



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

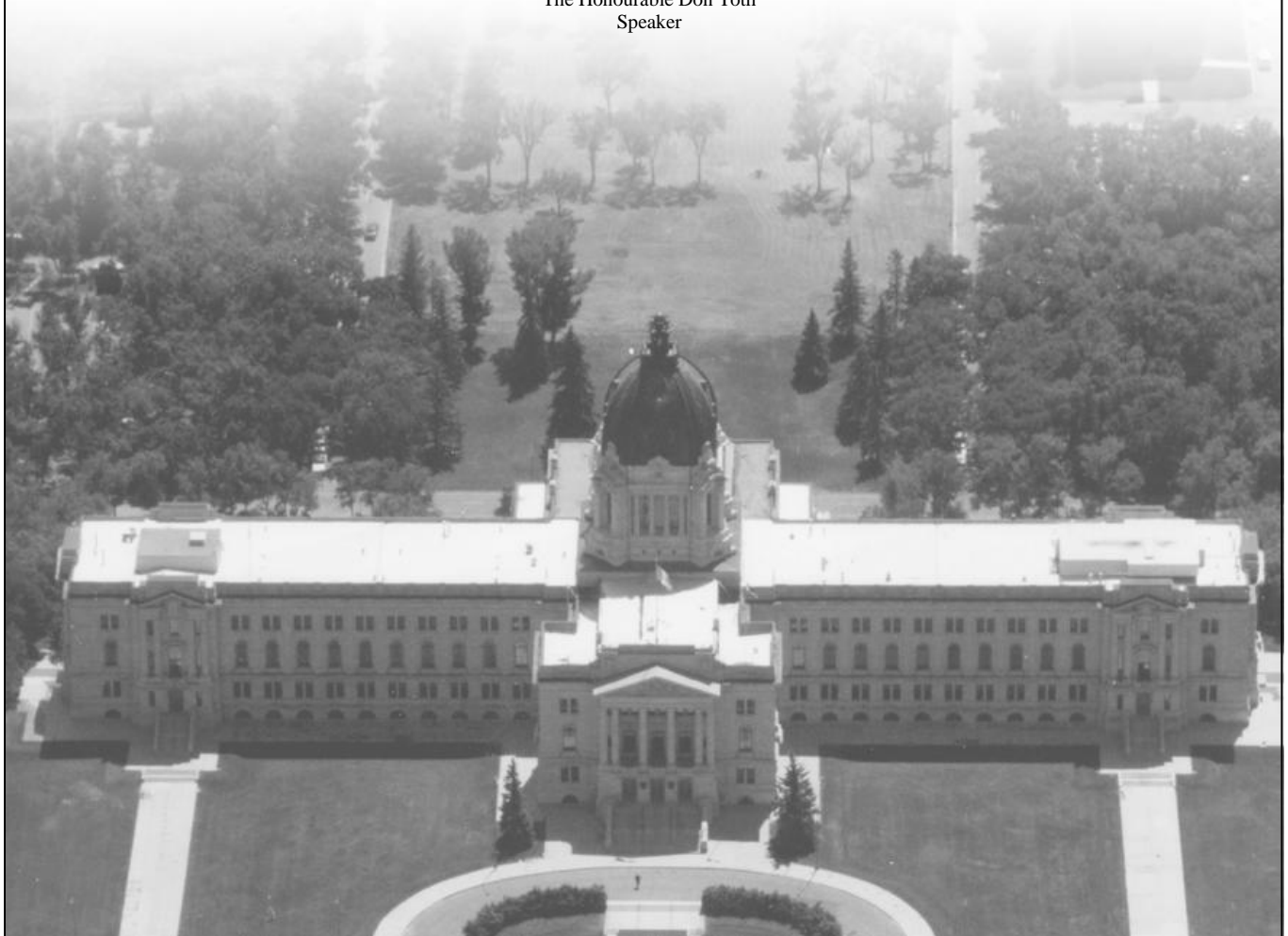
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
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
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
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
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
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
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
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
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce two guests in the west gallery. Elaine Courchene is the sister of my constituency assistant, Rita Flaman Jarrett. For the last three years, Elaine and her family have opened their home and hosted several international students. This year they are pleased to have a grade 11 student who is studying at Luther College here in Regina.

With Elaine today is the student, Raphaela Nuscheler, or Raphi, a 17-year-old student from Krumbach in Bavaria, Germany. She arrived in Canada and stayed at the Courchenes' since August 24 of last year and will stay there until July 15 of this year.

In addition to her academic program at Luther College, Raphi is involved in badminton, outdoor education, yearbook, French club, and the senior choir. Her other interests include tennis, reading, singing, dancing, and travelling. She likes spending time with her family and friends and has enjoyed becoming a new member of the Courchene family during her stay in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members welcome Raphi to the Saskatchewan legislature and hope that the remainder of her stay in Regina is memorable and enjoyable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of adult learners seated in the eastern gallery. They are from the Regina Public School Adult Campus. There are 18 or 20 students. We're still counting it out. They're a sharp looking bunch, Mr. Speaker. One guy's even got a tie on up there. He's looking good. They're accompanied by teachers Erin Harlos and Ryan Wood — Woody, I'm told.

My colleague, the member for Regina Rosemont, played an integral role in getting this campus up off the ground, has a lot of fond memories of his time there, and is actually going to join me later to give the students a pop quiz. So we'll all be looking forward to that, I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. So please join me in welcoming all these students and their teachers to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from — pardon me, shoot — Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce a few people to you. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is a good friend of mine, the former administrator for the RM [rural municipality] of Edenwold, Donna Strudwick. Next to Donna is my sister, Laura Reiter, and my brother . . . sorry, my sister, Laura, and my brother-in-law — she changed her name; it always confuses me — and my brother-in-law, Eldon Schwab of Wilkie. And seated down here with us is my mother and father, Ed and Elizabeth Reiter of Unity. They were here for an important function for me last night, and they're joining us in the Assembly today, and I ask everybody to please give them a warm welcome.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I just would like to join in with the member from Regina Elphinstone and certainly welcome many past friends and current friends up there — past colleagues, current friends — Erin Harlos and Ryan Wood. And so nice to see those students up there — many, many familiar faces. And it's amazing what another year of good education does. You're looking fantastic up there.

And just a little plug for the institution itself, Regina Public Schools Adult Campus was formed to address the needs of 18- to 21-year olds who were looking to access education, to find new opportunities. So we've got students who are retaking courses and other students that have gone back to school to gain their grade 12. It certainly offers them all sorts of life opportunities by gaining that education. It certainly assists our economy in having those students well educated and ready to participate. So I welcome those students, pleasure to see you, and thank you for being here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your west gallery today, one of the few caucus members that regularly or caucus staff that regularly attend proceedings and hasn't been introduced yet — I'd be remiss if I didn't — is Steve Ellingson. We affectionately refer to Steve as new Steve as we have a former Steve as well or a current, former Steve. Steve Ellingson, new Steve, is a transplant from Alberta. He's come back, come to Saskatchewan, and a very valuable part of our team, and I just invite him to invite some of his friends back to the province here as well because you know there's more good things to come. So I'd ask all members in the Assembly to welcome new Steve to his Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to reintroduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly, seated in your gallery members of the Saskatchewan House of Prayer. Mr. Speaker, these people are dedicated members of Saskatchewan society. They come here every day to view the proceedings, to pray for us to make the right decisions on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan, and their prayers go far beyond that, Mr. Speaker. Their prayers even extend to family members that they know of who are suffering from various sicknesses or challenges in their lives. And I want to personally thank them for the prayers that they've extended to my family and to all of us here in the Chamber. It's been very reassuring to have them here every day praying for all of us in the Chamber and that we are making the best decisions on behalf of Saskatchewan people. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — As well I have a few introductory comments. All members know that the Saskatchewan Legislative Building offers extended hours to the visiting public for the summer season. Extended hours 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. begin this Saturday, Victoria Day long weekend and carry on until after the Labour Day long weekend.

The director of visitor services, Lorraine deMontigny, is seated in the Speaker's gallery this morning with four new employees. All of them are bilingual officers, and so I would ask them to stand as I call their names — Aaron Froese, Jessica Hanna, Melanie Marchuk, and Alyssa Pittet. These young people are ambassadors not only for the Saskatchewan Legislative Building but for the province of Saskatchewan. The work they do is very important, and I know all members of the Legislative Assembly will join me in welcoming these employees to the Legislative Assembly Service. We wish you all the best for a great summer season. I'm sure you will meet visitors from all over the world.

As well, seated in the front row is Irene Pisula. Irene has been working in the visitor services branch for the past few weeks as acting assistant director of visitor services in the absence of Marianne Morgan, who is currently away from the office while her son Conrad undergoes treatment for cancer. And our thoughts are with Marianne. I invite all members to join me in thanking Irene for her assistance in visitor services through this very busy time of the year and welcoming our new guides to the Chamber.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise to present a petition on behalf of businesses in my community and constituency and also people that live on the south side of Moose Jaw. And it has to do with the abrupt closure of the South Hill liquor store, and the petition reads:

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

government to reassess its decision to close the South Hill liquor store, allowing it to continue to serve the people of Moose Jaw and provide valuable revenue to the people of this province.

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

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to present this petition on behalf of Moose Jaw.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions on behalf of citizens of the province who want the government to know that they have deep concerns about Bill No. 5, The Public Service Essential Services Act and Bill 6, An Act to amend The Trade Union Act, and consider these Bills as an aggressive assault on the rights of Saskatchewan working people. The prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the new government to withdraw The Public Service Essential Services Act, Bill 5, and The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2007, Bill 6, and hold broad public consultations about labour relations in the province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by nurses and other concerned citizens from many, many areas across the province, for instance Sturgis, Kyle, Bienfait, Estevan, Moosomin, Kipling, Indian Head, Regina, Kamsack, Wolseley, Stoughton, Broadview, Whitewood, Kennedy, Windthorst, Arcola, Canora, Endeavour, Gravelbourg, Coronach, Weyburn, Mankota, Val Marie, Rockglen, Assiniboia, Moose Jaw, Craven, Frontier, Shaunavon, Maple Creek, Swift Current, Gull Lake, Pelly, Danbury, Invermay, Rama, Balcarres, Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina Beach, Wilcox, Balgonie, Pilot Butte, Cupar, Southey, McLean, Strasbourg, Saskatoon, Clavet, Indian Head, and many more but I seem to be losing the interest of the members across the way, so I so present with pride, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of affordable housing in Saskatchewan and the fact that many citizens would like to have some input into providing solutions for this major problem in Saskatchewan. I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to ensure that the task force on housing affordability hold open public consultations for all citizens.

I do so present. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — I rise today to present petitions of people of Saskatoon who oppose the cut to funding for Station 20 and the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately restore funding to the Station 20 project.

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

The petitions are signed from people right across the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Remarkable Growth

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, since last November's election we have seen remarkable growth in this province. Saskatchewan leads the country in retail sales, in construction activity. Wages are up and unemployment is down. There are 17,000 new jobs in this province, Mr. Speaker. Demands on our natural resources are at an all-time high. Saskatchewan is now Canada's new it province.

When things happen quickly, they can easily go out of control unless, of course, you have a plan, and our government has a plan to carefully manage Saskatchewan's growth. The ready-for-growth plan addresses the infrastructure deficit left by that government when they were in power. We're fixing roads. We're upgrading and repairing hospitals and building new schools. Taxpayers are getting some long overdue tax relief, and we're working on a long-term solution to education property tax. University graduates are receiving tuition rebates allowing them to build careers and families closer to home right here in Saskatchewan.

Our government is . . . [inaudible] . . . a crop insurance system. Under the NDP [New Democratic Party] premiums went up and coverage went down. That, Mr. Speaker, was wrong and an insult to agricultural producers. We have increased the amount of revenue-sharing money municipalities are receiving allowing them to lower taxes and improve services. Mr. Speaker, our government has a plan for the future, unlike the members opposite who like to look in the rear-view mirror. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

The Speaker: — Before we move on, I just want to remind members that the person on the floor is the recognized

individual, and it certainly would be appropriate to allow members to make their statement without interference. I recognize there's a lot of passion, and we're winding down the session, but let's at least show respect to the recognized member. Member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Saskatchewan Party's Attitude to People

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have seen that not everyone in Saskatchewan is benefiting from the boom of the last two years. And we certainly know that this government is not committed to ensuring that everyone receives benefit from our buoyant economy. When they said times were harsh, Mr. Speaker, they didn't mean the books of the province; they meant the Saskatchewan Party's attitude to people.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter if you live in Moose Jaw or Moosomin, this government has found ways to leave you out. The list is long. Station 20, dental sealant program, vulnerable workers' benefits, de-funding the arts community, shutting down rural courthouses, cutting Aboriginal worker programs, and the list goes on, all with \$2 billion and counting in the bank.

Now Saskatchewan Party friends are doing quite well, while the average person deals with possibility of increased power rates, increased rental and housing costs, and increased fuel prices. But it's not just dollars and cents that show the meanness of the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. No. Be it name calling in the House, attacks on career civil servants, attacks on people and children with disabilities, this government has shown that they don't care who they have to trample over to get their own way. Mr. Speaker, this Saskatchewan Party government is mean-spirited.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Committed to Safety and Security

Ms. Schriemer: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is growing and good things are happening. The members opposite refer to our mountain of money. Well, Mr. Speaker, the reality is, that it is impossible to fund everything, so decisions must be made.

Our government is committed to the safety and security of our citizens. With knowledge and compassion, we have moved to address the basic needs of vulnerable children and those less fortunate. Food, shelter, and safety are the platform from which we can build.

Earlier this week our government announced a plan for the children and other residents of Saskatoon's inner city. Working with all stakeholders, we will build a new St. Mary's school and affordable housing in what once was a cesspool of drugs and violence. We have increased funding for food banks. We are helping 6,000 families by increasing funding to the Saskatchewan employment supplement. There is more money for addictions beds and to help victims of sexual assault. Mr. Speaker, we are hiring more police to crack down on crime and have funded a special unit that targets the sexual predators that

trap our kids on the Internet. We have passed essential services legislation to ensure public safety during strike or lockout.

Mr. Speaker, I am so very, very proud to serve with this government. Our Premier, cabinet, and caucus are not only growing the . . .

The Speaker: — The member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Stumbling Out of the Gate

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is rare to see a government that has stumbled this badly out of the gate. From the first day of session or at least the first day once they finally realized they should call the session, we have seen a disorganized and incompetent group of managers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, we have a minister responsible for forestry that has made so many misstatements the government is now refusing to comment, lest the situation get even worse. We have a Minister of Social Services who's had to backtrack on a major decision and ask for a do-over on her budget. We have a Minister of Finance that let her change her budget when he wasn't busy admitting that his own budget was subpar. We have a Minister of Agriculture that admits the Sask Party spent 12 years in opposition saying anything, but now that they're in government, they can't actually follow through.

We have a Minister of Labour who, well, just personifies incompetent. He hasn't met a question yet that he can actually answer, Mr. Speaker. He has tabled a piece of legislation, Bill 24, whose sole purpose was to fix his own bungling on the Labour Relations Board file. We have a Premier who either didn't read his own legislation before tabling it or else just didn't realize that it broke a campaign promise for accountability, Mr. Speaker. And well, we won't even talk about the wheat sheaf fiasco.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government is simply incompetent and mean-spirited.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I'm continually finding it difficult to hear all of the comments made, whether it's a government member or an opposition member in members' statements. And I think you will agree with me as members that that is not really showing respect to the Chamber or the member. So I would ask, while everyone wants to add their own personal comments, let's respect the right of members to address and bring forward their comments. The member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Six months ago the people of Saskatchewan voted for change. On November 8 the new Saskatchewan Party government started doing just that.

During the campaign, Mr. Speaker, we made a lot of promises, and we didn't waste any time starting to keep them.

The first thing we did was announce fixed election dates. Promise made, promise kept. We promised to do something about the fact that property owners in Saskatchewan pay the most education property tax in Canada. Not only did we increase rebates on education property tax for both homeowners and farmers, we have launched a full review of the system. Promise made, promise kept. Now this may come as a shock to some of the members opposite, but there's a nursing shortage in Saskatchewan. This government promised to do something about that. We signed a historic agreement on nursing recruitment and retention with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, and we recruited 300 Filipino nurses. Promise made, promise kept.

Let's run down a quick checklist. A tuition rebate program, check. Spending for the cancer drug Avastin, check. Five million for food banks, check. Elimination of the wiener roast tax, check. A review of the crop insurance program, check. More revenue-sharing money for municipalities, check. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Cronyism

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, one of the first and last things we heard about in this session was the cronyism that the new government brought to the table. They fired the Chair of the Labour Relations Board without cause and appointed a member of the Sask Party transition team to take his place, with a hefty pay increase of \$60,000 I might add. The same old story at the Workers' Compensation Board, and that's just the arm's length agencies, Mr. Speaker.

When it comes to the civil service, the patronage continues — massive pay hikes for political staff, except maybe the women, and contracts for former buddies that roll on into tens of thousands of dollars. One wonders what they would have gotten away with if their reporting mechanism had been changed to \$350,000, not 50.

And what have we found out this week, Mr. Speaker? They passed a Bill that benefits the lending institution that not only lends the Sask Party campaigns money but makes donations as well. We find out the minister owns shares in a company that is benefiting from SaskTel privatization, and so does the CEO [chief executive officer] that he appointed. Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party government is self-serving and cares more about their friends than the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Promises Kept

Mr. McMillan: — Eliminated the PST [provincial sales tax] on

used cars, promise kept. Helping families cap the cost of prescription drugs for children, promise kept. Tougher penalty for repeat drunk drivers, promise kept. A round table on the duty to consult and accommodate, promise kept. More doctors' and nurses' training seats, promise kept. Approved the prescription drug under the formulary, promise kept. Five million for community-based organizations to help families, promise kept. Five hundred thousand for school lunch programs and anti-hunger, promise kept.

Three million dollars for new money for hiring police officers, promise kept. Eight million to fight organized crime and gangs, promise kept. One million dollars in new funding for transition houses, promise kept. We paid down the debt \$250 million this and last year, promise kept. Cancelled the Domtar deal on the Prince Albert pulp mill, saving the taxpayers \$100 million, promise kept. Put the safety of Saskatchewan people first by introducing essential services legislation, promise kept. Made the workplace more democratic by introducing a secret ballot and freedom of speech, promise kept. Encouraged drivers to go green by offering rebates, promise kept. Five million for Saskatchewan parks, promise kept. Balanced the budget, Mr. Speaker, promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite will tell you it is easy to make promises, and they will also tell you that keeping them is the deal breaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Government's Performance

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I expect during the course of this question period both the Premier and I will want to have a review of the session, and I'll have a number of questions.

But before I move into that review of the session, I do have a very specific question for the Premier. Earlier this week his Deputy Premier stood in this House and indicated to the House and to the public that the "transition," quote, the transition of this government was not yet over. What that does, Mr. Speaker, is signal that there are going to be further dismissals and firings in the public service.

And so I have a very simple question to open with the Premier this morning. Will the Premier assure the public service of Saskatchewan that the firings are over? And if not, Mr. Speaker, will the Premier tell us how many more can we expect and who will lose their positions with the Government of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say to the hon. member that in terms of the transition of government, not unlike what happened in 1991 when his party assumed government, the transition took a number of months. In fact I don't think it was completely resolved, according to some reports I've seen, until about 1993.

And so what we will continue to do, Mr. Speaker, is conduct our government with respect to transition professionally, respectful of those who continue to provide great service for the province. We will not, unlike members opposite in 1991 for example, be firing single mothers on Christmas Eve. We won't be doing that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the Premier does remember 1991 when he left the employ in this building.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that over the course of this session, the Saskatchewan Party has sure come a long way.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — On the very first day of the session, Mr. Speaker, the Premier stood before the people of Saskatchewan and he described the finances of the province of Saskatchewan as stark. Now a few months later, he introduced a budget with a 10 per cent spending increase and a \$1.5 billion surplus. And last week, Mr. Speaker, we heard the Premier say that he's going to send his caucus members out this summer to see if they can find ways to spend all the money.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is as follows: when did he decide that he was wrong? When did he decide that he was wrong, that the finances of this province are not stark? When did he decide that, unlike any other premier in the history of this province, he has inherited a fiscal capacity like none other?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's question is, when did I decide that I was wrong. I want to say, I can remember sitting over on those benches not too long ago and listening day after day to speeches from NDP politicians and from that premier who downplayed the potential for this province to lead the country — who said we'd always be in and out of equalization, who called us the wee province, whose members said it was statistically impossible for our population to grow at the national average.

And for a moment I and other members started to maybe believe it was true until we realized, along with the people of Saskatchewan, that that was wrong, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan could lead — that if they had a government that was prepared to bring in a ready-for-growth initiative to deal

with the infrastructure deficits, to continue the economic momentum, to see the employment levels that we're seeing at record levels, and also to ensure, to also ensure that everyone shared in the prosperity through child care, through funding better cancer care, through health care, that we could achieve that as a province. To think that back then was wrong. We know what the truth is today and we're looking forward to moving forward, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:30]

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, let's keep a little running total this morning. Question one, no answer; question two, no answer. Now let's try this one.

After the Premier came out and the people of Saskatchewan and told us all that the financial circumstance in Saskatchewan was stark — even though he had \$1 billion handed to him in the bank, he said the fiscal situation was stark — what's the first thing they did? Well he sent out the Deputy Premier to tell the people of Saskatchewan the first thing this government's going to do is rid the province of . . .

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

Mr. Calvert: — So, Mr. Speaker, to repeat, the first thing the Premier does in this stark financial situation, as he described it, is to send the Deputy Premier out to tell the province, we're going to rid this province of the wheat sheaf logo. That's what he said. Now you know how the public reacted, Mr. Speaker. They reacted very quickly. Next thing we heard was the Deputy Premier — same Deputy Premier, a few days later — coming out and saying well no, that was a bad decision we made and we're not going to do it.

But my question today, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier: is in fact the wheat sheaf logo continuing to be the official logo of the province of Saskatchewan? If not, how is it that on government publications, government websites, and all around we see that the wheat sheaf logo has disappeared?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the premise of the premier's question, I think he highlighted . . . Or the Opposition Leader's question, the Opposition Leader's question. I think he highlighted what it is that we did first, and he was wrong. Here's what we did first. We set the next election date. We kept the promise, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The next thing we did is we announced that we would be eliminating the NDP tax on used cars, the PST on used cars. We kept the promise. That was the second thing.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The third thing we did is we unveiled a smaller cabinet. That was a promise we made. We kept that promise.

The fifth thing that we did, Mr. Speaker, was introduce tougher penalties for drunk drivers. That was also a promise kept. And the sixth thing we did was announce coverage of the colorectal cancer drug Avastin. And there's a long list.

These are the first things we did, keeping promises we made to Saskatchewan people. And we know there's some work to do yet, but we're off to a pretty good start, we think, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Question three, no answer. Let's try another one, Mr. Speaker. Now what has become very, very clear to Saskatchewan people and to this legislature that we have now a government who will say anything in opposition and then either get to government and do just the opposite or do nothing at all.

Now remember, Mr. Speaker, after the Premier stood up and declared that the province's finances were stark and after they announced they're going to get rid of the wheat sheaf logo, then they introduce their very first piece of legislation. And what was it, Mr. Speaker, what was it? — No. 1, The Growth and Financial Security Act.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's one of the biggest flip-flops I've seen in my political career. After railing from the opposition benches about the Fiscal Stabilization Fund of the New Democratic Party government, the Sask Party turns around and introduces the very same thing.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance said, and I quote, "fundamentally, there is very little difference" between the NDP's fund and theirs. And so to the Premier: how could he in good conscience stand in opposition criticizing the NDP government for a Fiscal Stabilization Fund then assume government and do exactly the same thing?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before I recognize the Premier, I realize we're maybe on the home stretch and it's quite easily to get into heated, animated debate. But if we could actually restrain ourselves a little bit, the Speaker will try to at least hold the reins. I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know it's interesting, the last day of the session and we're answering questions, we're hearing questions about the logo from the former premier, the Leader of the Opposition. A chance to talk about pretty big issues today, certainly on the last day of session. Not very long ago his pressing issue was explanatory notes on a piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, in terms of material for question period over there, it's like the

writers for the second season of *Three's Company*, they've got nothing left I don't think, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the wheat sheaf logo, I want to tell the hon. member opposite that the last time I saw and used that wheat sheaf logo was just this week in his constituency when we brought a box of wheat sheaf logo lapel pins . . . Where? Mr. Speaker, we brought them to St. Mary's School, right in the heart of his constituency. We're going to build a brand new school and we're going to build a brand new affordable housing project there, Mr. Speaker.

As for the Growth and Financial Security Fund, we thought it would be novel that if you're going to have such a fund that you would actually fund it, and that's what we're doing, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — . . . for a partial answer and he got it wrong. Mr. Speaker, let's again go back to this party, then in opposition, now in government, what they were saying in opposition. In opposition they talked a lot about transparency in government and accountability in government. I could even quote from the platform of the Sask Party, which said, "A Saskatchewan Party Government will provide Saskatchewan people with more transparency and accountability than any previous government."

Well then what did this Premier and this government do during this session? Well they tried to slip in a piece of legislation which they should have called the unaccountability Act, a piece of legislation where they attempted to secure for themselves the ability to spend \$350,000 without public reporting at least for a year and longer.

Mr. Speaker, how is it that the Premier can now claim that he is keeping campaign promises, that he is standing by what he said in opposition? And how can they deny the headline that we all saw on the front page of the *Leader-Post*, "Hypocrites?"

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. The hon. member is referring to the Bill for which he demanded in question period the explanatory notes even though there are no explanatory notes with a new Bill. But he also that day made a good point. And it happens on a rare occasion from members opposite that a rare point is made, and in this case, Mr. Speaker, we appropriately responded. The Bill is not being passed this session.

We're referring it to the auditor for his advice to balance efficiency and transparency. And should it occur again, and it may well — as the member for Kindersley has pointed out, it might just occur again that members opposite have another good idea — we'll have a look at that too, Mr. Speaker. But as

for saying what it is that we said in opposition versus what we have done in government, Mr. Speaker, we can run through a list of 60 election promises that we have already kept in only six months of forming a government.

Now we know there's still work to do, Mr. Speaker, but we'd say with respect that we are off to a pretty good start.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, with respect, some think it's a pretty shaky start. And it's a pretty shaky answer to the question I just put to the Premier about saying one thing while in opposition and another thing in government. But even this is interesting, Mr. Speaker, because now what they're saying in government is not even holding true in government because the Premier assured us that this Bill would be referred to the auditor for his consideration.

Well I wonder when that's going to happen, because the auditor came to this Chamber and said it has not been referred to him, at least yet. How long will it take for this Bill to find its way to the auditor?

Mr. Speaker, let me ask again: does the Premier, does the Premier share the view of the Minister of Agriculture, who has been a little more upfront with the thinking over there, that you can say absolutely anything in opposition for 12 years but you don't need to be held to account for what you said when you get to the government benches? Does the Premier share . . . Oh, he laughs. He thinks this is funny.

Does he share the view of the Minister of Agriculture?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, in terms of saying anything in opposition, I heard my hon. friend from Thunder Creek say that the hon. member opposite seems to be really getting the hang of it. We've seen that over the last number of weeks on the gas tax and on other issues.

But it's a fair debate to have today on the last day of the session. It's a fair analysis. It's a fair measure for a new government that the Opposition Leader proposes. And what I'm talking about, Mr. Speaker, is what did you say before and during the election campaign, and what have you done afterwards?

Now I've indicated there are 60 promises kept, but let's review a few more. We've heard some today. We promised a \$15 cap on prescription drugs for kids. We've kept that promise. We promised to upgrade our provincial parks, our regional parks, and cancel the NDP wiener roast tax. We've kept that promise. We've promised a tuition freeze and a dynamic new program to keep graduates from post-secondary institutions in our province. We've kept that promise as well. Mr. Speaker, I've

got a lot more.

The bottom line is this: what we said during the election campaign, we're doing. We are doing what we said we would do, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of issues which the government said they would do that we wish they hadn't said they would do, and now they're doing them and we wish that they weren't doing them. There are a host of issues that this government addressed when they were in opposition that they are not now . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I call the members to order. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, let me go back again to what the Minister of Agriculture currently said. He said, "In opposition I could say just about anything I wanted and I did on a lot of occasions for 12 years." Mr. Speaker, you know when he said that? In response to the issue, in response to the issue of farm families, particularly in the southwest of our province, who are living through a period of drought, Mr. Speaker. He said that in response to the commitment that the Sask Party had made to the farm families who are experiencing drought, that they would provide a per-acreage payment. That was the commitment. That is what they lobbied for in opposition.

Now they're in government. They try and escape responsibility to those farm families by saying, oh well, don't worry because you can say anything in opposition, but when you're minister, quote, "you're responsible" and you have to do it right.

So let me again say to the Premier, and let me ask to the Premier, does he share the Minister of Agriculture's view that this excuse is good enough for not responding to an acreage payment for the farmers in the Southwest?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt about the challenges facing the farmers and the ranchers of southwest Saskatchewan. Certainly a large portion of the Southwest has been under drought conditions for about four years. It's I think perhaps the first visit to the area by a minister of Agriculture — notwithstanding the four-year length of the drought — happened after the election and it was a visit by this minister.

This minister, while Agriculture critic in opposition, Mr. Speaker, promised a crop insurance review, promised a new system of crop insurance that would improve coverage and keep premiums affordable. He's already taken a step to improve the coverage, Mr. Speaker, and he's acted on keeping our promise with respect to reviewing the program.

We promised property tax relief for producers, something they were prepared to ignore in the election campaign. That's also been delivered. We have delivered on a \$6 million water infrastructure for the Southwest, Mr. Speaker. That's \$6 million more than anything they got at all from the NDP when they were in office.

There's more work to be done. The minister's monitoring it. He will return to the area after seeding. And that, Mr. Speaker, is the kind of response the likes of which agriculture producers never received from that former government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I believe that was question seven. Question seven, no answer to the question of acreage payments and the commitment they made before the election. Then let us turn to another situation.

There are circumstances in this province now where we have farm families who are not benefiting from the economic boom that's being felt by this province. And we have families across the province who are beginning to feel real pressures, Mr. Speaker.

Let's think about utility rates. This government has now taken the position that they will not guarantee the provision of the lowest-cost bundle of utilities for the people of Saskatchewan, even though we are the owners of our utilities, the Crown corporations. But even worse, Mr. Speaker, the Minister Responsible for the Crowns has already indicated that we can expect SaskPower rates to climb 5 per cent in the fall.

How can this be, Mr. Speaker? My question then to the Premier: how can it be that we're in this period of economic boom, record prosperity for government — the Crowns are reaping in record profits, providing the General Revenue Fund — and he's got a minister and a government that is now proposing utility rate increases?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the SaskPower reference that the hon. member makes, this process would have been under way prior to the election — the evaluation of the need for rate increases. That's the fact of the matter. The fact of the matter is with utilities, we see rate increases as costs increase. So is it the position of the hon. member, is it the position of the opposition that with rising energy costs, that our utilities . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — That those utilities wouldn't be climbing as they were when he was the premier, when he was the premier to

make those adjustments?

Mr. Speaker, we're going to have a debate about SaskPower, about our future electrical needs. We've seen our government lead with respect to clean coal. The number one, I believe the number one clean coal project coming to the continent, Mr. Speaker, is going to happen here. We're going to have a discussion in this province that we should have had a long time ago about the options and possibilities of nuclear power.

Our question to those members opposite is: are they ready for that discussion? Are they prepared, are they prepared to have the kind of vision that people of this province are demanding of all of us to talk about cleaner energy for future generations — affordable energy and safe energy? We're ready for that debate, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — I think, Mr. Speaker, my question was about why will we be facing — the people of Saskatchewan — facing these extreme utility rates at a period of boom and record profit in the Crowns. And again no answer. Lots of chat, but no answer.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't long ago that the Minister of Social Services responsible for housing in our province described the housing circumstance as a crisis. Well I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, some of my neighbours do feel it has become a crisis. It is a crisis when you can see your rent going up \$400 a month. It is a crisis when you're a student and you have to end up sleeping on somebody's couch or sleeping in a car because there isn't student housing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, how can we have a government that on one moment thinks it's a crisis, a crisis, and yet a Premier who says that lower rents are a market obligation?

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier today. He's done nothing to date, nothing to date for the renters of Saskatchewan. My question today is: what does he intend to do to assist the renters of Saskatchewan, whether they be seniors, whether they be working people, whether they be students? What does he intend to do for the renters of this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the work of the Minister of Social Services who, prior to the budget being tabled, launched, announced the task force on housing that has been going all over the province meeting with municipalities — very well received, by the way, this discussion that Ted Merriman and Mr. Pringle have been having with municipalities and groups across the province.

The solution to the housing issue is a local government issue. It's a provincial government issue. It's a federal government

issue. And we have backed up that task force — which will report very shortly with some very specific recommendations, I believe — we've backed it up with the largest increase in Saskatchewan's history to the Saskatchewan employment supplement for those low-income families, about 70 per cent of whom are single-parent families, to be able to cope with some of the rising costs we've seen. We've backed it up with a 15 per cent increase in foster care rates. We've backed it up, Mr. Speaker, with the commitment that we made this week at St. Mary's, right in his constituency — that he's not acknowledging today — \$8 million in affordable housing and a brand new school. We're taking action, and there'll be more to come, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, let me say this. I have very publicly congratulated the government for the funding for St. Mary School — very, very publicly — but I tell you this, Mr. Speaker. This is clear to the people of Saskatoon and its inner city, that there's a government in damage control mode, damage control mode; and 2,400 people on the street supporting Station 20 forced this government to do something. And I want the Premier to understand something further. It's not either-or; it's not either-or. It is yes, a welcome to St. Mary School, but yes, return the funding to Station 20 and complete the project, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Now, Mr. Speaker, we've got a situation of boom in this province. We've got a situation of economic prosperity, not as a result anything that this government has done. A period of boom and prosperity, but what do we see? Some of our lowest-income families hardly being able to meet their food budget.

We had a commitment from this government that they would increase, increase the food allowance for social assistance recipients, not the employment supplement for those who are employed but the food allowance for the poorest of our poor. Mr. Speaker, I say this to the Premier. My question is to the Premier: why have they neglected this commitment? Why have they not raised the food allowance for people on social assistance?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the last election very much was about the valid question, which party has the best team and the plan to sustain the growth of Saskatchewan? And I think we've seen that question being answered empirically. We see the Royal Bank of Canada saying this economy is going to lead the country this year and next year. Mr. Speaker, we see record employment — 17,000 full-time jobs created. We see international and national media highlighting this government. This growth-oriented government

has a reason to be bullish.

And from this government we've seen a commitment to share this prosperity with Saskatchewan people. We see it in cancer care, increased funding in cancer care that never happened when they were the government. We see it in increased funding for better health care facilities, for better school facilities. We see it in increased funding for child hunger programs, for money for sexual assault centres, something they neglected for 16 years, Mr. Speaker. And in addition to that we see a government that's prepared to keep its promises, to do what it said it would do. Mr. Speaker, 60 promises kept. We're off to a good start, but there's more work to do, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — Members will come to order. Order. The member from Moose Jaw North, please come to order, and I ask members of the opposition to come to order. Before orders of the day, I have a few comments to make regarding the point of order raised yesterday.

Yesterday the Government House Leader raised the point of order concerning the appropriateness of a series of questions posed by the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow during Tuesday's question period. It was the contention of the House Leader that the questions impugned the character of the Minister Responsible for SaskTel by suggesting that he is in a conflict of interest. The House Leader further contended that the questions amounted to a serious allegation of financial impropriety against the minister and the Chair of the SaskTel board of directors.

Members will be aware that their interventions in the Assembly, whether in debate or during in other proceedings such as question period, may not make a personal charge or accusation against another member. Such a charge or accusation may only be made by way of a substantive motion moved by notice. This long-held parliamentary practice is codified in rule 50(f).

In reviewing the *Hansard*, I find that the interventions of the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow were phrased to include a preamble followed by a concise, direct question. The preambles consisted of statements outlining the relationships and connections between SaskTel and Jump.ca, the minister and the SaskTel board Chair, the Golden Opportunities Fund and the minister's private investments. Based upon these statements, the questions then posed by the member sought the minister's opinion on the possible conflicts of interest that he or the board Chair might be in, and what actions the minister might take to address these conflicts.

I remind members that it is not the role of the Speaker to determine the veracity of what members say in debate or question period. It is the assumption indeed expectation of this Assembly that members will be truthful and forthright in their interventions. However, in those instances where there is a difference of opinion, members are free to debate, disagree, or offer alternative versions of the facts in dispute.

From the record, it is clear that the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow phrased her questions in such a manner that did not make a personal charge or accusation. For this reason, I find the point of order not well taken.

Before closing this matter, I want to point out what a former Speaker said in this Assembly about question period on May 27, 1998, and I quote "... it is never, ever appropriate that, engaging in political cut and thrust of debate in this Assembly, that members would draw into question the character of another member ...". I think it is appropriate that members are reminded about this point.

I also want to point out that there are alternate and formal means to pursue questions of conflict of interest, means which this Assembly itself put into law. I refer members to The Members' Conflict of Interest Act, section 29(1), which provides a mechanism for a member who has "... reasonable and probable grounds to believe that another member is in contravention of this Act ..." to ask the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for an opinion.

Although I find the point of order not well taken, I do want members to be mindful that they should be respectful of one another's character when putting comments on the record and that there are formal means available to members when they have questions about the conflict of interest.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave of the Assembly to move a motion regarding the adjournment of the session and to make some closing remarks.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

MOTIONS

House Adjournment

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, today marks the conclusion of the first legislative session of the new Saskatchewan Party government. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank both you and the Clerks at the Table who have guided us through the various procedures and assisted us in learning our new role as government. I would also like to thank the Legislative Assembly staff who've endured the extended hours of this legislative session along with the elected members and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the committees.

I would particularly like to thank the staff who worked in Hansard, Journals, the broadcast services staff, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the commissaries and building maintenance staff, library services, cafeteria staff, and the interns who have experienced a condensed and fairly intense session. I wish to especially acknowledge the Pages and thank them for their efforts to sweeten us up with some chocolate this

last two days.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — I would like to thank the staff in the respective caucus offices and the staff in Executive Council and the staff in the ministers' offices.

I would like to also thank my colleagues on both sides of the House and the Opposition House Leader for guiding his members in their new roles. It's clearly been a learning experience on both sides of the House. And I would like to thank the media for reporting on the day-to-day activities of the session and keeping the public in touch with what goes on in this session.

But perhaps most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our families for their support and co-operation and the many sacrifices they make throughout the year to allow each of us to do our jobs. Many of our members are away from home for extended periods of time, and I know this is difficult for spouses and children, and so I offer a special thank you to them on behalf of all of us for their understanding and patience.

Mr. Speaker, I would move by leave of the Assembly:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 22, 2008, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion by the Government House Leader:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of the sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 22, 2008, unless earlier recalled by the Speaker upon the request of the government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven days clear notice, if possible, of such date and time.

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

[11:00]

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'll begin my remarks with an apology, Mr. Speaker, to the Pages. I didn't know, before the Government House Leader indicated, that the chocolates on our tables came from the Pages. I was convinced they came from the member from Canora-Pelly, and I sent mine out to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] lab for testing, Mr. Speaker. But it came back okay, and I've now consumed it. And my thanks as well to the Pages, Mr. Speaker, my thanks very much to the Pages, not only for the

chocolates but of course for all that they've done for us. And I wish them extremely well, Mr. Speaker, in their endeavours as they leave this place as well.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Government House Leader in thanking those who have served us throughout this session, Mr. Speaker, particularly those special staff, the staff that was invited here to deal with the extended hours, the extra hours that we had earlier in the session, Mr. Speaker. We had to bring people in to assist with that.

And, Mr. Speaker, current staff, your staff included, the individuals serving at the Table, the Clerks at the Table, Mr. Speaker, their efforts to assist us to get through this difficult time, Mr. Speaker, is most appreciated. And, Mr. Speaker, also to the committee staff and to the departmental staff, Mr. Speaker, who engaged with us in evening sittings, sometimes till 10:30, 11:30, midnight, 1 o'clock in the morning, Mr. Speaker — it was very, very, very good of the committee staff. And I should mention Hansard staff as well, Mr. Speaker, for helping to manage these long hours in the Chamber. And I thank them for what they did.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues as well, this time for us as we are all adjusting to our new responsibilities, Mr. Speaker. I believe that my colleagues were enthusiastic. They were committed to their role here in opposition, Mr. Speaker, at times feisty and prepared to accept the challenges that the people of Saskatchewan have offered. And I thank my colleagues for the work that they did.

And, Mr. Speaker, I thank you and your staff. This was a difficult session as we are all finding our way. Mr. Speaker, you managed this session with grace and asking for respect. And, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I thank you and your staff for what you did.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I also want to thank our families, our spouses, significant others. Mr. Speaker, this was a different session than we have been used to, and our families dealt with it as best that they could.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my wife, Cheryl, in particular for allowing me to be away as much as I have, Mr. Speaker, and I'm very grateful for the way in which Cheryl has freed me up to do the things that my caucus and the people of Saskatchewan have asked me to do. And lastly, lastly, Mr. Speaker, my thanks to my mother, who watches the House on a regular basis. Her only advice to me has been, Mr. Speaker, keep asking those questions; sooner or later you'll get an answer. Mr. Speaker, I thank my mother for the advice that she has given me throughout this session.

So, Mr. Speaker, I wish, on behalf of the official opposition, I wish all members of the Chamber a very productive time away from here, and I look forward to when we come back to a new session in the fall. I look forward to the opportunities to see the government's new package of legislation. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll look forward to the opportunity to helping my caucus pull together questions that continue to hold the government to account.

I hope all have a pleasant time away from this place, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before we adjourn today, I would appreciate leave to make a brief statement of thanks.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you. I first of all want to thank the Government and Opposition House Leaders for their remarks and concur with the thank yous they have expressed. I want to thank all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for giving me the honour to serve as your Speaker in this first session of the twenty-sixth legislature. I also thank all MLAs for their commitment to this institution, for their passion, and the work they do for the people of this province.

As well, thank you to the staff for their support work — the constituency assistants as well as their staff in the legislature. Thank you to the Clerks at the Table for their advice, dedication, and expertise — Gregory Putz, Kenneth Ring, Margaret Woods, Iris Lang, and the staff in their offices. I also want to acknowledge and thank Viktor Kaczkowski, committee Clerk, and Kathy Buriannyk, committee researcher.

Thank you to the officials who have appeared before our committees for their contribution to the legislative process. And I want to acknowledge and extend sincere thanks to the following: Dome Cafeteria staff, government services, Journals, Hansard, security, Legislative Library, human resource and payroll services, communication and technology services, financial and administrative services, visitor services, office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, Office of the Clerk, and the Office of the Speaker.

And I want to let the staff that I've just named know that members of this Assembly do care about them. And I indicated earlier and we're aware of the fact that we have some staff members who have family members who are facing some grave health challenges. We want you to know that our thoughts continue to be with you.

I want to make special recognition of a group of young people that I want to recognize and thank for their help, our Pages: Teagan Bossenberry, Kristy Fyfe, Milayna Goruick, Alex Hamilton, and Amy Stamm. We've really appreciated your smiles and certainly, as has been acknowledged, little tokens of appreciation. Thank you so much. We desperately need a little bit of sweetening up at times. That's greatly appreciated.

And finally I want to acknowledge and thank the families of all MLAs for their support. As the Government House Leader and Opposition House Leader have indicated, without the support of our families, the job would be much more difficult. And may I also extend a special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Lepp and the group from the House of Prayer, who have taken the time to come and attend our Legislative Building.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I close by extending to each and every one the

thoughts for a very pleasant and enjoyable summer, time with family and friends, and getting to renew acquaintances even with constituents.

The motion before the Assembly is a motion by the Government House Leader that this Assembly stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 22 or at the call of the Chair. 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: — This Assembly stands adjourned until October 22.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:07.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

Hon. Bob BJORNERUD
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Ken CHEVELDAYOFF
Minister of Crown Corporations

Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Minister of Government Services
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and
Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Information
Technology Office

Hon. June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs

Hon. Wayne Elhard
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Provincial Secretary

Hon. Rod Gantfoer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment

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Minister Responsible for the Workers'
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Hon. Christine Tell
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Minister Responsible for the Capital City Commission