with the long-term objective of the Government of Saskatchewan of eliminating the accumulated deficit.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill designates the use of annual surpluses of the General Revenue Fund. One-half of the General Revenue Fund surpluses will be transferred to the Growth and Financial Security Fund, with the other half going to the Debt Retirement Fund.

Treasury Board will be required to review existing and proposed programs and expenditures of ministries. This review will assess the adequacy, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of programs and will ensure that there's accountability to the Legislative Assembly respecting government expenditures and programs. Treasury Board is also to monitor the size of the public service as compared to the size of the population.

Mr. Speaker, we've committed to strong economic growth and sound financial management. And The Growth and Financial Security Act takes a number of steps to ensure this happens. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of The Growth and Financial Security Act.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved second reading of Bill No. 1, The Growth and Financial Security Act. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill No. 1, An Act respecting Saskatchewan's Growth and Financial Security and repealing certain Acts. I understand that shortly the Assembly will move to condolence motions for former MLAs who've recently passed away. And in the interests of time and to ensure that my full remarks will not be interrupted later when we move to these condolence motions, and to preserve my place in the speaking order, I would like to move that the debate on Bill No. 1 be now adjourned.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 1. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to accept

the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 4 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2007/Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif (élections à date fixe)

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2007. Mr. Speaker, the amendments to The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act introduced today will implement the promise that the government made to establish fixed election dates in Saskatchewan.

As announced by the Premier the morning after the election, the next election will be held November 7, 2011 and every four years thereafter on the first Monday of November. Mr. Speaker, this will apply whether or not the last general election was held on the fixed four-year cycle or as a result of an intervening dissolution of the Legislative Assembly.

[14:30]

Where an intervening snap election, general election is required, the fixed election dates will continue to prevail in the fourth calendar year after that snap election on the first Monday in November.

Mr. Speaker, it is a constitutional requirement that an election must be held at least once every five years. It is currently the sole prerogative of the Premier to choose an election date and ask the Lieutenant Governor to dissolve the Legislative Assembly for the purposes of a general election. This is often done to match as best as possible the political conveniences of the governing party.

Mr. Speaker, this fixed election legislation will remove the guesswork and political opportunism that far too often dictates the timing of elections where a governing party seeks to set an election date to its own advantage. These changes will remove the built-in advantage held by governing parties who can plan for an election that only it is aware of.

Fixed election dates will give all parties and candidates equal opportunities to foresee upcoming elections. More importantly, the legislation will ensure that members of the public can assess the performance of the government. This new legislation will ensure greater democratic accountability going forward into the future.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed Bill will not alter the constitutional power of the Crown to prorogue or dissolve the Legislative Assembly in advance of the fixed election date should the government of the day lose the confidence of the Assembly. The Premier will retain the ability to advise the Lieutenant Governor as to the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly prior

to an election. However, barring such unusual circumstances, these measures will otherwise impose a degree of certainty into the electoral process by fixing the timing of regular elections.

Mr. Speaker, fixed election legislation is currently in force in Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, and the federal government. It was promised by this government as the right thing to do — promised and now delivered.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and Executive Council Act, 2007.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 4, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2007 be now read the second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill No. 4, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007. I realize there has been an agreement between the House leaders to expedite proceedings so that we can move to condolence motions, so in the interest of time and to ensure that my full remarks will not be interrupted later, I will suggest that we move to the condolence motions.

But I do want to point out before we get there, Mr. Speaker, a couple of times over on the other side we heard the Minister of Justice refer to the fixed election legislation. Now I realize that that may be some kind of Freudian thing going on over there but of course we're talking about fixed election dates, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to getting to those.

As such, I move that Bill No. 4 be now adjourned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved adjournment of debate. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of accepting the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, with leave of the Assembly I'd like to move a series of motions with respect to condolences to families of former members of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, what we'll do is we'll wait for leave now of the Assembly and then we'll proceed.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave to move a series of condolence motions. Is the Assembly agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

CONDOLENCES

John Edward Neil Wiebe

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This first motion moved by myself, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the member for Riversdale:

That this Assembly unite in paying tribute to the memory of the **Hon. John Edward Neil Wiebe**, 18th lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, who passed away on April 16, 2007.

John was born on May 31, 1936 in Herbert. He attended the Herbert elementary and high schools before continuing his study at Luther College in Regina and then the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Wiebe married Ann Lewis on October 7, 1961. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, and eight grandchildren.

In his private life, Jack carried on the family tradition of farming. He was the owner and president of L&W Feeders Ltd. from 1970 until 1985 and continued to operate the family farm until 1994.

Mr. Wiebe's rural and agricultural background were reflected in many of the organizations that he chose to support. The Main Centre Wheat Pool committee, the Herbert Credit Union, the Herbert Co-op, and his local 4-H club were among the organizations that benefited from his involvement. He was a member of the Herbert Lions Club and guided young hockey players as a coach and as a referee. Mr. Wiebe also served as the director of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation and VIA Rail Canada Inc.

Jack's dedication to his fellow citizens was evident in his distinguished record of public service as an elected representative, a senator, and as a member of international trade commissions.

Mr. Wiebe became involved with politics at an early age within the Liberal Party. After serving in various roles as a strategist and fundraiser, he sought election to this Assembly in a by-election in 1971. He continued to represent the constituency of Morse following the 1975 general election and he remained the member until 1979. Mr. Wiebe was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2000 and served until his retirement in 2004.

Mr. Wiebe was installed as the 18th lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan on May 31, 1994. Throughout his term he sought to raise public awareness of the role of the Crown in Saskatchewan and Canada.

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, at this point, I recall as a brand new member elected to this Assembly in 1999 that it was then His Honour the lieutenant governor, Mr. Wiebe, who made the presentation to all of the new members about the role of the monarchy within our parliamentary form of government. And while I had heard similar presentations at various seminars and lectures at university, I had the chance to tell His Honour afterwards that I hadn't heard it put as compellingly, frankly —

the case for the role of the Crown and the monarchy in our system of government — that I had not heard it put as compellingly as he was able to do for all of us new members. And I know there were perhaps a few there that had questions, frankly, about the role, and I think I can speak for some of them when I say . . . and had the chance to visit with them after that particular orientation session, that for some of them a number of the questions were answered by the able presentation of the then lieutenant governor, Mr. Wiebe.

His legacy was reflected in the creation of the J.E.N. Wiebe Interpretive Centre at Government House.

Mr. Wiebe retained an abiding interest in the welfare of rural communities and was instrumental in the establishment of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan. His commitment to the military community led to his appointment as the honorary colonel of the 38th artillery tactical group, 10th Field. He later served as the Saskatchewan Chair of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council. Mr. Wiebe's style, enthusiasm, and vitality in fulfilling his duties as the Queen's representative endeared him to people across all of Saskatchewan.

The breadth of Mr. Wiebe's contribution to the province was recognized by numerous awards. He was inducted into the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in 1994 and held the grade of knight. Mr. Wiebe was also awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

And just before I get to the final elements of the motion here and turn it over to the Leader of the Opposition, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that many in this Assembly here today had to opportunity to attend the funeral, Mr. Wiebe's funeral, that was held in Swift Current at the United Church there and then the gun salute and the flypast. And I think all of us certainly were very moved by all of those who had the chance to eulogize Mr. Wiebe at that particular funeral service.

But what was most compelling at that funeral service, I think, for many of us, was when family members and particularly the grandkids of Mr. Wiebe had their chance. And we got to learn even a little bit more about a person who obviously served this institution honourably but who also served our Senate of Canada with honour and carried out his duties as our lieutenant governor with class and with the true and honest affection for the entire province and a dedication to see as much of it, to visit as much of Saskatchewan and as many Saskatchewan people, as he could.

And those words at that funeral will go far beyond anyone's ability here to be able to properly tribute and commemorate the memory of Jack Wiebe, but we do so, however inadequately, here again today.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it's my pleasure to follow the Premier in addressing the remembrance of this Assembly of the Hon. Jack Wiebe and his memory.

The Speaker: — . . . again. I need to place the question. Pardon me, members. The Premier has moved a motion that we extend condolences to the Hon. Jack Wiebe's family and has moved that motion forthright. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion? I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is, as I was saying, my pleasure to follow the Premier on this condolence motion of the Hon. Jack Wiebe. Jack was a neighbour of mine as I grew up, in a manner of speaking. We shared the South Saskatchewan River and we could look from the living room of our house to Main Centre, Jack's community. And we were divided first by the South Saskatchewan River and we were divided by then Lake Diefenbaker after that happened. So geography separated us. But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, geography connected us, because Jack Wiebe was a Saskatchewan citizen. Jack Wiebe knew what his roots were. He knew his community, he knew his family, and he knew his province.

Politics also separated the Wiebes from us. Jack was a Liberal; I was a New Democrat. But interestingly, politics connected us in a way that only politics can do and indeed it was my great honour to get to know Jack Wiebe, particularly after he became lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan and then later on senator. And then I had the joy of bumping into him a time or two after that.

I mentioned that Jack knew he came from his family roots, and the Premier spoke a little bit about the importance of family as it was presented at Jack's funeral in Swift Current. And indeed it was such a great treat to hear the remembrances of family and friends that had visited the Wiebes' farm, visited Jack and Ann, and always had a story of the remarkable support that they provided to everyone. It truly spoke very, very greatly of Jack and Ann.

There was one day in particular that I wish I could live over again. And that was a day in my constituency, we had the Ed Schreyer build. This was a Habitat for Humanity build. There were six houses being built all in a row in my constituency, and I spent a glorious day volunteering as the local MLA, and they paired me up with Ed Schreyer and Jack Wiebe. So I spent just this fabulous day merely being an MLA and a volunteer but in amongst greatness. I had the lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan. I had a former governor general of Canada, and we were building a fence. In many ways, for Jack and myself — two old farm boys — we were just out fencing. And we were swapping stories. And we were talking about the people that we knew in common. We were talking about our shared values.

[14:45]

And I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I felt more connected with Jack Wiebe that day than you can ever imagine. He knew where he came from, and he always honoured that. And he always tried to live up to his roots, his family, his neighbours, and his community. It was truly a joyous day for me. We even

joked gently about our differences. And I want to assure everyone that it was gentle jesting on both of our parts. And I just was so pleased with the gentleness of Mr. Wiebe.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Wiebe passed away younger than we would have liked. But it was interesting to me that, even in his passing, in his relatively short illness, he passed away or he suffered through that on his own terms. And indeed, many of us didn't even realize that Jack was terminally ill until he had passed on.

But he leaves truly a remarkable legacy. And indeed I'm sure that there are many people from the Morse constituency and even wider that will go through life trying to emulate Jack Wiebe.

So on behalf of myself, I want to offer my condolences to Jack's widow, Ann, their three children, and their eight grandchildren, and the much broader community in the Morse constituency, and the even broader community in Saskatchewan, Ottawa where Jack served as a senator, indeed all of Canada — condolences all around.

Today it is my honour to honour a truly fine and great gentleman, being Jack Wiebe. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, it's indeed an honour to rise today to give condolences to the family of the late Jack Wiebe, who passed away on April 16, 2007, at a very early age of only 70 years.

I would like to acknowledge Mr. Wiebe's profound contribution to the public life of Saskatchewan and also to Canada. Mr. Wiebe was a farmer, and he was a former Liberal member of the Legislative Assembly for Morse from 1971 to 1978 and lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan from 1994 to 2000 — information that we've already received, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first times that I had the pleasure of talking with Jack Wiebe was immediately after my election on June 21, 1995. And within a day or two, I was fortunate to be invited to a very large celebration in Kamsack of the Doukhobor Society and of course the lieutenant governor was present as well.

Mr. Speaker, my election in 1995 was not of a huge plurality. In fact I believe I was the member at that time who was elected with the smallest plurality. And when I spoke with Mr. Wiebe at the function in Kamsack, I guess I must have expressed a degree of concern that there might be a recount and there might . . . you know, there was uncertainty about it. And I recall Mr. Wiebe saying to me in his own calm, cool, collective manner, he said, you know it doesn't really matter. He says, you have won and the amount of the plurality isn't dependent upon whether it's a number like 12 or 15 or 500. And he said to me, he said that in his election in 1971, he also was fortunate to be elected by a small plurality. And he also was known as landslide Wiebe in that election in 1971 and, you know, served this province admirably as a member of the Legislative Assembly here in this room, as well as the lieutenant governor.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wiebe's public service to the people of Saskatchewan was recognized in 1994 when he received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit upon accepting his appointment as the lieutenant governor of this province. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit is an award for the highest level of individual excellence and achievement in any field. And we all know that Mr. Jack Wiebe was indeed a very worthy recipient of that award.

Mr. Wiebe's public service extended beyond his term as the lieutenant governor when in the year 2000 he was appointed to the Canadian Senate. There he served as the Vice-Chair of the Senate standing committee on agriculture and forestry and was a strong advocate for agriculture. Mr. Wiebe was a hog farmer who had close personal and business ties to the farm community his entire life.

After Mr. Wiebe retired from the upper Chamber in 2004, he and his wife Ann moved to Swift Current where they spent time with family and friends. And as the members opposite have indicated, family was very dear to him, and he loved talking about his grandchildren.

Mr. Wiebe continued to contribute to his community through volunteer work, especially with the Dr. Noble Irwin Regional Healthcare Foundation in Swift Current. He was also involved in various service clubs, as well as the co-op, credit union, and the regional park in Herbert.

Fellow senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell said this following Mr. Wiebe's death, quote, ". . . the Honourable Jack Wiebe saw things clearly, responsibly, and simply. No pomp, no pretension, only principle." Jack Wiebe conducted himself in this manner in every public office that he held, and the people of Saskatchewan sincerely thank him for that.

On behalf of my colleagues in this Legislative Assembly, I would like to send my sincerest regards to the friends and family of the late Jack Wiebe.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think any of us who knew the Hon. Jack Wiebe come to this day with many wonderful memories, particularly those of us who had the opportunity to be part of the state funeral in Swift Current because, Mr. Speaker, it is rare, it is rare that you will have in the memory of one man, the love and respect of a nation expressed, the love and the respect of a province, the love and respect of friends and neighbours, and the love and the respect of a family — all at one time and in one place.

And you know, Jack Wiebe — Mr. Speaker, in my experience — was a man who could walk into Buckingham Palace or walk into the Senate Chamber of Canada or walk into the Herbert United Church and meet and treat people all just the same.

I find it interesting, Mr. Speaker, that when Jack Wiebe has his portrait painted as our lieutenant governor for the gallery in the lower level of this building, that he chose to have his portrait

painted outdoors, outside the walls, the bounds of Government House. And it strikes me that this was the Jack Wiebe that we knew, a man who never lost his root in this prairie, a man who never lost the common touch, always with the people that he represented so ably.

And let me say this, Mr. Speaker. Jack was a formidable Liberal; there is no doubt about that, a formidable fundraiser for the Liberal Party. He was a formidable MLA. And I guess as senators go, he was a good senator and an exceptional lieutenant governor; an exceptional resident of Herbert, Swift Current; exceptional father, husband, and grandfather. And on behalf of the official opposition, I join with the Premier and the government in expressing condolences to his family through Ann to their entire family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to add a few words of condolences to Ann and the family. Jack was a very positive man to work with. And as others have noted, he wore the Liberal badge proudly, but he wore his Saskatchewan prairie badge even more prominently.

I first met him I think through a couple of my friends who were his neighbours just north of Rush Lake, up by Main Centre, and that's many, many years ago. But when I was elected, then he became quite involved in the life that I had as the attorney general because I worked with him on different kinds of questions that he would have. A lot of people don't realize that there is a bit of a special relationship between the Lieutenant Governor and the Attorney General in the same way there's a bit of a special relationship between the Premier and the Lieutenant Governor. And quite often I would go and just have a conversation with him at Government House, and it would include official things but also unofficial things.

He was also very proud to have been a graduate of Luther College in Regina. And he often talked about how that really changed his life as he met Ann at that place, and it gave him an understanding of what it was like to live in the city. And that ended up, I think, being a part of his ability to go into new situations and be a genuine friend to people all across the board.

I just wanted to say one other . . . or tell one other little story about Jack. His house as lieutenant governor is just close to where I live. And quite often I would see the official car go by with the flags. Jack and Ann would wave at me if I was out in the yard and about five minutes later, Jack would have changed out of his black suit and all that, put on his other sort of ordinary clothes and was driving back the other way to go to Canadian Tire or Safeway or wherever he wanted to go, and he usually would stop and say hello. And so we had some good visits then.

But one of those trips going back and forth, he said to me, you know, it's not often known but the Government House is a place where you can have meetings and the press can't come unless they're invited. And I think the Premier knows about this, and the former premier knows about this. And obviously I knew about it.

Well it was that little hint to me that allowed us to move forward and sort out a number of the lawsuits that we had with the judges of Saskatchewan. So we went at his invitation over to his place, and it provided a safe haven for us to look at some issues which eventually resolved some very complicated things.

So I want to say to Ann and to the family that we all in Saskatchewan respected Jack and we miss him, but we also want to thank him for the contributions that he made. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members, I would ask leave to make a few comments in regards to Mr. Wiebe. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you. It was my pleasure to work with Mr. Wiebe as a member of the Saskatchewan prayer breakfast committee. And when I first think back to Mr. Wiebe, it goes back an awful lot of years. Now I didn't get to meet Mr. Wiebe personally, but followed politics a little bit, and I remember when he was first elected. Of course we had John Gardner as the member from the Moosomin constituency.

And for those of us who followed politics even when we were still in high school . . . You may think back and say, now why in the world would you do that? But you know it's always interesting following individuals in the political realm. And many people would go back to the Tommy Douglas era or whatever.

But what I remember of Mr. Wiebe was a gentleman of principle and a gentleman who really had really endeared himself to what Saskatchewan and Canada was all about and the fact that we should be really training up our young people to respect not only people around them but really think highly of their province and their country.

However, as some of the members have already mentioned, Mr. Wiebe was also a farmer at heart. And there are little things that he found a little hard to change, some of the changes in his life. I remember one of the first meetings we had is when he became a member of the prayer breakfast committee, and we were talking about our different roles. And I asked him how he was enjoying the job of lieutenant governor and he said, well you know I'm really enjoying it but, he said, I'm having a hard time to get used to one thing. He said, the first time I went out to the car I went to the passenger's door and I opened the door and the chauffeur came along and said, Your Honour, I open the door; you sit in the back. And he said, you know, it took me a little while to get used to that fact, that I couldn't just walk up to the car any more — outside of when he got into his civvy clothes and then he could go wherever he wanted.

[15:00]

But I believe as I got to know Mr. Wiebe a little bit and his input into the prayer breakfast committee, his commitment to ensuring that people recognize our heritage and the principles that made this province so great is something that will long live in my life. And I extend as well my condolences to his wife and

the family and the many friends that were so endeared to the Hon. Jack Wiebe.

It has been moved by the Premier, seconded by the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition:

That this Assembly unite in paying tribute to the memory of the Hon. John Edward Neil Wiebe, the 18th lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Premier.

David Boldt

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Continuing with the series of condolence motions, including this one:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

David Boldt, who passed away on December 31, 2007, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1960 until 1975. He represented the constituency of Rosthern for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Boldt was born on January 21, 1918 in Osler. He attended public school in Osler before completing his studies in agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. He then pursued further training at the Edmonton Welding School.

On October 14, 1945, Mr. Boldt married Anne Enns. He is survived by his wife and their three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Boldt retained an interest in farming throughout his life. He began by assisting on the family farm before starting his own grain operation nearby with his wife. Even after his retirement into the city, he continued to assist with the spring seeding and harvest.

Mr. Boldt was very involved with his church and with the Gideons and served both organizations in a number of capacities.

Mr. Boldt's involvement in politics began at the local level, but broadened to include the provincial political scene. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1960 and retained his seat in the following three elections. He was appointed to cabinet in 1964 and remained in the executive until 1971. Mr. Boldt first served as minister of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, and then in the Welfare portfolio. He led the departments of Highways and

Transportation for several years and was also responsible for the Saskatchewan Government Insurance corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed something about the way Mr. Boldt's, or maybe I should say Oomkje Boldt's, name is printed in this official condolence motion. I'm guessing from his last name and also from where he grew up that he and I and a few members may share the same heritage. I note as well what isn't surprising then that, Mr. Oomkje Boldt does not have a middle initial or name listed in the official condolence motion. That may well be that he simply wasn't given one by his parents as has often been the case with people from Plautdeutsch backgrounds or of Mennonite origin. They thought it was too presumptuous, maybe a little too worldly, to be given more than one given name. And you know the same is true for my dad, actually, and a number of others.

But I would say this: when you look at this condolence motion, when you understand and contemplate the depth of Mr. Boldt's involvement in his community, his dedication to the province of Saskatchewan, eventually his service in the Executive Council and the government, that people like Mr. Boldt don't need a middle name or a middle initial. Their life speaks for itself. And so, Mr. Speaker, we offer to his family, to his kids and the grandkids and the great-grandchildren our deepest condolences.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, Mr. Speaker, the motion says:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy for the members of the family of David Boldt.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to join the Premier again in seconding this condolence motion to the family of Mr. Dave Boldt and to his friends and the community of Rosthern. I'm sure there are many in that community and that neighbourhood of our province who will have very fond memories of Dave Boldt.

He served 15 years, Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber, not with any of us who are here currently, but I think all of us who are here currently will recognize the commitment that 15 years of service to this legislature in both government and opposition meant, not only to himself but to the family whose condolences we send today.

I note in Mr. Boldt's public office career that he served as minister of Highways. He would have served as minister of Highways in the Thatcher government of the 1960s when many of us were growing up and experiencing those highways for the very first time. And I think ministers of Highways sort of get a lot of attention, then and now, and I can recall Dave Boldt, the minister of Highways. I may not recall what my father was

saying about the state of the roads in those days, but I can certainly recall the name Dave Boldt.

The commitment that he brought to service in this legislature and through this legislature to the people of Saskatchewan and the people of Rosthern and that neighbourhood of our province, we recognize today. I'm sure there will be those who remember his service with the Gideons as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased on behalf of the official opposition to join with the Premier and government in offering our deepest condolences to the Boldt family on his passing over the course of the past year.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosthern.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm in the humbling position of representing a constituency that's been represented by a long list of very honourable men. I follow in the footsteps of people such as David Boldt, Bill Neudorf, and my father, Ben Heppner. Some of these men had the official title of honourable because they were cabinet ministers, but all were truly honourable because they were men of faith and integrity. And today it is my pleasure to rise to pay tribute to one of these men, David Boldt.

Mr. Boldt was born and raised on a farm near Osler, the same area where he chose to farm and raise his own family along beside his wife, Anne. He carried the work ethic from that life to his political life as he served as the Liberal MLA for the Rosthern constituency from 1960 to 1975. While he began his political career in opposition, his party did form government. He served as Highways minister, and in my constituency we still drive on the roads that were built under his tenure in that portfolio. However after the last 16 years of NDP administration, they're not quite in the same shape as they once were. He also served as Social Welfare minister and the minister for SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance].

While I didn't know Mr. Boldt personally, I do know that he was extremely well respected by his constituents regardless of voters' political affiliations. To get a sense of who he was, I read through his maiden speech from February 17, 1961, when he was a new MLA in opposition. In his speech he promoted new business in his constituency, the same constituency that still is a place where innovative and industrious people work hard to make a better life for their families. He railed against the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] government for wasting taxpayers' money while ignoring farmers. Some things never change.

I also spoke with folks from the constituency who knew Mr. Boldt when he first got involved in politics. They used words such as dedicated and hard-working to describe him. He was dedicated to the issues he believed were important and fought hard to make sure that the interests of his constituency were defended.

What I have learned about Mr. Boldt is that he was a man of priorities and convictions, and he didn't hide those. People who met him and worked with him knew exactly where he stood.

In closing, I would like to quote from the eulogy delivered by

John H. Neufeld at Mr. Boldt's funeral:

He had a set of biases rooted in his upbringing and his faith. He had a bias about the work of the family farm. He had his bias politically. But he was not engulfed by politics. Nor did he take his cues only from the world of business or of politics. His bias, his life's direction was faith based. Did he always get it right? I doubt it. But the direction in which he was heading as a believer was never in doubt. That is part of his legacy and his challenge to us.

Mr. Speaker, all of us who sit in this Chamber understand that to do so we sacrifice time with our family and friends. And to those who knew Mr. Boldt best and loved him most, we thank you for your generosity in allowing him to serve his constituents and his province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family of David Boldt. 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: — Agreed. Carried.

I recognize the Premier.

George Reginald Anderson Bowerman

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's my honour today to move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to his province.

George Reginald Anderson Bowerman — Ted — who passed away on December 20, 2007, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1982. He represented the constituency of Shellbrook for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Bowerman was born on November 3, 1930 in Shellbrook. He received his early schooling at the one-room Rayside School. He furthered his education by taking correspondence courses and vocational training in agriculture and in resource management.

Mr. Bowerman married Dagmar Christiansen on February 14, Valentine's Day, 1959, and they had three sons. He was predeceased by his wife and one son.

Mr. Bowerman's dedication to his fellow citizens was

evident in his lengthy and diverse public service. In addition to owning and operating a family farm from an early age, he was employed by the Department of Natural Resources for 18 years.

He joined the Saskatchewan smoke jumpers in 1949 and became part of Canada's first aerial firefighting and search and rescue team. Mr. Bowerman subsequently trained as a field officer and a game warden and was stationed around the province developing the commercial fishing industry. In his private life, Mr. Bowerman volunteered his time and knowledge to benefit organizations and groups and his local community.

Mr. Bowerman was first elected to this Assembly in 1967 and retained his seat in the following three elections. He entered cabinet in 1971 and remained in the executive until his retirement from elected office. Several of the portfolios Mr. Bowerman held reflected his personal interests and background. He first served as minister of Mineral Resources and later Natural Resources. He then led the Departments of Northern Saskatchewan and the Environment for several years. Mr. Bowerman also held the Saskatchewan Indian and Métis portfolio for a brief period of time.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with the members of the bereaved family of George Reginald Anderson Bowerman.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to add a few words to the motion of condolence, and to second the motion of the Premier in reference to Ted Bowerman, whose passing was very untimely — just following Christmas this past year in a tragic accident.

Mr. Speaker, many of us have many memories of Ted Bowerman. Like Dave Boldt, he also served in this House for 15 years, and I expect that most who met Ted Bowerman will have had the first impression that I had — here is a very large man, a very large man, very tall, a very large man, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not sure that I've ever met in my life a more gentle giant. For his physical stature, this man was a gentle man.

Ted, if he were to, I think, hear us today and hear the motion of condolence and had to pick out that one part of it that would please him the most, I think it would be perhaps not his service in the legislature, but in his career as a smoke jumper.

I don't think Ted ever found anything in this life that came anything close to his career as a smoke jumper. In some ways he kind of pioneered smoke jumping in this province, and the

stories are still told within government. And when Ted Bowerman was in the cabinet, Minister of the Environment, Natural Resources, he would be around the province in the government airplane and he would insist, Mr. Speaker, he would insist that airplane fly so close to the ground that he could recognize his neighbours' faces on their tractors — that directly from his experience as a smoke jumper. He loved that work and never forgot it.

Mr. Speaker, interestingly enough in our motion of condolence today there was something which is not included which I think Ted would want included, and that is that he, as well as his public service and his service to the community, also served his church. And Ted was a minister in the reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In fact my first experience of Ted Bowerman was to meet Ted at a wedding as he performed that wedding for some very, very close friends of both of ours.

So today we remember and we express our condolences to the Bowermans and to his many friends for his very untimely passing.

We remember today a giant of a man who served gently and, Mr. Speaker, who had, way before his time, a very deep understanding and if I may say a special relationship with First Nations people in this province. And in many ways, it was Ted Bowerman who was pivotal in the establishment of the treaty land entitlement process in this province.

And so, a friend of First Nations, one who deeply understood his neighbours in First Nations, who deeply worked with his community, who loved the play of politics, and who loved most of all to be a smoke jumper. A giant of a man but a gentle giant. And so we join with government in expressing our condolences to the Bowerman family.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[15:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my sincere condolences to the family of the late Ted Bowerman. And as the Leader of the Opposition just mentioned, he was a gentle giant. A big man but a gentle giant.

Ted Bowerman was the youngest of six children on the Bowerman farm in the Rayside district. He was born at the beginning of the Great Depression which hit the Prairies harder than other areas. Those early rural hardships may have been why Mr. Bowerman was born into a very political household.

Just a little bit of trivia. Mr. Bowerman's father was an MP [Member of Parliament]. His name was Edward Bowerman. Mr. Edward Bowerman, he beat William Lyon Mackenzie King for the Prince Albert seat in 1945. Although Edward Bowerman only served one turn, just to defeat the Prime Minister speaks to an outstanding he had and must have had on local issues that affected the working Saskatchewan people.

We know Ted Bowerman understood hardships facing

hard-working people in the province of Saskatchewan. As the Premier said, he has dedicated 15 years of his life to serve the people of Shellbrook, Torch River at that time, and the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Ted Bowerman worked very hard to improve the way that government served them.

I'd like to tell a little story regarding Mr. Bowerman and that was in 1999 when I first ran for election to this Assembly. And one day I was in Shellbrook, campaigning on the streets of Shellbrook, and I ran into Mr. Bowerman. No doubts, you couldn't miss him — a giant of a man. We both came from different political stripes, but yet he saw to sit and talk to me, and we must have talked for probably a half an hour, three-quarters of an hour. What we talked about was not the political stripes he ran or what I ran, but what we talked about is being a politician and the sacrifices one has to do to be a politician, the sacrifices your family has to go through just to be a politician.

But above all, he said — and I remember him stating this over a couple of times — was, remember when you're a politician, serve your constituents. That is the most important thing to being politician, to being an MLA because remember, he said, when you are a politician and an MLA for that constituency, it's the constituency that put you here. So remember them and do what they ask you within reason to serve the needs and the issues that they have. And you are the voice that brings them down to Regina.

And, you know, after talking with him a great deal of time I thought, you know, if I could just be half the politician he was, I wouldn't be a bad politician. And for the eight years I've tried to serve my constituents because I remember my constituents are the one that put me here.

Mr. Speaker, Ted Bowerman was a kind, hard-working man. It's unfortunate he died at an early age. Mr. Bowerman was involved in the local church. He sat on boards of four co-ops and was the driving force behind the Prince Albert Community Clinic. He was a humanitarian in the community who always looked ahead but always be available to help others.

Mr. Bowerman won the Shellbrook-Torch River constituency election first in 1967, served for 15 years as an NDP member. He was re-elected again in 1971 and served under Premier Blakeney until 1982.

Mr. Bowerman was trusted. For Mr. Bowerman to have gained the trust really speaks to the type of person Mr. Bowerman was. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bowerman lived a life that amplified the Saskatchewan spirit — honesty, hard-working, family oriented, and community minded. He served this province in many capacities for more than 30 years.

For his years of service we pay tribute to him today. On behalf of my colleagues in this Assembly I would like to thank . . . or to send my sincere regards to the family and friends of Mr. Ted Bowerman.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to briefly enter into this memory of the Honourable Ted Bowerman, who tragically passed away in December, just last year.

I want to start, Mr. Speaker, by admonishing parents, be careful what we do to our children because Ted Bowerman, at the tender age of 15, helped his father defeat William Lyon Mackenzie King for a federal seat in Prince Albert. At the age of 15 he was introduced first-hand to campaigning. And it was a lesson that of course Ted took to heart and in 1967 was his own candidate for the CCF — won that election. 1971 rolled along; he won that election. Then incoming Premier Blakeney appointed him into cabinet where he stayed and Ted Bowerman won in 1975 and again in '79. He lost in 1982 in the Devine Conservative sweep.

But my memory growing up was every time I would open up my favourite newspaper, which was *The Commonwealth* — again I'd admonish parents be careful what you do to your children — I would open it up and there would be Ted Bowerman and others, friendly, smiling faces that you just knew you could trust. And the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook said Ted Bowerman was trusted. He had a trusting face. He earned that trust as has been stated by others. Just a straight ahead type of a guy.

And in 1986 Ted Bowerman was a candidate for the New Democratic Party for the last time. And I was a first-time candidate for the New Democratic Party, and I got to know Ted just briefly. As all members of this legislature would know, you meet candidates and some of us are successful and get elected and some are not, and it's rare that you become fast and close friends beyond that. But it was my honour to run at the same time as Ted Bowerman did.

I offer my condolences to Dagmar and their three boys, Ted and Dagmar's boys, Stephen, Curtis, Mark, and the entire Bowerman family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to join with my colleagues today to make a few comments about Mr. Bowerman. I read with interest a memorial and some of the information, just some of the information that was passed out about the many exploits that he had during his life and his many endeavours, whether from the original smoke jumpers in 1949, I mean, to the other paths that his life took, from working as a resource officer for the Department of Natural Resources or commercial fishing or farming.

But, Mr. Speaker, as I went through and I was reading some of the information, there was one line in the memorial that really jumped out at me, and it says, "His strong faith and love of life led many to respect him as an individual." And that's when it struck me that I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Bowerman, but I had learned of him through my colleagues. At various meetings, at various events his name would often be brought up as an example or an incident that would be relayed to the rest of us. But each time his name was brought up or an

incident was talked about, there was always respect and warmth in the voice of the person who was relaying the message.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you think of an individual such as this who served the province, served his community, had a strong faith and a love of life, it truly speaks to the essence of what we are as human beings and the things that we need to do to make sure that we have an impact on our communities and on our families and leave that sense of warmth and faith to those that come after us.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my condolences to the family; to Mr. Bowerman's sons, Curtis and Mark; their families and grandsons especially. It was a life well lived and a life that truly left a mark on our province as a whole and to many citizens in it. And I would like to pass along my condolences also. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On January 2 a celebration of Ted's life was held in Prince Albert, and I had the privilege of attending that memorial service along with my dad and hundreds of other people who were Ted's friends and neighbours, but also former political colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I think it was nothing short of a shock to hear that Ted had been killed in a car accident on December 20 when he was on his way to Cochrane, Alberta to spend Christmas with his sons and their families. And it sent shocks throughout the New Democratic Party, but also throughout the whole area of Shellbrook and Prince Albert because Ted was the kind of fellow . . . given his history of being a smoke jumper and all of the various physical activities he'd engaged in in his life, he was not someone that you would think would have been tragically killed in a car accident.

When I think of Ted Bowerman, I think of him as the former minister of the Environment. He was the Minister of the Environment in the Blakeney government in the early 1980s. And he was a remarkable fellow because not only had he spent his time in the North as a conservation officer or a warden, I guess you would call it in those days, a smoker jumper, but he also had a huge love of the outdoors and nature. And it was at the time when there was a decision being made whether or not to name . . . to put the Grasslands National Park into a park. And it required the approval of the Government of Saskatchewan because quite a bit of that land was Crown land. And I think one of the things that Ted Bowerman should take credit for is working with the federal government to have a Grasslands National Park come in to existence.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that I think about Ted is his size, obviously as has been alluded to, but also he had a wonderful smile and laugh and it was a hearty laugh. Ted Bowerman was an honourable man. He was a trustworthy man. He was loved by his colleagues and his constituents. And, Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan has lost a true friend.

Mr. Speaker, to Ted's children, Mark and Curtis, I want to pass on once again my condolences, as well as their spouses and grandchildren. This institution, this parliamentary institution

has lost an honourable friend.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family of George Reginald Anderson Bowerman

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Michael Feschuk

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and his province.

Michael [Mike] Feschuk, who passed away on November 12, 2007, was a member of this Assembly from 1971 until 1982. He represented the constituencies of Prince Albert East and Prince Albert for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Feschuk was born on January 6, 1932, at Meath Park. He spent his formative years on the family farm and attended local schools in Meath Park. Mr. Feschuk married Helen Mychaluk on January 25, 1953, and they had one daughter. He is survived by his wife, his daughter, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Feschuk's professional career encompassed many fields. He initially continued the family tradition of farming and later assumed responsibility for his parents' farming operations. In the 1980s, Mr. Feschuk was employed as a real estate agent before joining Statistics Canada.

In his personal life Mr. Feschuk sought to alleviate the hardships faced by others in his community. He volunteered his time to mentor new Ukrainian immigrants, to assist farmers with annual harvest, and support those looking for employment. Several community organizations benefited from Mr. Feschuk's contributions, and he was awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in recognition of those efforts.

Mr. Feschuk's involvement with politics began with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and continued with the New Democratic Party. He sought election to this Assembly in 1971 and successfully retained his seat in '75 and 1978, in the general elections in those years.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

[15:30]

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family of Michael Feschuk.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to add a few words to the condolence motion to the Feschuk family and to second the motion of the Premier, with just a few observations about Mike Feschuk, a very, very good friend of many in Prince Albert; a very, very good friend of the New Democratic Party and, before it, the CCF; and a very hard worker. And if I may say, Mr. Speaker, right up until his very latter years of life, Mike Feschuk was very much involved in political activity in Prince Albert.

There is in the annals of our political movement, Mike Feschuk's nomination, his first nomination remains in the category of special and history. Mike ran for that nomination, back before 1971 I think against seven or eight other candidates for the nomination. The nomination meeting, Mr. Speaker, was held on a cold, cold winter night — 40 below — and it lasted until 3 a.m. in the morning. And it was always suggested that Mike Feschuk won it because he was the farm candidate from Meath Park and all the farm folks stayed around and all the town folks went home and that's how Mike won. And the people of Prince Albert Meath Park and that entire area were well served as a result of that nomination before 1971.

Mike served right in this Chamber up until '82. He always brought to his work his personality which was a quiet personality — very determined but quiet. In fact Mike made very few speeches within this Chamber as a member, but was perhaps one of the most effective members that have every taken a chair in this place in terms of serving his constituents.

When Mike served, it was before the days, Mr. Speaker, of our constituency offices and so on and MLAs worked out of their home. And Mike worked directly in the homes of his constituents. He was like the old house-call doctor. Mike used to go around and help people with any connection they may have had with provincial government. And this was particularly true, Mr. Speaker, when it came to Ukrainian people and people of Ukrainian origin. Mike, being fluent in Ukrainian, was always first to help the Ukrainian people of Saskatchewan, of his own community. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, Mike Feschuk made several trips to Ukraine, taking with him care packages for the people of Ukraine from the people of Saskatchewan.

He was one of those members of the legislature whose first and primary efforts were to help the constituents he represented and the communities where he belonged, and I'm not sure I've ever met a man who did it more diligently or with more passion. You will find few entries, Mr. Speaker, in the *Hansards* of this Chamber, but you will find many memories of Mike Feschuk in Prince Albert, in Meath Park, and in that area of this province that he so proudly represented.

So I'm pleased to join with the government today on behalf of

the official opposition in offering our condolences to Mike's family and his many, many friends that yet remain in Prince Albert.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to rise today to speak about a man who is truly revered in Prince Albert. I was 10 years old when Mike Feschuk last served as an MLA in 1982, yet his legend, influence, and respect of community was still very much alive in my first election, November '07. Mike was still very involved in politics in the constituency, and he was a powerful role model — an example of what a politician should be.

His commitment to improving the lives of others was strong until his death, Mr. Speaker, and he always believed in helping others in any way that he could.

Before he was elected in 1971, Mike farmed for over 30 years in the Meath Park district. He took on many other jobs in his lifetime including construction work, mining, real estate sales. He also worked for Stats Canada for many years.

He always believed in serving his community. He served on the National Farmers Union and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. He was a member of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and the Masonic lodge. After Mike moved to Prince Albert, he joined local service clubs and worked very hard on their fundraising endeavours.

Prince Albert has a large and vibrant Ukrainian community, and Mike was very involved in that community. In recent years, when immigrants from Ukraine came to Prince Albert, he was the first to welcome and assist them with paper work that sometimes threatens to overwhelm new Canadians. Many times Mike was the contact person for people from Ukraine wanting information on how to apply and come to Canada. He would take it upon himself to help with documentation, translating, contacting government officials and departments on behalf of would-be residents. Mike did this because of his great compassion for those who were less fortunate, and he took great joy in assisting each new citizen and watched with pride as they became accustomed to their new country.

Many times Mike did not wait to be asked for help but reached out to those who needed help. When Mike became aware of a little girl in Ukraine who needed surgery and therapy in order to have a chance to walk, he raised funds to bring she and her mother to Canada. He convinced doctors in Prince Albert and Saskatoon to provide care for her at no charge. He arranged for therapy to be provided to her as well. He and his wife, Helen, opened their home and hearts to she and her mother. Many people in Prince Albert have told of Mike's commitment and of his pride and joy as she became stronger and healthier.

Mr. Speaker, Mike was like everybody else in that he did have a fault or two. I've heard stories from his former colleagues who tell that, when on the road, he needed at least a two-hotel-room buffer zone from Mike due to what has been described as, and I quote, "snoring sounding like a locomotive continuously going through your room." In fact it got so bad on occasion that a

hotel would book one wing at the hotel for the rest of caucus and another wing solely for Mike.

But I digress. As a result of his life's work as an advocate, in 2005 he was presented with the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan. This medal recognizes individuals that made a significant contribution to Saskatchewan, and Mike was certainly deserving of that recognition. He proudly accepted the medal from Her Honour, lieutenant governor, Lynda Haverstock.

As an MLA, Mike was truly devoted to his constituency. His tenacity was legendary. If a constituent went to Mike with a problem, he would make it his personal mission to find a solution. There are many stories of Mike sitting in cabinet ministers' offices and not leaving until he had a suitable resolution to his constituent's issues. Mike believed that his job as a member of this legislature was to serve the people he represented, and serve them he did. He was a quiet and unassuming man in many ways, but he was always a forceful and strong advocate for the people he served.

As an MLA in Blakeney's administration, he served on the legislature's special committee on welfare. He also served on the special committee on liquor regulations. In '74 he was appointed legislative secretary to the minister of Agriculture. To each of these committees, Mike brought his strong belief that those who serve in government must always act in the best interest of the people they serve. As such, he took these roles very seriously. He worked very hard and was truly an asset on the special committees and as a legislative secretary.

Mr. Speaker, five days after my election, I was saddened to hear that Mike had passed away. He'd been active on the P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote NDP executive until the time of his death, and I will sorely miss his guidance and counsel. He will be greatly missed in Prince Albert by so many people because he's touched the lives of so many. His quick smile, his friendship, compassion, and his leadership was all a part of who Mike was, and his passing has left a void that will not be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Carlton.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pass my condolences on to the Feschuk family as well.

Michael Feschuk, who passed away November 12, 2007, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982. He represented the constituencies of Prince Albert East and Prince Albert for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Feschuk was born on January 6, 1932, at Meath Park. He spent his formative years on his family farm and attended local schools in Meath Park. Mr. Feschuk married Helen on January 25, 1953, and they had one daughter. He is survived by his wife, his daughter, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Feschuk's professional career encompassed many fields. He initially continued the family tradition of farming and later assumed responsibility for his parents' farming operations. In the 1980s, Mr. Feschuk was employed as a real estate agent before joining Statistics Canada.

In his personal life Mr. Feschuk sought to alleviate the hardships faced by others in his community. He volunteered his time to mentor new Ukrainian immigrants, to assist farmers with the annual harvest, and to support those looking for employment. Several community organizations benefitted from Mr. Feschuk's contributions, and he was awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in recognition of his efforts.

Mr. Feschuk's involvement with politics began with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and continued with the New Democratic Party. He sought election to this Assembly in 1971 and successfully retained his seat in the 1975 and 1978 general elections.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family, as do I.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family of Michael Feschuk.

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: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Calvin Henry [Cal] Glauser

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and his province.

Calvin Henry [Cal] Glauser, who passed away on February 5, 2007, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1982 until 1986. He represented the constituency of Saskatoon Mayfair for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Glauser was born on April 2, 1923, in Delisle. He spent his childhood on the family farm and received his education in local schools. In 1941 Mr. Glauser moved with his family to Saskatoon, where he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. In early 1943 he travelled overseas as a member of the ground crew. Later that year he was

attached to the Quebec Les Alouettes 425 Squadron and deployed with them to North Africa for nine months. He served the remainder of the war in England. Upon receiving his discharge from the air force in 1945, Mr. Glauser returned to Canada.

Mr. Glauser married Marjorie Schauss on July 12, 1947. He is survived by his wife and their four children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Glauser's career with the Royal Bank extended over 28 years. He served at branches in Saskatoon and Regina before retiring in 1982 as the north region marketing manager.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Glauser was elected to this Assembly. He served as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and as a member of the Estimates Committee. Mr. Glauser served as the legislative secretary to the minister of Health. He also held appointments on the caucus legislative review and industrial review committees.

In his private life, Mr. Glauser was an active volunteer in a number of community organizations. His involvement with the Cosmopolitan Club extended over 23 years. Mr. Glauser took particular pleasure in researching and publishing a history of his own family dating back to its Swiss origins in the 1650s.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with the members of Cal's family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with the members of the Calvin Henry Glauser family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

[15:45]

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again to join with the Premier and the government in expressing the condolences of the opposition to the Glauser family. As I, not having known Cal Glauser, listening to the condolence motion as read by the Premier, it is pretty clear that this individual's life was characterized by service. Like many of his generation he was called to service on behalf of the nation during the Second World War, and served with distinction — as indicated by the condolence motion — in that Second World War conflict. Marrying as many did following that war, beginning their family, and then serving this province and citizens of this province through a long career with the Royal Bank of Canada; working in a variety of communities including Regina and Saskatoon and then becoming engaged in public life.

After many would have said, I have contributed sufficient, Cal Glauser decided to run for public office, and those of us who occupy public office respect that commitment. And I read in his condolence motion how many years he spent with the

Cosmopolitans in Saskatoon, likely engaged with Cosmo Industries and so on. And from the indication in the condolence motion, a deep commitment to his own family.

And so we recognize this life of service, Mr. Speaker, characterized in part by his service to the people of Saskatchewan through this legislature, if for only that one term in the early 1980s. And so we join with the Premier and government in expressing our condolences to the Glauser family in their loss in the past year.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to stand before this legislature to pay tribute to a man who worked endlessly to represent the people of our great province. Calvin Henry Glauser passed away in February 5, 2007 in Victoria, British Columbia.

We hope that our best wishes will give some solace to Cal's family in their time of loss, his wife of 59 years, Marjorie, his children and grandchildren, and the many friends he made throughout his life. Cal Glauser will be fondly remembered by his colleagues and all who knew him.

Mr. Glauser was born in Delisle, Saskatchewan on April 2, 1923. He began his working career at the Royal Bank where he served for 28 years. His devotion to the community helped him make the decision to run for office after his career at the Royal Bank. I met Cal and worked with him in the 1982 election. Mr. Glauser was elected as a Progressive Conservative MLA for Saskatoon Mayfair in that election in 1982.

In his maiden speech he stated, "I have believed in the principles of integrity, responsibility, and accountability. This is the manner in which I intend to serve my constituents in the House." Mr. Speaker, he took great pride in the people of his constituency — the farmers, labourers, professional people, and educators. It was on their behalf that he took up political office.

In that maiden speech Mr. Glauser spoke of the importance of consultation between government and the people of Saskatchewan, the need for adequate funding in education, the importance of population growth, the need to care for seniors, and the significant role of volunteers in Saskatchewan. Cal Glauser truly understood the issues in Saskatchewan. These are many of the same concerns that the people of Saskatchewan have today.

Mr. Glauser worked hard to promote non-partisan politics in his constituency, inviting the people in his constituency to phone him and I quote, "regardless of their political affiliation." He also understood that the relationship between business people and government had not been strong in the past and he worked hard to rectify that disparity.

During his time in the Assembly he served on the Public Accounts Committee. He served the people of Saskatoon Mayfair in the Legislative Assembly until 1986 when he decided not to run for re-election for personal reasons. In 1989 Cal and Marjorie moved to Victoria where they enjoyed their well-deserved retirement.

On behalf of my colleagues in this Assembly, I want to send my sincere condolences and regards to the family and friends of Cal Glauser.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the Calvin Henry Glauser family.

Is this 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: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Norman Lusney

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again it's an honour to move the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to his province.

Norman Lusney, who passed away on December 10, 2007, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1977 until 1986. He represented the constituency of Pelly for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Lusney was born on February 10, 1937 in Kamsack. He spent his childhood contributing to the operation of the family farm and attending the McGillvray School. Mr. Lusney married Loretta Horkoff on October 10, 1958 and they had two daughters. He is survived by his wife, their daughters, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Lusney followed many career paths during his life. He first sought employment in the mining field in British Columbia and in Alice Arm. Later he worked on the railroad in Ontario, in the dairy industry in Moose Jaw, and for Canada Post in Roblin, Manitoba. Mr. Lusney was also a businessman, operating a service station and a family farm for many years.

Mr. Lusney was an active participant in the affairs of the communities in which he lived. At the local level he served on a number of boards of several organizations. At the provincial level, Mr. Lusney's public service was reflected in his membership in this Assembly. He was first elected into this Assembly after a by-election in 1977, and he was re-elected in the following two elections.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of Mr. Lusney's family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — Thank you. It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the Norman Lusney family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to be able to say a few words on behalf of the official opposition and myself in regard to Norm Lusney and the condolence motion to the Lusney family.

Norm was a quiet man in many ways. And those of us who knew him politically knew him to be a very quiet but very determined and very sincere individual. And when I think of Norm Lusney's life experience, it is, by a country mile, it can only be described as a varied experience. I mean, Norm Lusney knew about farming and farmed. He knew about working in an industrial setting. He knew about running his own business. And he knew about the public service and public life.

And those who worked with Norm at the constituency level will reflect that he was always viewed as a very straight shooter. And you knew what Norm Lusney said, he meant. And there was never any misunderstanding or unclarity about where Norm stood on issues.

He built a high regard in his constituency and among his constituents for service in this building, Mr. Speaker. And I think the testimony to that, the testimony to that is that he survived the 1982 election as a New Democrat when very few survived in '82 — particularly in rural Saskatchewan. Norm Lusney survived. And that was built on the reputation and the confidence that he had built among the people of his constituency.

So we recognize in the New Democratic Party and in the caucus the exceptional service that Norm Lusney not only played to his constituents, to government, but then also in that time of opposition. We recognize that today, and we extend our condolences with this House to the Lusney family.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my sincere condolences to the family of the late Norman Lusney, who passed away on December 10, 2007, also at a very early age of 70.

Mr. Lusney was a predecessor of mine in the Pelly constituency and served in this Assembly as a member of the New Democratic Party from 1977 to 1986, as indicated by the previous speakers. And of course, Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of representing Canora-Pelly which is a combination of the then Pelly constituency that Mr. Lusney represented and Canora in the last redrawing of constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, during his tenure as a member of the legislature he was a great advocate of the provincial government's role in health care and the need for a strong agricultural framework

throughout the entire province. Norman supported farmers in tough times and he stood with Swan Plain farmers in their fight to stop foreclosures after the 1983 crop failure.

Norman never backed away from a challenge. One example of this is when he worked to persuade the federal government to oppose American agricultural subsidies — something, Mr. Speaker, that is also still in the news today. Mr. Lusney's passion for world concerns can be traced back to his upbringing in the Stony Creek district of Saskatchewan where he worked on the family farm and was educated at McGillvray School. Norman had an innate understanding of life on the farm and the struggles rural people have seen in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Lusney left Saskatchewan at an early age to pursue a career in the mining industry in British Columbia, and later moved to Ontario where he worked on the railroad. He returned to Saskatchewan and married Loretta Horkoff in Kamsack on October 10, 1958, and they were blessed with two daughters, Kim and Kristy. And after that the family moved on to Moose Jaw. Norman would go on to work at the Silverwood Dairies and later owned and operated a highway store service station in Roblin, Manitoba.

Norman returned to Saskatchewan to take over his family's farm when his parents fell ill. Loretta and Norman proceeded to work the farm for 32 years and became committed members of the community. Norman belonged to many boards and I understand he even pitched for the Kamsack seniors' slow pitch team. Norman had the good fortune to work not only in agriculture but also in industry, and I believe that this prepared him well for the diverse work that goes on here in the Legislative Building in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, in his maiden speech in the legislature, Norman Lusney was proud to say, and I quote, "It is my humble opinion that the best people to be found anywhere are those in the Pelly constituency." Although Norman and I laboured on opposite sides of the political fence, we both would agree with that.

Norman Lusney was motivated by a deep respect for the people of Saskatchewan and this was reflected in his personal and public life. On behalf of my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly, I would like to send my sincerest regards to the friends and family of the late Norman Lusney.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today to follow the hon. member for Canora-Pelly in honouring Norm Lusney, the former member for the constituency of Pelly.

Norm was a candidate last for the New Democratic Party in 1986. Again I remind members it was the year I first ran and so I got to see Norm then. But I'd seen him earlier in action as well, certainly in all of the time I was a nominated candidate. And there was a very small opposition from '82 to '86. The New Democrats were very, very small. But Norm was part of that small yet determined rump of an opposition, if I can describe it that way.

And I came to know that Norm Lusney was a man of his word,

a man of conviction. And he came from his constituency of Pelly. He honoured the people that honoured him with their votes and he honoured those that didn't by trying to be the best representative in his area that he could possibly be. And certainly the fact that he won in June 8, 1977 in a by-election speaks very highly of Norm.

But there's a quote I want to read out of the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* that for me really sums up a great deal. And it's just a great little paragraph. The byline on the Pelly by-election is "Lusney betters NDP hopes." And the quote I want to use is from Norm Lusney himself. And I quote:

I think it goes to show at this point the people are supporting the policies of the government — potash, land bank . . . I think the Opposition parties will have to work a little harder if they expect to be the next government.

And I say in a partisan way that Mr. Lusney made a big impression on me with that because it wasn't about Stormin' Norman. It wasn't about Norm Lusney. It was about the broader picture and the group that he was running as a part of, and he was passing on that it isn't about me as an individual. It's about our great party.

So again I guess I'll close where I started and just trying to honour Norm Lusney, a man of his word, a man of conviction, a dedicated servant of his constituency. Pelly and area are better for the service that Norm Lusney gave, and I know that our province is better for his life. Thank you.

[16:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to pass along my condolences to the Lusney family and also say a few words about Norman who passed away on December 10, 2007, and was a member of this legislature from 1977 to 1986 and represented the constituency of Pelly for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Lusney, from all of the comments from my colleagues, had a very wide and varied career, going from the mining fields in British Columbia at Alice Arm; working for the railway in Ontario; Canada Post in Roblin, Manitoba; and even for Silverwood Dairies in my community of Moose Jaw. Norman was also a businessman operating a service station and spent many years on the family farm.

He was also an active participant in many affairs of the community in which he lived. And that's evident, Mr. Speaker, when we sometimes as politicians think that politics has a tendency to kind of overtake our lives and sometimes be all consuming. But when we look at the memorial that was printed for Norman Lusney, we see that politics is really one short sentence. Nine years was one short sentence in his memorial, and the column was full of other activities that Norman had participated in and taken part in right across — actually right across — Canada in his career and in his community most definitely.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues to pass along my condolences to Loretta and to also his daughters Kim and Kristy and their families at the passing of Norman and say that he really has earned a place in the history of Saskatchewan. And it's a rare privilege that we all have to have a seat in this House. And while it doesn't always define us totally as Mr. Norman Lusney has quite clearly shown, it was a part of his life. And I would like to join with other members of the House by passing along my condolences to his family. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join in this condolence motion. I am honoured to take part, and I would like to take this opportunity to pass my condolences to Loretta and Norman's family.

I had the opportunity to first meet Norman back in the winter of 1969-1970 when I was then acting as a campaign manager for the then-candidate for Pelly constituency, Leonard Larson, and we were travelling throughout the constituency. And Leonard stopped in to introduce me to Norman, who at that time was running the highway service station and local coffee shop and bulk dealership at the Wroxton corner near Wroxton, Saskatchewan. And I remember my very first impressions of Norman as a very warm and inviting individual, a very open person, and a very easy person to talk to. I soon realized as Leonard and I drove through that area, and visiting with constituents in that area, that Norman had a reputation there of being a very honest, a very straightforward business person, a person that you could rely on, and a person whose word was his bond.

And Norman had all kinds of respect in that area and beyond his immediate area. And I guess that's probably why he was successful in 1977 winning the NDP nomination in a field of, I believe there was, four candidates — Norman being one of them — and Norman was able to emerge the winner for the NDP nomination and then went on to win the by-election in 1977. He also won the re-election in '78 and in '82. And as has been mentioned earlier, I think the fact that Norman was able to withstand the pressures of the Grant Devine sweep in '82 was a testimony to the reputation that he had as an individual within his constituency.

And Norman was a quiet fellow, and I know that after he was elected and became a member of the legislature here he picked up the nickname of Stormin' Norman, and that nickname stuck with him. And it was meant with the most affection and used by people in his constituency very affectionately.

I had the privilege of serving on the NDP executive for Pelly constituency during the period of time that Norman was the MLA there. In fact I believe I served as the constituency president from about 1984, '85, and '86; and Norman was a real hard worker when it come to campaigning. He would cover the entire constituency. And he would leave early in the morning from home or from the campaign office in Kamsack, and he would be out door knocking and visiting with folks, not only on the farm, but in the small communities throughout that constituency. And he built up a reputation for being a hard-working MLA not only at election time but also in

between, serving his constituents.

I can think of a number of constituents who had issues with the provincial government, who would contact Norman, and Norman would take up their cause and work it through until he had a satisfactory conclusion.

So with that, I'd like to wind up my remarks by once again just offering my condolences to Loretta and their family.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the Norman Lusney family.

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: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Maria Margharita Sally Merchant

Hon. Mr. Wall: — It's my privilege, Mr. Speaker, to move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution she made to her community, her constituency, and to her province.

Maria Margharita Sally Merchant, Sally, who passed away on April 1, 2007, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1967. She represented the constituency of Saskatoon City for the Liberal Party.

Mrs. Merchant was born on October 1, 1919, in Yorkton. She began her schooling at the Victoria Public School in Yorkton and then at the Loretta Convent in Sedley. She completed her secondary education at the Convent of Sacred Heart in Halifax and Montreal.

Mrs. Merchant graduated from Dalhousie University in 1940 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and later received a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1955.

Mrs. Merchant married Evatt Merchant in 1941 and is survived by their two children and nine grandchildren. Mrs. Merchant pursued many careers over her lifetime. As a broadcasting pioneer, she hosted a series of interview programs on the local CFQC television station. She later served as a member of the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission. As a public servant, Mrs. Merchant joined the federal department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in 1969.

Over the following 14 years, she left an indelible mark on

the development of the new department and on the policies, initiatives, and protocols in the consumer protection field. Mrs. Merchant was also an academic and passed on her knowledge and experience to students at the University of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. She later served as the assistant director of development at her alma mater in Saskatoon.

Mrs. Merchant was an active participant in the affairs of the communities in which she lived. Mrs. Merchant's professional interests were reflected in the organizations she chose to support. She was a member of the Canadian media club, Consumers' Association of Canada, the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, and the Liberal Party of Canada.

Mrs. Merchant's personal interests and concern for the welfare of others were also reflected in her memberships. She was a life member of the Saskatoon Council of Women and an honorary member of the Soroptimists International. And I'm sure she could pronounce it more effectively than I just did, Mr. Speaker. Other organizations dedicated to assisting those in need also benefited from her involvement.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of Sally's family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the Maria Margharita Sally Merchant family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join again with the Premier in seconding the condolence motion this afternoon, this time expressing our condolences to the Merchant family on the passing of Sally Merchant — a name that is well, well known in the province of Saskatchewan. And as we hear the condolence motion and think about Sally Merchant's life in our province, I think it is fair to say that this was indeed a pioneering woman — a strong and a pioneering woman whose service is broad and whose experience was broad. Part of that service was here in this Chamber, here in this legislature, but for a relatively short period of time of three years. Much of her work was done outside of this Chamber, and we recognize that as well, even though it is today the condolence of the legislature.

As we review Sally Merchant's life, we understand her career in broadcasting; we understand her career with the federal government, in particular her work in consumer protection. We recognize her academic work. We recognize that she has been the matriarch of a very political and important family in the history of Saskatchewan. But not recognized perhaps in some of the short motion of condolence will be Sally Merchant's work as the Saskatchewan chairperson of UNICEF [United Nations

Children's Fund], for instance, Mr. Speaker, or her work with the Red Shield Appeal and the Salvation Army or her work with the Abilities Council, a woman that gave a great, great deal to the province of Saskatchewan. Some of that commitment we saw through the process of this legislature in the 1960s, but we've seen it over a lifetime.

And with the Premier and the government, on behalf of the official opposition, we extend our deep condolences to the Merchant family at the loss of their mother and grandmother.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to speak to the House today with my sincere sympathies for the Merchant family. I want to take this opportunity to remember Sally Merchant, a dear friend who passed away about a year ago on April 1 at the age of 88.

I was fortunate to have counted Sally as my friend and greatly admired her professional and personal accomplishments. We met through the Saskatoon branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs in the mid 1990s and remained in close contact. I can remember one evening she was hosting the annual meeting at her house, and I was running late. My daughter had just been born, and I dropped off my daughter at the caregiver's, and I was running more than a few minutes late. Sally tactfully, skilfully, seamlessly inserted me into the meeting and, with a bit of a loud laugh, said I'm sorry, Rob, but there was a bit of a mix-up as far as the time. That was Sally's grace.

Obviously she was widowed at an early age. She took great pride in her two children and in her grandchildren. She made contributions in the media, especially in Saskatoon, and as well within this Chamber. She went on to have other successful careers, obviously with the federal government, but she also was a participant as part of Canada's delegation to the United Nations, a topic of which she would like to share stories.

She lectured, obviously, prairie universities and made contributions across our community: the Abilities Council, the Council of Christians and Jews, the John Howard Society among others. Over the course of her life, Sally Merchant worked tirelessly for her family, for her community, for her province, and for her country.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured today to be able to pay tribute to a truly inspiring Canadian. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to add my words of condolences to the Merchant family and especially Adrian and all her children and grandchildren and Tony and all of his children.

Sally Merchant was one of those special people in Saskatchewan, who through her television show, which I recall seeing when I was quite young, went into people's homes in a way that everybody understood who she was and how she could

affect them. And throughout her career subsequent to that, she took that ability to connect with people to many, many different careers, as has been stated here.

But I want to just talk briefly about how I perceived Sally, and many conversations that I had with her and her relationship to her family. She was extremely proud of Adrian and Tony. She was proud of their spouses. She was proud of the children and grandchildren.

And I can recall it — I guess it's a few years ago now — going to one of her birthday celebrations where the important thing for her was that all of these people were gathered together. And they came from all parts of the earth to come to Regina to be part of this event. And the event was celebrating the importance of passing on what she had done and what she had learned. And I think that's a good message that all of us can take in for people who live very busy lives, that to maintain the connection with all of those who are loved around you is the best way to provide a legacy to those that you love.

So with that I wish condolences to the Merchant family.

[16:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to be able to join in this motion of condolence for Sally Merchant. I didn't know Sally Merchant very well, Mr. Speaker, but I do know her grandson, Evatt, quite well and through Evatt of course got to meet Sally a couple of times.

But the last time I'd seen Sally Merchant, Mr. Speaker, was at an occasion; I think the exact same occasion that the member from Lakeview has described. And I was struck by just . . . There are people who have a certain energy when they're in a room, Mr. Speaker, and a certain presence, and certainly Sally Merchant had that in spades. She had a dignity and a poise and just a flame about her, Mr. Speaker, that it made clear just what a special person she was and how these many, many people who had gathered at the Merchant home, how glad they were to be connected with her.

She came from a political family, was political herself, Mr. Speaker, serving in this Chamber from '64 to '67. Certainly her son was political. I met her son, her grandson, not through politics, but very quickly came to learn of his fierce interest and belief in the Liberal Party. And you couldn't help but be impressed by the vigour of it, Mr. Speaker, and the firm belief. And I have no doubt that Evatt as a fierce Liberal was being very much the grandson of Sally Merchant.

At the close of her obituary, Mr. Speaker, it says that:

It is ineffable to describe a person who hit a golf ball 275 yards, sewed a man's suit once to prove she could, when a full university load was 5 classes, took 7 in one year and got all A's, was still door knocking in 1997, writing policy in 2004, and at 87 being elected a delegate to the 2006 Liberal leadership convention. Sally knew what king followed Charles I, how many Progressives won in 1926,

what each of the *Beaver* and *Walrus* covered last month, and what Gordon Gibson wrote yesterday. She lived in every region of Canada. She worked in five careers. She loved Canada, loved people, and was loved in return. Hers was an abiding interest in societal change through ideas and acts — unique in her time, extraordinary in any time.

It says at the start that it's ineffable, but I think those are some of the things that speak very well of the kind of person the second woman to be elected in the history of Saskatoon to the legislature, the kind of wide-ranging career in broadcasting and teaching and public service that was part of Sally Merchant's life and certainly part of her legacy.

So I join with the other members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, in terms of trying to extend that condolence to the family of Sally Merchant, the friends of Sally Merchant, and to the wonderful life that she lived and the legacy that she provides us withal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When I was a kid growing up in rural Saskatchewan, we had one television station. And this was in the '60s when TV came to the Atkinson household. And in fact we rather complained that other kids were getting television and we weren't, so finally my dad broke down. And for the kids, for the five of us, it was about *Bonanza* on Sunday night. For my mother, it was about *Don Messer's Jubilee* and it was about *Sally Time*. And it was also, I think for my dad and others, it was the news and we also listened to Ed Sullivan.

Sally Merchant, when I was a kid growing up, was one female face on television that was a rarity. There were very few people who did interviews, interviewed citizens all across Canada but also citizens in our province; and she was female. Most of the interviews were done by men.

So when Sally Merchant ran on behalf of the Liberal Party in the late 1960s, or I believe '64, it was a rarity to see women in politics. And she had told me in the past that it wasn't something she particularly wanted to do but she wanted to defeat the CCF and the NDP. I can certainly understand that noble cause when it comes to defeating your political adversaries.

Sally Merchant lived in the constituency of Saskatoon Nutana and I regularly, during election time but also between elections, would knock on Sally's door. She lived on University Drive. And during election campaigns she was always gracious and she would say, now as you know, I'm a Liberal. And of course if you're involved in politics in the province of Saskatchewan you can't help knowing that anyone from the Merchant family is a Liberal. And I would say yes, I understand that you're a Liberal. And she said, now, I'm a Liberal and I live in Saskatoon Nutana. And she said, I want to wish you well. And I think that's about as close as Sally could come to saying, I hope you win. And I'm not sure if she ever hoped I won, but she was certainly very, very kind when I arrived on her doorstep.

Other members of the legislature have talked about Sally

Merchant's activities as an academic, as a journalist, as a public servant, and as a politician; but my remembrance is of a kid growing up in rural Saskatchewan, seeing a woman interviewer on CFQC television in the '60s interviewing people from across the country but also in Saskatoon. And this is a program that my mother never missed, Mr. Speaker.

So to the Merchant family, to Tony and to Adrian and to all of Sally's 10 grandchildren and her numerous great-grandchildren, I want to pass on my condolences.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the Maria Margharita Sally Merchant family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

I recognize the Premier.

Robert Edward William Myers

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to move the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and his province.

Robert Edward William Myers — or Bob — passed away on January 28, 2008. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1982 to 1986. He represented the constituency of Saskatoon South for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Myers was born on January 14, 1947 in Saskatoon. He spent his formative years in Saskatoon and attended local schools. Mr. Myers married Jo Anne McFadyen on November 12, 1971 and they had one son. He is survived by his wife, his son, and two grandsons.

Mr. Myers was a trained mine designer. He was employed in the engineering departments with Inco in Thompson, Manitoba and with AMOK in Cluff Lake. Later, he joined the provincial civil service and worked as an inspector of mines.

Mr. Myers had a passionate interest in political affairs. He first sought to represent his community at the municipal level and served on the Thompson City Council. Later, in 1982, he was elected to this Assembly for one term. Mr. Myers was appointed the legislative secretary for Energy and Mines and served as the chairman of the natural resources committee. He also served as caucus Whip.

Mr. Speaker, the tribute here speaks of Bob's passion for all

matters political, and certainly members will remember this. Members can attest to this, that long after he was no longer a sitting member here, long after the mid-1980s, he maintained a strong interest in the political affairs, specifically of this province — not limited to Saskatchewan, but I think he had a particular interest in provincial politics and especially through the 1990s and in the early part of this . . . after 2000. He, I think, was particularly interested in the changes that were occurring in provincial politics here and what it might mean for the balance for competitive political interests going forward for many, many years in Saskatchewan.

He made those interests known to me and certainly they were welcome. He was one to always happily tell you when he did not agree — when there was agreements to disagree with perhaps certain political tactics, especially on matters of policy. And really, that's what makes this place work. No doubt he was the same when he was a working member here in this Legislative Assembly.

So there are a number of us who certainly knew Bob and we want to take this opportunity to wish all the best to his son and his wife and to his two grandsons, to his family as well, as they deal with Bob's loss.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the Robert Edward William Myers family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you again for the opportunity to second this motion in expressing the condolences of this House to the Myers family.

In this case, I did not have the opportunity to know Bob Myers. He served in this Chamber before I was elected and didn't have that opportunity.

But one can tell from, even from the condolence motion itself, there was a passion in this man, a passion not only for public life and politics but obviously a passion for the mining industry in our province. And when I think of those who were involved in that mining industry back into the '60s and '70s, much of the prosperity that we enjoy today, Mr. Speaker, is based on work that they did. And so we recognize the contribution of Bob Myers to our province through his mining experience.

Now I've listened to the Premier this afternoon describe a man of the passion, not just when he was elected but beyond his elected years and involvement with political pursuit and good advice to his party and good advice to his leader and Premier. And we all have those, and we appreciate them. So I can

understand the Premier's comments today in appreciation of Bob Myers as a counsel, as a force within his political party.

We recognize that, Mr. Speaker. But I think we recognize that in all of those whose passing we observe today, that, while they may have disagreements in terms of political philosophy, the constant thread is passion — passion for our province and passion for political affairs. And we respect that, Mr. Speaker, we all respect that.

And so on behalf of the opposition, we express our respect and condolence to the Myers family on the passing of their husband and father and grandfather.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for my seatmate, the member of Saskatoon Sutherland who could not be here.

Robert Myers was elected during the 1982 election to represent the constituency of Saskatoon South. It was the constituency in which he was born and raised. In his maiden speech in 1982, Mr. Myers described his childhood in Saskatoon as:

... a most enjoyable time in my life. The schools were excellent, the people most friendly. I will always carry those memories with me. It is my intention as their representative to ensure that they, the constituents of Saskatoon South, are able to maintain this quality of life. There is no better sentiment for an MLA to work from. I loved growing up in my constituency, and I want to make sure everyone in the future does as well.

[16:30]

During his time in the legislature, he served as a legislative secretary for Energy and Mines, caucus Whip, and chairman of Natural Resources Committee. After he left the office in 1986, Bob continued to contribute to the resource industry of the province as a mines inspector.

Bob was diagnosed and treated for prostate cancer, after which he chose to retire and move to British Columbia. While he was completing his dream home for himself and his wife, Jo Anne, he was diagnosed with cancer for a second time. After a courageous battle, Bob passed away on January 28, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Myers served this House, the people of Saskatoon South and the province of Saskatchewan profoundly for four years. For his service we pay tribute to him today.

The Speaker: — I'd ask leave of the members to make a brief comment in memory of Mr. Myers. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — As a member who was elected in 1986 — and there's a few of us still around here — I was elected following the sweep of '82, and so I didn't really get to know Bob that well, but I can say this. I believe Premier Devine in 1982, in his sweep of '82, the number of members that were afforded to him were beyond his expectation. And as I'm sure Mr. Romanow

said in 1991, they probably would have accepted a lesser majority.

As you looked at . . . when I walked into that caucus room after being nominated as a Conservative candidate in 1985, I wondered how in the world members survived as there was a lot of jockeying. While we consider there's a jockeying for position here in this Legislative Chamber, when you have a large caucus it's certainly a challenge to just keep everyone happy and satisfied.

And I know there were different members with different views, and some were very outspoken in their views. But one thing I appreciated about Bob Myers, while he had strong views and expressed his opinion very emphatically, Bob was also a team player. And I appreciated that and I learned from Bob that even when you can be a large group or body of individuals representing one party as it was at that time, there's also an act of working together and recognizing everyone's point and place, and Bob was one of those individuals.

It certainly was a pleasure over the years to run into Bob every once in a while and renew acquaintances. I just regret that I didn't get to know him even a lot more personally.

And so I would like to extend my sympathies to his wife and his family as well.

At this time I bring forward the motion by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the Robert Edward William Myers family.

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: — Agreed. Carried. Thank you. I recognize the Premier.

Edward Charles Whelan

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour, it's an honour today to stand and move the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

And certainly that is the case with **Edward Charles Whelan**, who passed away on December 11, 2007, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1960 until 1979. He represented the constituencies of Regina City and Regina North for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the constituency of Regina North West for

the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Whelan was born on August 6, 1919, in Amherstburg, Ontario. He attended local schools in Anderdon before completing further studies at the General Amherst High School and Toronto Technical School. His education was curtailed when his father died, and Mr. Whelan assumed the greater role on the family farm supporting his mother and his younger siblings. Mr. Whelan married Pemrose Henry on November 27, 1948. He is survived by his wife, three children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Whelan first trained as a machinist in the Windsor auto plants. He became a member of the United Automobile Workers Union and later represented the UAW within the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation organization. In 1943 Mr. Whelan moved to Saskatchewan to return to farming. He continued his lifelong involvement with labour and with co-operative movements by assuming positions with a number of organizations. These included acting as the educational director of the Co-operative Union of Canada, as the secretary of the Regina Labour Council, and on the executives of the Sherwood Co-op and the Sherwood Savings and Credit Union. Mr. Whelan also served as chairman of the Provincial Mediation Board.

Mr. Whelan was an active participant in the administration of first the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and later the New Democratic Party after its formation. His interest extended to authoring with his wife a publication entitled, quote, *Touched by Tommy* on the life of T.C. Douglas. Mr. Whelan held numerous positions within the party prior to being elected in the Assembly in 1960. He retained his seat in the following five elections. Mr. Whelan entered cabinet in 1975 as a minister of Mineral Resources. The following year he was appointed to the Consumer Affairs portfolio where he remained until his retirement from public life.

Mr. Speaker, as I read the tribute, the condolence motion, it strikes me that Mr. Whelan was very passionately involved in a number of endeavours and a member of a number of committees that I have never been involved in and neither would members in my family that I can think of been involved in, save perhaps for membership in a co-op or a credit union. But what is very, very clear when you read through this is that Mr. Whelan developed his very formidable views on public life, on politics, and I would argue probably on economics, by his experience both in terms of being a factory worker in Ontario, in Windsor, and then . . . well early on as growing up on a farm, then working in a factory and then returning to the, to life on the farm.

And so it isn't surprising at all that, that those experiential activities that we have just learned about on the part of Mr. Whelan and his volunteer activities that he pursued with different groups would develop into a career that found its way to this Legislative Assembly for some number of years and then found its way to the Executive Council of the Government of Saskatchewan.

And it's pretty easy on review of this particular motion to just

acknowledge his dedication to the province of Saskatchewan, his dedication to his obviously very strongly held views which many during his time in the legislature would have disagreed with. Had some members here been there at the time, they may have also disagreed with him, but no one ought to doubt obviously his sincerity or his passion, and neither should we. Neither should we fail to acknowledge those, that contribution, and thank him through this condolence motion and thank his family for sharing Mr. Whelan so that he indeed could make that commitment.

Just before I stood to make these comments, I asked some members opposite if they could determine whether or not Ed, Mr. Whelan that we honour today, was related to Eugene. And the member for Lakeview is maintaining his record for research, has found confirmation that indeed he was the brother of Eugene Whelan who of course had his own very significant political career. I think he began as a CCF politician but later . . . and ended as a green cowboy-hat-wearing Liberal in the national government. So in addition to what I'm sure would have been pretty interesting debates within the CCF and then the NDP at the time, Ed Whelan would have gone home or at least joined with family celebrants, I'm sure, at Christmastime and had an equally animated debate with his brother, Eugene.

It's quite a life to have learned about even in the course of reading this, and we want to extend our condolences as the Government of Saskatchewan to the family and the friends of Mr. Whelan on his passing.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier that:

This Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with the members of the Edward Charles Whelan family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to join again with the Premier and the government in the condolence motion to the Whelan family. I think it's fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that those of us who knew Ed Whelan would be very quick to say this was Mr. CCF, this was Mr. NDP. I mean he lived and breathed CCF-New Democrat policy, politic.

And in addition to his five terms as an elected member, Ed Whelan in some ways became our party, our movement's historian in the latter years. We've heard the Premier refer this afternoon to the book that he and Pemrose wrote called *Touched by Tommy*. They were close friends of the Douglasses, close friends of Tommy Douglas. He also did a piece of work on Corman from Moose Jaw, in some ways became our resident elder and historian. And we deeply, deeply appreciated that.

Ed Whelan had much to do with the establishment of a little organization here in the city of Regina that continues to this day called the Douglas Coffee Club where folks get together to

discuss policy and discuss the party and discuss politics in Saskatchewan.

Ed fought five elections and won those elections, had a long career in this House, served in Executive Council, served as a private member. And, Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew Ed, I think would all agree that he came as close to anyone as I know to fitting that little old descriptive that's sometimes used of politicians — Ed was a man who was sometimes wrong, but seldom in doubt. Seldom in doubt was Ed Whelan.

And we could always count on knowing Ed's opinion. How well I remember picking up the Regina *Leader-Post* one morning and reading Ed Whelan's comments about the government, about how the government had "mud for brains," he says. And he wasn't referring to a Sask Party government; he was referring to our government, to a New Democratic Party government. On that particular issue, he was not afraid to express his opinion.

I wonder what Ed would say today about the current government . . .

An Hon. Member: — He'd be happy.

Mr. Calvert: — I think the member from Cannington is not correct in what he just suggested, that Ed would be happy.

A man of strong opinion, a man of deep roots in our political movement, in some ways patriarch of that Whelan family — I can assure members of the House that Ed Whelan never donned any Liberal-green cowboy hat, that's for sure.

We will miss him as New Democrats, as we miss him as legislators — a principled man; a man of deep, deep passion and conviction. And so we very, we very much want to join with the government today in expressing our condolences to the Whelan family in the passing of Ed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition in extending my condolences to the family of Mr. Ed Whelan.

In listening to the words that have been said about Ed Whelan, it is clear to me that he was a remarkable person. Ed served in this legislature during a time when much was accomplished to better the lives of ordinary Saskatchewan residents.

Among the accomplishments while he served was the government's creation of universal medicare. As such, I think Ed is among a group of people to whom much gratitude is owed by younger generations here in Saskatchewan.

While I never had the privilege of meeting Ed Whelan, I do feel a bit of a connection to him since he served in this legislature during the same time period as my grandfather, Hans Broten. I'm told by family members that they were quite good friends. I know that when my grandfather passed away, Ed took the time to contact my family, and this was certainly appreciated by us.

While many of Ed's character strengths have already been mentioned, I would like to highlight what I am told was his very good sense of humour. This is illustrated through a brief story.

For some time, my grandfather's seat in the Chamber was directly behind Ed's seat. My grandfather did not like the clutter of all the paper on his desk, so he would routinely crumple the paper up into balls and drop them on the floor around his desk. Now you can imagine that one or two balls of paper would not be that much of a problem. However I'm told that often a considerable mess would be created around his chair. This lack of consideration was beginning to get under the skin of his seatmate and most likely the Pages too.

[16:45]

It didn't take long for Ed to see an opportunity to use some humour in addressing the situation. Ed called in a favour from the fire chief of the city of Regina who was his long-time friend. The fire chief agreed to write a letter on official letterhead describing to my grandfather how his actions were creating a fire hazard for the Assembly. Despite Ed playing a little dumb about the letter, I think my grandfather had a pretty good hunch of who was ultimately behind this creative approach to correct his behaviour.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Whelan for his significant contribution to this province and once again extend my condolences to his family. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my sincere condolences to the family of the late Ed Whelan. Ed Whelan passed on December 11, 2007. Ed was involved in Saskatchewan politics throughout the latter part of the 20th century.

Mr. Whelan entered the Saskatchewan legislature in 1960 as a member for Regina North West. He was re-elected in 1964, '67, '71, '75, and '78. Mr. Whelan became a cabinet minister in 1975, and was the minister responsible for Mineral Resources, Consumer Affairs, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance. Mr. Speaker, Ed Whelan was dedicated to the province of Saskatchewan and to serving his constituents.

On behalf of my colleagues in this Assembly, I would like to send my sincere regards to the friends and family of Mr. Ed Whelan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer sincere condolences on behalf of the constituents of Regina Walsh Acres to Penrose Whelan and family on the loss of Edward Charles Whelan, who passed December 11, 2007. To live in a society where ordinary working people gain a voice in government and in the economy is a sentiment shared by all social democrats. As the late Tommy Douglas asserted, quote:

The real measure of a nation is the quality of its national life, what it does for the least fortunate of its citizens, and the opportunities it provides for its youth to live useful and meaningful lives . . .

It is this sentiment that comprised the life and work of Ed Whelan. Ed Whelan was an ardent political and social activist, distinguished member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, and accomplished author. Above all, Mr. Speaker, Ed Whelan was a man who understood the human condition and worked tirelessly toward the collective interests of working people.

In 1960, Ed was first elected to the Saskatchewan legislature for the CCF in Regina. He was then re-elected under the CCF-NDP in 1964 and again in 1967, 1971, 1975, and 1978. During his time as a member for the Legislative Assembly for north Regina, Ed worked vigorously towards the establishment of co-operative business institutions and towards the creation of progressive public institutions devoted to improving human life.

Initiatives supported by Ed included the creation of the University of Regina, the construction of the SGI building, and the establishment of publicly funded separate high schools. Concurrent with his role as MLA in the late 1970s, Ed also served as the minister of Mineral Resources and Consumer Affairs in the second term of the active social democratic government of Allan Blakeney.

In retirement, Ed's deep desire to contribute to the social democratic movement continued with the authorship in co-operation with his wife, Pemrose, of two books. Arguably the more well-read of the two books, *Touched By Tommy*, is an invaluable collection of 250 stories and approximately 100 photos documenting the life of Tommy Douglas, a man greatly admired, beloved, and supported by Ed himself.

Also on meeting with both Pemrose and Ed, I had the great fortune of being presented with a book, *Run It By Jack*, which is a detailed account of Tommy Douglas's first attorney general.

Ed indeed had a larger than life persona. I cherished the visits I was able to have with both Pemrose and Ed, as the oral stories and deep passion from which they were told truly have touched and stayed with me. Despite Ed's great presence, it should be noted that Pemrose is no shrinking violet herself. She is a respected and dedicated social activist.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Whelan was committed to building a better world, a world that necessarily ensures economic equity and opportunity for all, and not only a limited few. He believed that Saskatchewan should be a place where working people are protected from economic hardship, where they prosper, and where their future is bright.

Ultimately Ed embodied the love of humanity and a desire to improve the lives of all through collective, public, and democratic means. His life mission was most demonstrable through his participation in the establishment of Canada's first publicly funded universal health care system. Because of the dedication and hard work of visionaries such as Ed, working people continue to receive the benefits of a health system that delivers quality care regardless of their ability to pay.

Indeed it is Ed's fundamental philosophy of ensuring real dignity and equity for the least fortunate that sustain social democrats at a time when the achievements made by early reformers like Ed Whelan are now at risk of being systematically dismantled.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of this House to recognize Ed Whelan's real achievements towards amelioration of everyday working people in this province. May we continue to build on the life work of Ed Whelan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to enter into this condolence motion debate to say something about Ed Whelan.

Ed was a friend of mine. And I guess I want to say a few things about the guy I knew from the early '90s on in the NDP and say something a bit about the guy's career as a legislator and as a lifelong credit union man, co-operator, and all round agitator.

Ed grew up in a family, one of nine kids. His father was a Tory. I think he had a brother who's a Social Credit supporter. As has been mentioned, Eugene, his brother — the man with a green hat — was a famous Liberal, of course. And certainly he came from a household where politics was an active and often a very forceful part of the dinnertime conversations.

And I think Ed took from his upbringing, the farm out by Amherstburg out in that Windsor plain country of Ontario, in his time working as an auto worker, I think he took from that some lifelong lessons about what it means to be, the power of co-operation, the power of common people working together and achieving uncommon things.

I think that Ed, as has been pointed out, won five campaigns, the first one in 1960. Before that, he had been an organizer for the CCF for 15 years as well as an active trade unionist, active co-operator.

And I think that Ed's . . . You know, he knew the people side of politics and he knew the theoretical side of politics, but the strength of Ed's politics was in his belief and in his contact with people. As one of the party's top organizers, he and Pemrose together . . . Pemrose, of course, his life's partner, near 60 years in marriage and, you know, a real force to be reckoned with, the Whelans.

Ed was always a huge supporter of Tommy Douglas, was his campaign manager in the fateful election of 1962 when Douglas had left the provincial scene to run federally. Of course it was right after the medicare dispute. And Ed talked about being in caucus at that time and just the hard fight that they had to go through internally, the hard fight they had to go through externally, and that story is well known to Saskatchewan people and indeed Canadians, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the kind of pressure that Lloyd and the CCF were under in terms of bringing in medicare — the death threats, the kids being beat up on the playgrounds. And you think about that as a legislator and the kind of pressure that they were under. I know for a fact, Mr. Speaker, I've seen nothing like that in my lifetime, and I'm sure

there are few in this House that have.

But Ed was there in the teeth of that, and he was the campaign manager for Douglas when Douglas had gone federal, became the leader of the federal NDP, ran his first election in Regina only to be defeated. It was Ed who was there as campaign manager. It was Ed who drove the car to the station, the TV station, where Tommy Douglas gave his famous I lay me down to bleed a while but I'll rise and fight again speech and then to the armouries where they had to drink very bitterly from the dregs of defeat. But he was also there for some victories with Tommy Douglas and through the years was there for many of the highs and lows in Tommy Douglas's career — certainly he and Pemrose.

Pemrose, I want to say a few words about her and of course the condolence of this House goes out to Pemrose and to her children and to their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. And in politics as is often remarked upon in this House, it's very much, it's often very much about a partnership between spouses, and indeed that's the only thing that can really make it go successfully. The first year Ed was elected, he went to . . . of his first 300 days as an MLA he says that he went to 450 events, Mr. Speaker. And that's a fair clip by any stretch of the imagination. And the thing that made that possible was his strong partnership with Pemrose who had a great mind, who was a voracious reader, and was a tremendous organizer in her own right. I just want to comment on that because certainly we're here to talk about Ed, but certainly Ed was just one part of a tremendous political partnership, let alone marriage.

To the children, to the grandchildren, to the great-grandchildren, I had the privilege of being at the mass, the memorial mass for Ed on December 15 at Holy Trinity. On the north side, in northwest Regina certainly there are a lot of people that know Ed, and they came out to pay their condolences that day. And it was fitting that it was at Holy Trinity because there was a church that Ed had played — an Irish Catholic by upbringing — he'd played an active role in the building of that church, of that congregation. And the people that came out for him that day, you know, former Premier Blakeney, former Premier Romanow, and various of Ed's old comrades from over the years came out to show something of what this wonderful man . . . and a very challenging man too.

And I'm sure many on this side that knew Ed, and certainly the Opposition Leader has alluded to that, Ed was no shrinking violet. And he could yell and holler with the best of them. But at the base of it all, I think was a desire to build that better world to make sure that the ordinary person got a fair shake in this life and that you didn't get special treatment just because you're born into wealth, or that you had, that everybody in this society had a shot at a good life.

I met Ed as a young New Democrat. My hair was a little longer, and I was probably a little skinnier back then, Mr. Speaker. And it was interesting that I think the older Ed got the more widely he read and the more radical he got. And he was always challenging us in terms of trying to live up to that vision of those people that fought through the '30s in terms of founding the CCF and constituted that '44 government and the tremendous amount of social and legal change and economic change that they entered into.

And he challenged us and he organized still the Tommy Douglas Coffee Club, things like the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Saskatchewan section. Ed was instrumental in that. And he would also encourage young people in the party and women in the party in terms of trying to step forward and play a role in what he thought was their party too.

And certainly as a young New Democrat, I developed a good friendship with Ed. And I'm sad, Mr. Speaker, that I didn't get to spend more time with him over the years because he was really a fount of some great stories through the years, but also had some great teachings to impart. When I was first elected, he helped in terms of advice and in terms of support for my nomination. And I'll be grateful to him for that down the line.

I guess Ed would say that he was honoured to serve in this legislature. And I know that he was. He was a great lover of this place, had his differences with colleagues, but again at that Mass that was delivered for him, Mr. Speaker, a lot of people came out to show something of what this great man meant to them and to the kind of spirit that he embodied. And certainly I know he takes pleasure in his kids and his grandkids and his great-grandkids carrying that on. And as he and Pemrose were touched by Tommy, so he and Pemrose have touched many lives, Mr. Speaker.

[17:00]

And with that I want to say thanks for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate on the motion of condolence for Ed Whelan.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with the members of the Edward Charles Whelan family.

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: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly, I would like to move:

That the resolutions just passed, together with a transcript of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased, be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Melfort, the Government House Leader, by leave of the Assembly:

That the resolutions just passed, together with a transcript

of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased, be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

Is the Assembly agreed with the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:02.]

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