



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

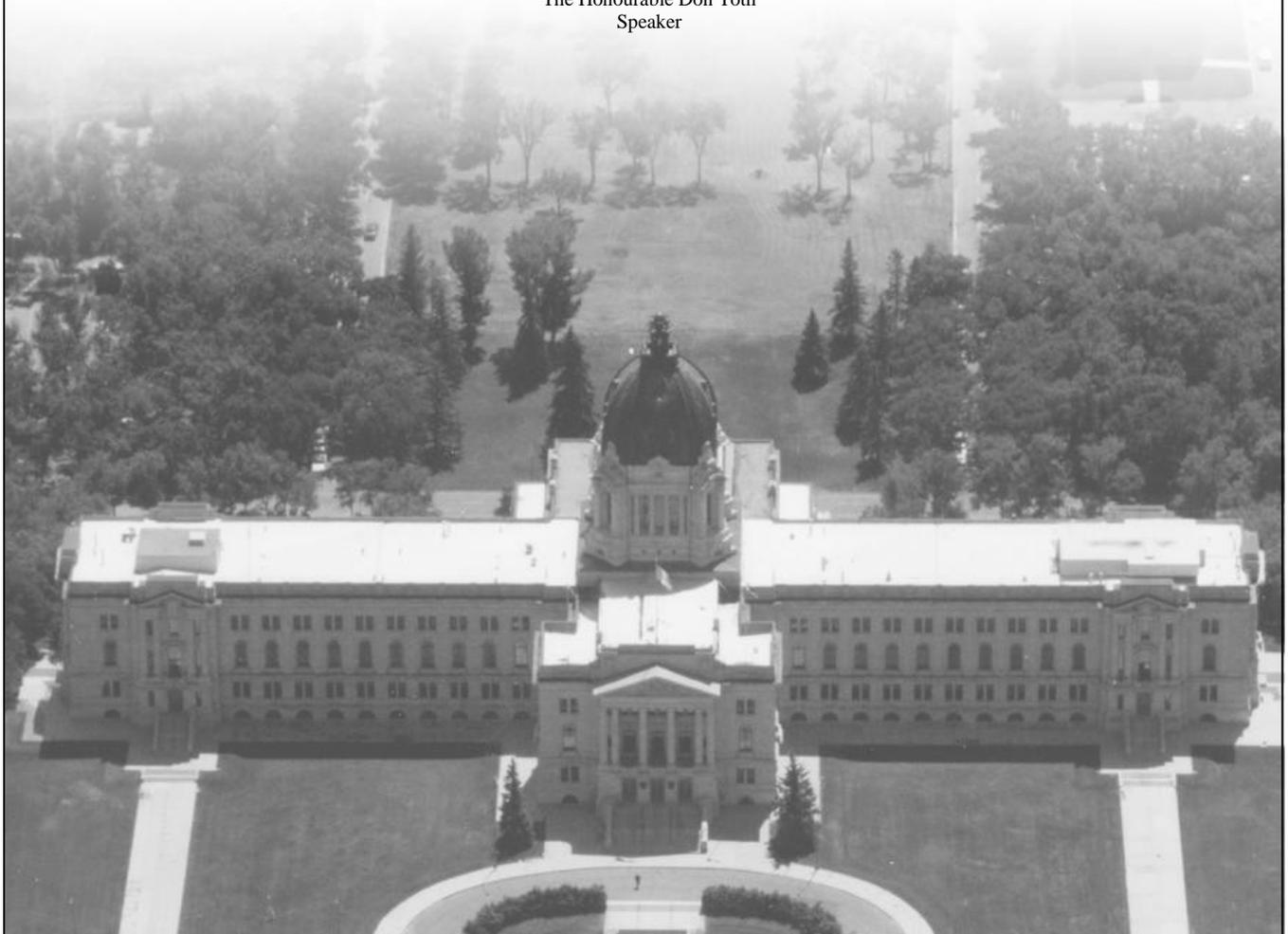
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
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
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce three people that are seated in your gallery.

The first one, if you could just give a wave, is Doug Kirby who is from Billings, Montana. He's the governor of the Optimist International district 13. This district 13 is quite a large district. The district includes Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan, and northern Wyoming — a big area.

Also seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Paul Rozet, the vice-president of the Billings Breakfast Club from Billings, Montana. As well as Brian Duck from the High Nooners Optimist Club here in Regina.

Governor Kirby is here for the Optimist International Under 18 2009 Curling Championship taking place here in Regina at the Callie Curling Club. There are 24 boys' and girls' rinks from across Canada, including two from here in Saskatchewan. There are other teams, five from the States as well as two from Japan. The final will be here in Regina on Sunday. I'd like all members to welcome these three gentlemen to the gallery.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, through you and to all members of the Assembly someone that's seated in the west gallery. His name is Michael Cassano; perhaps he could stand when I mention his name.

He is the president of the Regina Multicultural Council. He does that on a volunteer basis, of course. He is also the general manager for SaskTel Max on Demand, and he wears many other hats within his cultural community of the Italian community here in Regina.

So I'd all member of the House to welcome him to the legislature today, and thank him for the volunteer efforts that he gives on behalf of the community of Regina. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has asked leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce 12 of Saskatchewan's 250 volunteer crop reporters. These crop reporters are being recognized today by the Ministry of Agriculture for their volunteer service to Saskatchewan's ag industry.

For the past 25 to 30 years, these individuals have volunteered their personal time to collect information about crop development and moisture conditions in the RMs [rural municipality]. They have faithfully submitted this information to the ministry to meet the weekly crop reporting deadline.

Mr. Speaker, the information provided by these crop reporters helps to provide a timely and accurate Saskatchewan crop report. We recognize the crop reporters here today for their commitment and dedication to Saskatchewan crop reporting service. I would ask the crop reporters and their spouses to stand as I introduce them.

For their 25 years of service: Lyle and Leah Argue of the RM of Lacadena; George and Mildred Fast of the RM of Rosemount; Murray and Penny Janis of the RM of Glen Bain; Delwyn Jansen of the RM of LeRoy; Brett and Rana Meinert of the RM of Bone Creek; Edward and Sharon Olszewski from the RM of Hazel Dell — and I hope I pronounced that right, and I apologize if I haven't; John and Norma Slabik of the RM of Gull Lake; Keith and Eunice Stacey, the RM of Moose Range; Jim Hornford from the RM of Elfros.

Three crop reporters who have served for 25 years, and their wives were not able to join us today. And they are: Lawrence Beckie of the RM of McCraney; Percy and Anilliese Schiele of the RM of Meadow Lake; and Rick Taylor of the RM of Meeting Lake.

And now, for their 30 years of service, I would like to introduce the following crop reporters and their wives: Glen and Liz Mackenzie of the RM of Pinto Creek; Cecil and Mary Reimer of the RM of Barrier Valley; Lloyd and Ruth Wagner, the RM of Kelvington.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, four crop reporters who have served 30 years and their wives were not able to join us today. And they are: Dave and Irene Ehman of the RM of Craik; Ed Shulver of the RM of Pleasantdale; Bruce and Marilyn Meeds of the RM of Meadow Lake; and Norman Langager from the RM of Loreburn.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming and recognizing these crop reporters for their volunteer service to the province of Saskatchewan and to the agriculture industry. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Nutana.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to also on behalf of the official opposition welcome the crop reporters to the Assembly this morning. I know that the crop reporters across the province have done primary research in our province for decades, and we know that that primary research that crop reporters conduct has led to a lot of information contained in the Ministry of Agriculture that helps the ministry determine what kinds of programs and services should be available for people involved in the agricultural sector.

Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the minister mentioned the farm women in the gallery this morning because I suspect that, on many occasions, those farm women have been the primary researchers in the various municipalities across the province. So welcome to the Assembly, and I'm pleased that the province of Saskatchewan is recognizing your contribution to public policy in our province.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague was reading through the list of names of guests in the gallery, I noticed the constituency of Cypress Hills was represented well. But I also noticed the name of Brett Meinert and his wife.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this occasion to mention the fact that I first met Brett when I was a salesman. And I think, in the days previous, I've also indicated that many of the people who come here, my first contact with them was when I was trying to sell them something. And I think that would be the explanation for my relationship with Brett. I always had a good product to sell, however, and I still do.

But the other thing I want to acknowledge this morning is Brett's leadership role with South West Terminal. South West Terminal is an idea that has come to fruition. It's about 10 years old. It's located along the TransCanada Highway between Webb and Gull Lake. And that terminal went from just an idea at a kitchen table in some farmhouse to one of the most important and impressive companies operating in Saskatchewan today. It is ranked in the top 50. In fact, I believe that in the latest ranking for value, South West Terminal is now about number 47.

That goes to show, Mr. Speaker, the quality of people and persistence that originates in Cypress Hills. And I'm so pleased that this gentleman's here today on behalf of the Ag ministry, but his part played on behalf of a very important success story in southwest Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for First Nations and Métis Relations.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also recognize a number of my constituents in the gallery today. And not to go over the top, but I'd like everyone to notice that I have five

representatives from my constituency in the gallery, and obviously we are over-represented when it comes to volunteerism. And I have to tell you how proud we all are of you, and thank you for being here today. Welcome to your gallery.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now I have been getting a little bit of ribbing here from my colleague next to me, that he said, if I was taller, they may see me.

But anyway, I also wanted to join with the member opposite in welcoming the president from the Regina Multicultural Council. I had the opportunity to spend all day Sunday with him and had the opportunity to hear so many bright, young students present at the public speaking contest. So thank you very much for providing the venue for those students to stand up and shine. Congratulations and thank you very much and welcome to your home.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, I present a petition today on indexing minimum wage. And, Mr. Speaker, as we all know indexing minimum wage would ensure minimum wage earners would be able to maintain a standard of living as the cost of living increases. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to indexing Saskatchewan's minimum wage to ensure that the standard of living of minimum wage earners is maintained in the face of the cost of living increases.

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

And the petitions are signed by residents from Pilot Butte, Prince Albert, Kamsack, Melville, and Major. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — My apologies, it should have been Saskatoon Fairview. Now Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition today calling for wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know that so many of the workers in community-based organizations in Saskatchewan have traditionally been underpaid and many continue to earn poverty level wages. And so I'd like to read the prayer.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the development and implementation of a multi-year funding plan to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity with employees who perform work of equal value in government departments.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And these petitioners come from Regina, Montmartre, Pilot Butte, Earl Grey. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind when it comes to providing safe and affordable water. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Laird, Rosthern, Waldheim, and Duck Lake. I so present. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise to present a petition in support of the government policy on green vehicles. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners note that the Saskatchewan Party platform in 2007 contained a promise that a Saskatchewan Party government would ensure all new vehicles purchased by the provincial government would be hybrid or high fuel-efficiency vehicles. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners ask:

... the Legislative Assembly to cause the government ministers named in this petition to follow their own platform and government policies and trade in their Jeep Libertys for vehicles that are on the SGI 2008 list of recommended fuel-efficient vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of The Battlefords. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for post-secondary students here in Saskatchewan through the necessary expansion

of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

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

Mr. Speaker, the people who signed this petition are students from the University of Saskatchewan, as well as students from the University of Regina, as well as a number of health care professionals working here in the province who have graduate degrees. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I so rise today to present a petition to support a long-term care facility in La Ronge. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately invest in the planning and construction of new long-term care beds in La Ronge.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by the good people of La Ronge and area. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Estevan.

### World Autism Awareness Day

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is the second annual World Autism Awareness Day, and this day shines a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis. The aim of this day is to raise global awareness about autism and to promote early diagnosis, intervention, and services for individuals and their families coping with this disorder.

Autism affects individuals from all walks of life, as well as their families, friends, and caregivers. Autism can be defined by certain behaviours which come in combinations and in varying degrees of intensity. The symptoms often include difficulties with social interaction, communication and behaviour. International studies suggest that autism affects 6 out of every 1,000 children.

[10:15]

Mr. Speaker, by declaring today World Autism Awareness Day will not fix things overnight. Families will have to struggle with the demanding and difficult task of providing, finding, and buying care for their children with autism. Parents will still have to worry about caring for their child with autism.

By proclaiming April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day is just one small step in a journey to see that all people with autism and their families have the care and support they need. However we still require enhanced knowledge of the condition and a greater understanding of the most effective treatments and interventions.

Mr. Speaker, and all members of this Assembly, let's make this an important day for those who work with autism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### **Regina Multicultural Council Public Speaking Competition**

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 29, I had the privilege of being asked to serve as one of the judges of the Regina Multicultural Council's 22nd Annual Public Speaking Competition. The other two judges were Mike O'Donnell, Regina city councillor for ward 8 and Chief Troy Hagen of the Regina city police.

This competition provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop confidence, creativity, and to express their ideas in relationship to multiculturalism. For example the question for category A was, if you could experience a new culture which one would you choose and why. A common response was the Italian culture because of pizza.

Mr. Speaker, the competition had three categories and the winners were: category A, grade 4 and 5: first place, Salma Rashad; second place, Shraavan Murthy; third, Layla Moumin. Category B, grade 5, 6, and 7: first place, Ala Mohamed Eisa; second, Barzany Ridha; and third, Nitasha Rubab Salim. And category C, grade 9, 10, 11, and 12: first place, Arnav Jatukaran; second, Amir Aboguddah; and third, Lisa Poon. Mr. Speaker, the competition was very difficult, given that there were 31 participants.

A competition of this size and success requires many dedicated volunteers and I would like to mention a few of them: Michael Cassano, president of the Regina Multicultural Council; Anne Lindemann; Julene Summerfield; and Joseph Fleming.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to experience the competition by viewing it on SaskTel Max on Demand and thank the participants and the organizers for promoting this important event. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

### **Saskatchewan Hosts 2010 Sporting Events**

**Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to share some news about yet another national event which will take place in Saskatchewan in 2010. We are already welcoming some very high profile sport events, beginning with the 2010 World Junior Hockey Championships taking place in Regina

and Saskatoon. There's also the Ford World Women's Curling Championship taking place in Swift Current in March 2010.

And yesterday, Mr. Speaker, Hockey Canada announced that Regina will be the host of the 2010 Esso Cup, which is the national female championship at the midget triple A level with players aged 15 to 17. The championship will feature five teams: the Regina Rebels is the host team and four regional teams representing Pacific, West, Ontario, and Atlantic regions. Officials stated that the upgrades to the facility at Evraz Place was crucial to attracting the championship to Regina. The gold medal game will be televised on TSN [The Sports Network].

Congratulations to the Saskatchewan Hockey Association for their hard work in promoting the creation of this championship as a counterpart to the Telus Cup national midget triple A men's championship and for bringing this event to Regina.

2010 is going to be a busy year, Mr. Speaker, and this latest announcement is one more indication that Saskatchewan has a well-earned reputation as a world-class event host, and that if you want to be at the centre of attention and action, this province is the place to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### **Poverty and Human Rights**

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. People are talking and they're talking about how active citizens and effective states can change the world. And they're talking about the links between poverty and human rights.

I had the opportunity to hear Mark Fried of Oxfam Canada launch their new book, *From Poverty to Power*. It was wonderful to see so many people out, especially young people who want to make a difference in the world where we are seeing an alarming increase in the income gap and affordable housing that is sorely lacking. Oxfam's latest research says an effective anti-poverty strategy includes voice, power, opportunity, and redistribution — very innovative, solid, research-based work, Mr. Speaker.

And last week, more people gathered at the poverty and human rights learning forum, Making the Links — sponsored by Poverty Free Canada and CLASSIC [Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City] of Saskatoon — tackling a wide range of topics from housing, welfare to prison reform.

Court wins like Victoria (City) versus Adams and losses like the Quebec Gosselin case make us think about our basic human rights that we all enjoy. But there's so much more to be done, as the Elizabeth Fry Society spoke of the struggle women prisoners find themselves in. And they continue to be denied basic human rights, for example, they are more likely to go to jail and for longer sentences when charged with the same offence as men.

Mr. Speaker, the time is right for making poverty history in

Saskatchewan. Let's not be forced by the courts into admitting that we can do better. Let's do the right thing now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### **St. Paul's Hospital Fundraising Campaign**

**Mr. LeClerc:** — Mr. Speaker, St Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon just wrapped up a fundraising campaign. The Embracing the Future campaign celebrates the 100th anniversary of this great hospital. The fundraiser began in March 2007. They had an ambitious goal of \$8 million, and on Tuesday announced the campaign had exceeded its target.

The campaign was proud to announce they brought in over \$10 million from over 5,000 generous donors. One of the most impressive donations came from the Dubé family who contributed \$2 million.

Mr. Speaker, the campaign focused on three priority areas: a urology centre of health, a nuclear medicine gamma camera which allows for early detection of prostate cancer, and a third MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] machine for the hospital.

One entertaining event was a boxer bash chaired by Alain Gaucher, John Gormley, and Brett Wilson from CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] *Dragon's Den*. Participants were encouraged to wear their boxer shorts, and even the infamous John Gormley showed up in a fancy pair. This event alone raised \$1.6 million.

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing how the people of Saskatchewan came together for the hospital to make it one of the leading facilities in Canada. I would like to ask all members of the Assembly to recognize the efforts of the campaign team and to thank all donors for their contributions. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### **Canadian Cancer Society Daffodil Month**

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April has come to be known by many as Daffodil Month, and more commonly, the National Cancer Control Month. Every April the Canadian Cancer Society organizes a door-to-door campaign that takes place across the country. Thousands of volunteers hit the streets during Daffodil Month, knocking on doors to collect funds to support the work of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Daffodil Month has been a Canadian Cancer Society tradition since 1948. This tradition began in Toronto when a group of Canadian Cancer Society volunteers organized a fundraising tea and decided to decorate the tables with daffodils. These gatherings came to be known as daffodil teas. Daffodil teas and door-knocking campaigns were supported by local stores and restaurants. When some people tried to pay for the flowers, the

Canadian Cancer Society quickly realized the sale of daffodils would generate additional funds.

Since then the daffodil has become the Canadian Cancer Society's symbol of hope in the fight against cancer. The bright, cheerful flowers create an atmosphere that seems to radiate hope and faith that cancer can be beaten. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the work of volunteers and staff, the Canadian Cancer Society is leading the way in cancer control to actively prevent, cure, or manage cancer.

They do this through funding research, cancer research, raising awareness, and providing reliable information that empowers citizens and allows them to take control of their health. They also believe that no one needs to face this disease alone, as the member from Yorkton so eloquently pointed out. And they offer individual or group support programs.

This month is about more than raising funds. It's also about acknowledging the work of the Canadian Cancer Society — the work they do to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to support and congratulate these volunteers and the Canadian Cancer Society and the work they do for our community.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### **New Branding Initiative for Moose Jaw**

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The city of Moose Jaw unveiled its branding logo yesterday during a luncheon at Temple Gardens Mineral Spa. Community leaders and citizens waited the unveiling of what will portray the community's uniqueness in this new branding initiative.

The new brand was surprisingly unexpected when you consider all the amenities of what, may I say, is this remarkable community. The name Moose Jaw itself offers distinct connotations besides the friendly city, the band capital, home of the Canadian Snowbirds, the tunnels, the spa, the murals, the home of Saskatchewan's technical institute now known as SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], even the historic downtown. The challenge of a branding label is somewhat overwhelming.

After much research and consultation with citizens and businesses, the organization came up to the conclusion that there was so much to identify Moose Jaw, with the activity involvement of the city, it was surprisingly unexpected.

That, in its simplest terms, Mr. Speaker, describes Moose Jaw — Surprisingly Unexpected. And it identifies the community spirit of what might be expected in Moose Jaw. The logo of an exclamation mark made up of moose antlers further symbolizes Moose Jaw — Surprisingly Unexpected. Whether you're fortunate enough to live in Moose Jaw or would like to or are looking for a place to visit with lots of things to do during your stay, you'll probably find something that is surprisingly unexpected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

#### Cancellation of *Keewatin Country*

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last week we learned that a vital lifeline of information, news, and commentary for the people of northern Saskatchewan will be disappearing. *Keewatin Country*, CBC Saskatchewan's only Aboriginal program which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this month, will be cancelled.

The member from Cumberland and I have written the federal CBC minister, James Moore, and I quote from that letter:

It is with a profound sense of urgency and despair that we forward this correspondence urging you to reconsider your decision to discontinue CBC's *Keewatin Country* program.

The quality of programs, the unique language service, the topnotch talented hosts and the comprehensive programs all provided a vital link to an underserved region of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Northern Affairs: will she contact her federal cousin demanding that he change his mind on this ill-advised decision to kill off *Keewatin Country*?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I know that many people in this House do listen to CBC radio in the morning, and they have heard the members from the North speak on this important issue on CBC radio. But I also know that there's another radio station in the North — Missinipi Broadcasting — that is heard well across our province. We have an opportunity to speak to them very often as well. So I believe that there is a . . . I'm really pleased that the North does have a voice, and that we have a chance in southern Saskatchewan to hear from the North as well. So I appreciate the comments from the member opposite and I think that he should write his letter to the government in Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

#### Funding for Fond-du-Lac Arena

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Minister of Northern Affairs is also aware that the roof at the Fond-du-Lac arena has collapsed. The remaining structure is now unstable and creating a severe safety hazard for the residents of this First Nations community. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but if the remainder of the building collapses, it could also take out a power substation, some power lines, and a water and sewer

pump.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: will she help this isolated First Nations community, located in the heart of the northern Saskatchewan's uranium industry, to finance a solution to address this serious public safety issue, and rebuild their much-needed arena? Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to that?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well I welcome the member's question. I'd also welcome the opportunity to provide a few facts that will help explain the situation.

It is in fact a federal responsibility, so perhaps this question should be addressed to the federal Government of Canada, but I would also like to take this opportunity to point out that northern communities have received \$6 million in Building Canada fund money under the first intake of applications. A second round of applications is under way right now and all northern communities are warmly welcome to put in applications. Advisers at Municipal Affairs are on call for assistance, if requested. They'd be delighted to help.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the chief will be very pleased with that response.

As we know, the clock is ticking on this public safety issue for the citizens of Fond-du-Lac. Mr. Speaker, Fond-du-Lac's population is very young and yet the crime rate is very low, thanks in part to this arena which helps keep many people occupied, Mr. Speaker. As Chief Albert Mercredi said, and I quote:

You have provincial land all over the First Nations, with roads, power lines and airports, so it just doesn't make sense why First Nations are left behind when it comes to public safety. This is a huge blow to this First Nations community.

Mr. Speaker, again my question is to the Minister of First Nations Relations: what kind of help will she offer the Fond-du-Lac First Nations, and what kind of financial support can she provide, given the billions of dollars that they are currently sitting on, Mr. Speaker?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another welcome opportunity to discuss this particular issue of great importance to the North. Actual grant payments to northern

communities provided by the province of Saskatchewan will increase dramatically from \$8.45 million in 2006 to \$10.02 million in 2008 — a full 20 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. We're certainly doing our job, and I warmly welcome the member's interest in this particular issue. Thank you very much.

[10:30]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

### Forestry Industry

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, more than 1,500 forestry workers in several different communities have lost their jobs in recent years. Those job losses include: Prince Albert, more than 700 jobs; Wapawekka, 55 jobs; Hudson Bay, 400 jobs; Big River, 260 jobs; Carrot River, about 116 jobs; Meadow Lake, about 190 jobs. And, Mr. Speaker, that does not include all the jobs lost in northern Saskatchewan in the forestry sector. To the minister: what is the Sask Party's plan to put those 1,500 workers and their families back to work?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, any time that people lose jobs in Saskatchewan, we view it as a very serious situation. We are talking to the forestry companies about the FMA [forestry management agreement] changes that we are making. They welcome those changes, as the member knows full well. We are looking at the different opportunities in terms of value-added — cogen, value-added products through the forestry centre. Those are the kinds of initiatives that we're working with the industry on.

And the member would also know, though, that when you see housing starts in the US [United States] market, which is primarily where all of these supplies, lumber supplies go is into that market, when you see that market essentially evaporate from 3 million housing starts to less than 500,000 housing starts, it makes it very challenging for the industry.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, this minister told the media that the Kirsch report would be made public. When asked if the media could see the report, the minister said, "I don't see why not." To the minister: why did he refuse to table this document that he promised to the media and would make public?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite would know full well what I said to the media all right. What we said was, is the document that was produced by that

member was incorporated into the most public document that there was with respect to the Saskatchewan Party, our election document. It's fully incorporated into that, discussion was incorporated in it. The people of Saskatchewan had an opportunity to look at that document, and they chose in a resounding fashion to say yes to it and no to you people.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, there are only two reasons why the minister would not table this document — it doesn't exist or he wants to hide something. To the minister: which is it? Does the report not exist or is he trying to hide information?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to send a copy of the platform over to you. We'll be happy to do that. We'll make sure that before the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I ask members to allow the minister the same opportunity to respond to the question. The Minister of Energy and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be happy to send a copy over, perhaps for every one of the members opposite if they like. I'll be happy to do that.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, as I said, the industry is going through a downturn. But one thing we do know in Saskatchewan with respect to the industry, that in addition to the losses of jobs we would have also, through the taxpayers of this province, we'd have seen \$100 million evaporate before our eyes had we followed the direction of the previous government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Feasibility Study and Consultation Regarding Nuclear Development

**Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this has been the week of rolling blackouts. Mr. Speaker, we've identified documents that have been provided to the public of Saskatchewan with sentences blacked out. We've provided documents that this government has released to the public with paragraphs blacked out. Well today, Mr. Speaker, I have a document again I've received for the public through a freedom of information request that talks about the Bruce Power feasibility study. Not only, Mr. Speaker, are sentences blacked out, not only are paragraphs blacked out, Mr. Speaker; in this document, pages are blacked out, Mr. Speaker.

My question then to the Minister of Enterprise is: will he do today what he has done for the last two days: come clean, provide to the public a full, unedited copy of the Bruce Power

feasibility study background note from CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we operate under freedom of information legislation that was introduced by that previous government. Under that process, the minister's office does not get to decide what information is or is not released. That is done by information officers within the ministries and Crowns, as that former premier would know better than anyone else in the province.

There are certain reasons that information can be withheld, Mr. Speaker — if it compromises commercial interests, which is the case with that particular document; if it compromises cabinet confidentiality or an individual's personal privacy. It's often a judgment call and in this case I think our officials were overzealous in protecting information, especially since we want to have a very open and public debate on the uranium industry, which has been my stated position both publicly and privately since the outset.

Mr. Speaker, the panel is now essentially finished its work and therefore we are releasing these documents, Mr. Speaker: the RFP [request for proposal] to consultants, the consultant's contract, in fact . . .

**The Speaker:** — The minister's time has elapsed. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today have to do about the Bruce Power feasibility study. We'll come to the UDP [Uranium Development Partnership] in a few moments but right now we're talking about the Bruce Power feasibility study, of which many paragraphs and pages have been blacked out. But interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, some sentences that have been released have some points of interest. It is indicated by this document that the Bruce Power feasibility study began by public announcement on June 17. But interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, this document indicates that the government was aware of the findings of that study by September 29 — September 29. Mr. Speaker, that's a period of about 15 weeks.

Does the minister believe a period of 15 weeks was an adequate time to do a full, comprehensive feasibility study about the future of a nuclear reactor or reactors in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, today I have tabled to this Hon. Assembly, the RFP, the request for proposals to consultants; the consultant's contract, Mr. Speaker, which was not even requested; the work plan and timeline for the UDP; and most importantly, tomorrow I will announce the most open, thorough public consultation process on this

industry ever.

Mr. Speaker, on that specific question, the answer is that that was Bruce Power's study. I don't know if that's enough time or not. It has nothing to do with this government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — So, Mr. Speaker, we are predicting then and planning the future of the electrical supply of Saskatchewan — never mind what it might cost the electrical consumer in this province — on a feasibility study to which the minister now volunteers in the House that he's not sure if it's any good or not, Mr. Speaker. It's a very peculiar situation.

From this information, most of which has been blacked out, we also learn that while the government was aware of the findings of the Bruce Power feasibility in September — September 29 to be exact — it wasn't until November 27 that the public of Saskatchewan were informed of this knowledge. Why the two-month delay from when the Sask Party government knew of these findings to when the people of Saskatchewan were provided the information?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Mr. Speaker, as I have stated repeatedly in this House and in public forums and privately, this government was not responsible for the Bruce Power . . . whatever it was. Whatever it was. But, Mr. Speaker, our government is about to embark on the most open and broad public consultation process on the uranium industry ever undertaken in this process.

We will release the entire UDP report tomorrow. There will be public meetings throughout this province, and individuals who can't attend the meetings will have numerous other opportunities to make their voices heard. And we are going to have an open and public debate about one of the most important industries in our province — something that never happened under that government, Mr. Speaker.

Even the NDP [New Democratic Party] doesn't want to have that debate. Their minds are made up. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, they're made up on both sides of the issue.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister says he has nothing to do about the Bruce Power feasibility. The day it was announced, he and the Minister of CIC, I believe, were at the press conference to announce it. When the results were finally made public in November, who was there? A host of Sask Party ministers and members at the Bessborough hotel. And now they say they have nothing to do about it.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in this information — again the few parts that are not blacked out — we learned that Bruce Power has reported to this government that the feasibility, the feasibility of a reactor or reactors in this province is dependent on a growth in electrical consumption. But get this, and I quote, Mr. Speaker: “. . . contingent upon Saskatchewan being committed [committed] to make the required upgrades to the provincial electrical system.”

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister. Has the Sask Party government given a commitment that — to Bruce Power or anyone — that the necessary infrastructure will be put in place and paid for by the people of Saskatchewan? Has that commitment been made?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — No.

Mr. Speaker, there's an editorial in today's *StarPhoenix*. The headline reads, “Anti-nukes dragging NDP back to [the] past.” Here are some quotes from that editorial, Mr. Speaker. The editorial says:

After three decades of grappling with the issue of uranium development and nuclear power, the inability of many New Democrats to get beyond fearmongering and pandering to ignorance continues to threaten the progress of Saskatchewan.

The attempt this week in the legislature by departing NDP Leader Lorne Calvert to suggest untoward government meddling . . . only underlines the silliness that pervades the party's ranks on matters nuclear.

Mr. Speaker, I will be announcing a process for that intelligent public debate tomorrow. I invite the NDP to stop living in the past and join us in building a uranium industry that creates jobs, builds our economy, and moves our province forward.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to hear that the minister reads *The StarPhoenix*. Perhaps he should read a little more of what's going on in his own government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the minister will release, as he's indicated today, the report of the UDP. He will also, we anticipate, announce the consultation process that is going to be offered to the people of Saskatchewan. He has already indicated to the public that this consultation process, which is to begin we assume very quickly, is to be concluded — get this, Mr. Speaker — to be concluded before the beginning of summer. Concluded this spring.

How can this minister or anyone over there believe a period of a few weeks is an opportunity sufficient to allow the people of Saskatchewan to give a real, considered presentation to this

government? How do they believe that in three or four or six weeks, people who are involved in seeding in this province during that period of time, Mr. Speaker, how will they have an adequate opportunity to be consulted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, isn't it interesting listening to the NDP opposite as they talk about the timing and the consultations. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't . . .

**The Speaker:** — I'll just bring to members' attention, the more often the Speaker stands up, the quicker question period is over. So allow the Deputy Premier to respond.

[10:45]

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP for years have done a cover-up. We know, we know about SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]. We know about the Murdoch Carriere event. We know about the NDP caucus fraud. We know all about those things, Mr. Speaker. But you know, the . . . I guess I'll just have to talk louder, Mr. Speaker, because they don't want to listen.

Mr. Speaker, from their very own document . . . You know, the Leader of the Opposition challenged the minister to read *The StarPhoenix* articles. Well I challenge that member to read from his own *Energy and Climate Change Plan 2007*. Mr. Speaker, on page no. 16, the following quote:

Ongoing assessments of the potential for a nuclear reactor to supply Saskatchewan's domestic requirements or for export are regularly carried out by SaskPower.

None of that information was released by the NDP former government, Mr. Speaker. It took the Saskatchewan Party government to release that information to the public of the province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, our son plays in a rock band. When they don't know the music, they turn up the volume.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, my question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister Responsible for Enterprise Saskatchewan, whom we assume will be responsible for the consultation process which we assume he is going to announce tomorrow. My question, Mr. Speaker, is: will the minister extend this consultation period at least until the end of the year? Will he

extend this consultation period to December 2009?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister has disclosed what he will do tomorrow. He will release the report in its entirety. He will put in place a consultation program involving all of Saskatchewan. He will indicate what will be done tomorrow. And as he's indicated, he'll release the entire report.

You know, the member talks about his family member playing in a band. You know, what we hear from the NDP is the same old tune, Mr. Speaker — the same old tune. Okay, the rhetoric that we hear from that opposition is, you know, always in the past, Mr. Speaker. When they were government, there were no wrongs, there were no cover-ups. There was no minister standing on this side of the House in an NDP government who apologized, Mr. Speaker, who apologized to the people of Saskatchewan for misleading the people of Saskatchewan for six years . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order. I want to remind the minister that words like misleading have been ruled out of order. And I would ask the minister to withdraw that comment.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, I'll withdraw that comment.

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to try again to have the minister who is responsible for this file to answer the question.

The Minister of Enterprise publicly has indicated, number one, that he wants a consultation process to be meaningful. He has indicated very publicly that what the public of Saskatchewan say through this consultation process will determine the decision making of his government. That's what he has said.

Mr. Speaker, he refuses to stand in the House today and make this an adequate consultation period. But you know why, Mr. Speaker? I think I know why. Because the Minister of Enterprise at his own party convention last year, at his own party convention last year said the following: "We've set up a nuclear development partnership, the UDP, funded by the Crown Investments Corporation." And then he goes on to say, Mr. Speaker, note these words, "The purpose of this particular lobby is not to advise whether or not we should proceed in the full nuclear cycle. It is to help us understand how best we can do it."

Mr. Speaker, the decision has been made. They intend to proceed on a full nuclear cycle, including reactors, no matter what the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I ask members to come

to order so we can hear the question placed by the Leader of the Opposition. I ask for the question.

**Mr. Calvert:** — My question, Mr. Speaker, is: how is it that the minister responsible says to his party convention, we are going to proceed no matter what; all we're asking is to be told how to do it. How can he square that with a commitment that a consultation process is going to be meaningful and will guide the decisions of government?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier has outlined some of the issues in the past with consultation. On other occasions certainly, Mr. Speaker, that former NDP government used the consultations process to just delay the decision-making process and put off decisions that should have been made, decisions that should have been taken for the good of the province. And certainly a number of them were put off until after the end of their term, Mr. Speaker, as every day they remind us of all the things that they were going to do, but didn't get around to it.

Well we're getting around to it, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to hold this full and open and accountable public consultation process, and we're going to have it done by the beginning of summer, like I said we would from the start.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order. I invite members to come to order. The Minister of Health will come to order.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE BILLS

#### SECOND READINGS

#### **Bill No. 902 — *The Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation Amendment Act***

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a matter of moments, I'll be very, very pleased to move the Bill No. 902, *The Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation Act*.

Just before I do that though, I do want to say, Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure all members are aware, Dr. Worobetz served as the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan. I believe he was our 13th Lieutenant Governor. He served during the '70s — '70 to '76, I think that was about the period.

Dr. Worobetz was born in Krydor, Saskatchewan and was always so very, very proud of his Ukrainian heritage, his Ukrainian descent. He studied in this province and beyond this province in his field of practice, which was medicine. He was a medical doctor.

He served overseas in the Second World War in Italy, if I recall, in a very distinguished service career with the Canadian military at that time. He then practised virtually a lifetime in the city of Saskatoon — widely regarded, well known, and a strong proponent of the community. We were proud as a people of Saskatchewan to call Dr. Worobetz our Lieutenant Governor for that period of time.

That commitment to community is reflected in the Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation which exists to provide benefits to the community, a very generous, generous bequest of Dr. Worobetz and his wife.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, just about a year ago, almost a year ago to the week, the Stephen and Michelene Foundation made a very substantial, a very generous donation to the Ukrainian Museum project in Saskatoon, a project I am very excited about. It will be very close to the constituency of Riversdale. It will provide a new facility, a state-of-the-art facility to house the artifacts, to house the history, to house the story of the Ukrainian people in Saskatchewan.

We attended a function, some of us, just a few days ago where again other donors had been recognized. And progress is proceeding very quickly towards the achievement of that project including, if I may say it, the most recent event, the very lively support of the new bishop, Bishop Bryan Bayda.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to move the motion on behalf of the Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation. Therefore I move that Bill No. 902, *The Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation Amendment Act* be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Opposition Leader that Bill No. 902, *The Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation Amendment Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — Pursuant to rule 100, this Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

**Bill No. 903 — *The Ancient Order of Melchizedeq, Inc. Act***

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

**Ms. Wilson:** — I move that Bill No. 903, *The Ancient Order of Melchizedeq, Inc. Act* be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member from Saskatchewan Rivers that Bill No. 903, *The Ancient Order of*

*Melchizedeq, Inc. Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — Pursuant to rule 100, this Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

**SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Saskatchewan Energy Industry**

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure today to rise and move a motion on this private members' day in a segment that is 75 minutes in length, in which members of both sides of the House can make comments on a motion — in this case a motion that I'm bringing forward, Mr. Speaker — and then allow some questions between private members before the end of the motion.

Mr. Speaker, members of this Assembly have seen this motion on the order paper now for a couple of days, Mr. Speaker. And I think members opposite will recognize that this motion is very similar to a motion that the government members have had on the order paper and that has been subject to some discussion since this session began, Mr. Speaker.

So for the record, Mr. Speaker, I will put the motion that I am raising today into the record, Mr. Speaker. And I will be moving this motion before I conclude my remarks in a few minutes. Mr. Speaker, the motion that I am supporting today reads as follows:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan supports the consideration of the further value-added development of Saskatchewan's energy industry including energy conservation, nuclear, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and other alternative power generation, and as part of that consideration, which would obviously involve extensive public consultation, recognize not only the potential benefits to the growth and prosperity of the people of our province, but also the social and environmental impact of all of the options.

Mr. Speaker, the reason this motion has been drafted like this, Mr. Speaker, is to provide a demonstration, not only to the people of Saskatchewan, but almost more importantly, Mr. Speaker, a demonstration to the members opposite of the way in which a government should address issues of importance to the Saskatchewan people. We will notice, Mr. Speaker, that a government motion that comes forward later in the day and perhaps for a vote today, Mr. Speaker, a motion that the

government has brought forward expresses an interest in discussing a value-added development, Mr. Speaker, of the nuclear industry or of the uranium sector, Mr. Speaker.

But the government has forgotten in this process, Mr. Speaker, how important it is to deal with options and the entire mix that Saskatchewan people have available to them. So, Mr. Speaker, as I open my remarks today and before I outline the arguments for this motion, I want to indicate, Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite that because their motion calls for the consideration of certain matters relating to the uranium development cycle, Mr. Speaker. And we believe that any government, any reasonable body, Mr. Speaker, should consider all of its options, as we're demonstrating in this motion, Mr. Speaker, that when it comes time for that motion to be concluded, Mr. Speaker, this caucus will support the motion brought forward by the government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[11:00]

**Mr. Taylor:** — Our motion, Mr. Speaker, our motion makes it very clear what we consider to be consideration, what we consider to be the energy sector, and what we consider, Mr. Speaker, to be broad-based, adequate public consultations.

So, Mr. Speaker, what's in the motion that I'm raising today? Well, Mr. Speaker, it quite simply outlines what we consider to be the proper way to address the future energy needs of the people of this province. It acknowledges, Mr. Speaker, that before consideration can occur, Mr. Speaker, and before debate can occur, that of course you have to establish need.

Mr. Speaker, you also have to determine what your inventory is — in other words, what exists, what you need, and what options you have, Mr. Speaker, in order to meet those needs based on the inventory of power being able to provide power is. And of course, Mr. Speaker, there has to be recognition and understanding of what the assumptions for growth really are.

Mr. Speaker, this motion acknowledges that Saskatchewan has the most diversified mix of electrical generation options of any province in Canada. Mr. Speaker, some provinces have no options whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, and they look for ways to generate power. But this province, Mr. Speaker, has the most diversified mix already. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we have opportunities here that exist nowhere else in Canada and perhaps, Mr. Speaker, that exist nowhere else in North America.

Mr. Speaker, this motion also acknowledges that, once need has been established, that options are properly identified and studied. Mr. Speaker, no government, certainly no cabinet, would consider a recommendation without alternatives being provided to that recommendation, Mr. Speaker. Every cabinet decision item that I've ever seen in my career, Mr. Speaker, has included a recommendation and alternatives or options.

Mr. Speaker, the motion that the government puts forward differs from the motion that I put forward, Mr. Speaker, because it ensures that the study of and the recommendations relating to other options are part of the major consideration of government, Mr. Speaker. So we need to ensure that we've got all of the options on the table and prepared in a manner in which they are

understood to be thoroughly presented to the public of the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, this motion also acknowledges that risks must be examined and costs identified — either as direct or indirect consequences for Saskatchewan taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, only the result of a freedom of information request did we today recognize that the government is being asked to commit to extensive resources, public resources for the transmission of power, should the value-added opportunities for nuclear power generation be brought forward by a private sector proponent, Mr. Speaker. Only today did we find that out because this government does not believe in open and transparent disclosure of information, Mr. Speaker.

This motion recognizes that we have to know what our risks are. We have to know what our costs are, not only of one means of generating electrical capacity in the province, Mr. Speaker, but all methods of generating electrical capacity in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, this motion acknowledges that those risks or benefits can be social and environmental, Mr. Speaker. They are not just benefits to the people of Saskatchewan, but the benefit and the risk is social and environmental as well as the single source of value-added development.

So, Mr. Speaker, this motion acknowledges we need to examine need; we need to examine options; we need to examine risks; we need to examine costs. And yes, Mr. Speaker, we must all examine benefits. Because, Mr. Speaker, if any decision, not only by government or by the cabinet ministers who make the decision on behalf of government, but the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — all need to understand the ability to make a decision with side-by-side comparisons.

Mr. Speaker, you can't make a decision that you support one means of energy generation in this province with its diversified mix, Mr. Speaker, without knowing how the decisions on that particular sector, Mr. Speaker, compares to the costs and benefits and risks of all the other sectors, Mr. Speaker. Very important. And don't forget energy conservation as part of the mix because the best means, Mr. Speaker, of increasing capacity is to reduce the demand through a variety of means.

So, Mr. Speaker, the motion also recognizes as we work to creating an energy plan for the future in this province — and that's the goal of government; that's a stated goal of government, creating an energy plan for the future of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — we also have to ensure that we have a proper understanding and interpretation of what public consultation means.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the government motion that we'll consider later uses the word, that we consider. Well, Mr. Speaker, I do believe seriously that the government members' interpretation of the word consider is different than the New Democratic Party's interpretation of consider — or in fact, as the public are finding out, the public's interpretation of what consider means.

So bottom line, Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that the public understands what we believe real public consideration is all about, Mr. Speaker. There has to be real consultation, and that means including in the preparation of information, in the

distribution of that information, in the providing of opportunity to create feedback, and of course, Mr. Speaker, providing people, after information has been put out there, providing people who would be available to answer questions.

Mr. Speaker, the test of a successful consultation is in the results. Do those who participated in this consultation feel that they were heard and that their opinion was valued and considered? This doesn't happen, Mr. Speaker, in a six-week information campaign that the government has indicated that they're going to put out there with regards to the Uranium Development Partnership report, Mr. Speaker. This doesn't happen in six weeks, that in fact you can collect information by a biased panel.

Let's recall, Mr. Speaker, that we also find out from freedom of information that this panel that's recommending information to the government was asked to read one book on the benefits of nuclear power, Mr. Speaker. Well I just want to indicate to all those who are watching that it is not the New Democratic Party's belief, it is not our interpretation of consideration that the future of energy policy in Saskatchewan should be made in a style similar to that of an Oprah book club debate, Mr. Speaker.

This is a series of information sessions, Mr. Speaker, that we believe have to be held across Saskatchewan in a town hall type manner in which people are able to gather information, share information, question information, and provide opinions, Mr. Speaker.

The public wants an informed debate. They want their government to provide them with a real forum in which that debate can take place in a very real way. They want their government to provide them with unbiased, honest information. They want to know that the process is transparent and objective, so that when facts are presented and opinions are expressed that they will have confidence in the information and the process.

And obviously, Mr. Speaker, they want then to be able to express their opinions to government without feeling that their efforts were a waste of time — that the government is not just going through the motions because the government's collective mind has been made up.

And again in question period today, Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for this refused, Mr. Speaker, refused to acknowledge his own words that he said to his own party convention, Mr. Speaker, that the purpose of the advice from UDP is not to advise government, but rather to help the government how best to advance their proposal and their perspective, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan people are saying let's consider all of the options. Let's have the debate, but let's do it fairly. Let's do it with transparency, the transparency of a newly squeezed window, Mr. Speaker. And let's make sure that we have a government that is willing to coordinate this process in a very fair way.

There must be an independent and objective research project. The business plans — considering all the options; comparing data; keeping in mind needs, costs, risks — are prepared, Mr.

Speaker, financed and prepared and made public. And that public consultation does include town hall type meetings where questions are asked, opinions justified. And let's make sure we have a government that is willing to really, Mr. Speaker, really and adequately respond to what Saskatchewan people has to say. We need a process that respects Saskatchewan people. There needs to be a reasoned discussion with all the facts on the table, Mr. Speaker.

We believe in considering all of the options. Our fear, of course, is that the Sask Party's interpretation of consideration and public consultation is very much different from our own. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, as my time is running out, I wish to move the following motion:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan supports the consideration of the further value-added development of Saskatchewan's energy industry including energy conservation, nuclear, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and other alternative power generation, and as part of that consideration, which would obviously involve extensive public consultation, recognize not only the potential benefits to the growth and prosperity of the people of our province, but also the social and environmental impacts of all of the options.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Will the members take the motion as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

**Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in this Assembly today to speak to this motion that was introduced. And I'm glad to say we support this motion. We are doing what the motion is indicating. We've been doing that since we took government.

And the other thing I would like to note, I appreciate that member's support for my motion which will be voted on here later today. I think it's a very positive thing that we have the legislature speaking with one voice on the development of uranium going forward. I think it's a positive thing for the province that the opposition endorses our government's position — our government's very responsible and prudent approach to this issue. We very much appreciate that support. I think it's, as I said, a positive thing for this province that all legislators are united on this issue.

I would note though, Mr. Speaker, that there is some significant division within the NDP, obviously. I guess we'll see how many members show up to vote on this motion later today. But we did hear from a couple of the NDP leadership candidates — actually three of the NDP leadership candidates — who

indicated opposition, one of whom's a member of this legislature. So we'll see how she votes later on today. It'll be very interesting to see.

But we did see from one candidate in particular — Mr. Yens Pedersen, I believe — who said that the entire industry should be shut down, Mr. Speaker, who wants to curtail even the mining of uranium. And I've got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I find that position to be very irresponsible.

In northern Saskatchewan, which I had represented in another chamber at a different time, I know what the importance of this industry is to the people of northern Saskatchewan. Thousands and thousands of people are employed in northern Saskatchewan by the uranium industry. Thousands of them are Aboriginal, Mr. Speaker. Approximately half of the employees, directly or indirectly employed, are Aboriginal.

And I find it very troubling that we would have a situation of an NDP leadership candidate, an individual who aspires to be an NDP premier, to threaten these individuals, to tell them if he were to take power, he would shut down that industry. He would take their jobs and he would put them out of work, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's very troubling, very troubling that the NDP would go down that path and play political games with the jobs of thousands of northern Aboriginal people. I think that's a very irresponsible thing.

[11:15]

One thing I would like to, I'm going to read the whole thing into the record I think, Mr. Speaker. There was an editorial in today's Saskatoon *Star Phoenix* which I think the members opposite would be very well-advised to read and to pay heed to, but I'm going to read it into the record, Mr. Speaker. And this today's *Star Phoenix* editorial:

After three decades of grappling with the issue of uranium development and nuclear power, the inability of many New Democrats to get beyond fearmongering and pandering to ignorance continues to threaten the progress of Saskatchewan.

The attempt this week in the legislature by departing NDP Leader Lorne Calvert to suggest untoward, government meddling in a \$2.5 million consultant's report to be released on Friday by the Uranium Development Partnership only underlines the silliness that pervades the party's ranks on matters nuclear.

There's little doubt that the governing Saskatchewan Party is supportive of pursuing the nuclear power option if it's viable. However, Enterprise and Innovation Minister Lyle Stewart has provided assurances that public sentiment will determine whether Saskatchewan builds a reactor or adopts measures to add value to the uranium that's mined here but is now shipped elsewhere to be refined and processed.

What's nearly incomprehensible about Mr. Calvert's theatrics in the house is that they come from a man who, as premier, said his government might consider a proposal to build a small reactor if there was a business case for it

— a prospect made all the slimmer by his NDP predecessor's decision to send packing AECL from Saskatoon, where it was researching the development of just such a reactor.

As premier, Mr. Calvert was in Europe to pitch the idea of the French company, Areva, choosing Saskatchewan as a site for a uranium refinery that would create jobs, and vowed that his government would press the federal government to ease regulatory burdens and duplication in order to stimulate more uranium exploration and development. He even claimed that the public opinion in Saskatchewan had changed since the bad old days of the 1970s, when agitators riled up Warman area residents against locating a uranium refinery, and identified the Battlefords and Shellbrook as communities that were interested in hosting such a facility now.

Of course, with the anti-nuke forces again hard at work in the province now that Premier Brad Wall's government has picked up where Mr. Calvert's left off, the NDP leader seemingly sees the need to retrench from adopting a technology that's been safely delivering electricity to Ontario, many U.S. jurisdictions, China, India, Japan and several European nations for decades.

Apparently, the NDP out of office has reverted to form, with the agitators and fear-mongers seeking to crowd out party members who dare to consider a pragmatic approach to nuclear power and uranium development in a province that for 50 years has profited from the sale of the commodity and used the cash to fund its progressive social programs.

Two contenders to replace Mr. Calvert as the party leader, Ryan Meili and Yens Pedersen, released statements on Tuesday that condemned any notion of building a nuclear reactor, with Mr. Pedersen reportedly eschewing any further development of uranium mining. Meanwhile, the acknowledged front-runner Dwain Lingenfelter, who had taken a decidedly pro-nuclear stance by touting it as "clean, safe and affordable energy to power oilsands development," lately has become more circumspect, saying that the cost of building a reactor can only be justified if the excess power can be exported to the United States.

While Saskatchewan indeed needs to have an intelligent debate on nuclear power that considers everything from its immediate and long-term costs to safety and environmental considerations, with a similar analysis of conventional coal- and gas-fired plants that will be needed to ensure secure base-load capacity even under the alternative power generation options touted by "green" advocates, what the province doesn't need is anti-nuclear rhetoric that panders to ignorance.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* taking a clear position, giving direction, I think, that would be well heeded by the members opposite, but we do know that there is division within that party. We have seen, I'll quote again the *Whitehorse Star* from Whitehorse, Yukon from the former premier, the member for Riversdale: "The notion that you could

build a reactor that's economic is a very, very questionable assumption. And this isn't a clean source of power. It's probably the dirtiest . . ." That was a quote from the former premier.

We have a quote from the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow as well, who has taken a very strong position against nuclear, and I'll quote, "There has never been and may never be a business case for nuclear in Saskatchewan. Nuclear energy is the way of the past."

And that was from that member's website. I believe it's up there right now. So it'll be very interesting to see how she votes on this motion and how her supporters vote as well in caucus. It's going to be quite fascinating.

Ryan Meili calls on NDP MLAs to oppose Sask Party nuclear resolution:

Nuclear power is being sold to us as a means to provide cheap energy, as a means of addressing immediately energy needs, even as a means of protecting our environment. But none of these sales pitches are based on the facts.

So I guess Mr. Meili obviously commands a great deal of support within the NDP caucus, considering how the House Leader indicated they're going to be voting.

More from Yens Pedersen who is an NDP leadership candidate:

In all the research that I've done over the last year (which is a lot), [so I guess Mr. Pedersen's a nuclear physicist as well] it is clear to me that the costs associated with proven nuclear technology outweigh the benefits."

So obviously Yens commands a great deal of support within that caucus as well.

What is interesting is some quotes from Dwain Lingenfelter who's running for the leadership of the NDP. And I quote, "If Tommy Douglas were here, it would be exactly what he would be doing." So we have the endorsement of Tommy Douglas as well, Mr. Speaker, which I think is a positive thing, and it's obviously channelled through Mr. Lingenfelter, but we appreciate that endorsement nonetheless. Another quote, "The opportunity is big. The only question is can we reach out and grab it." That was Mr. Lingenfelter as well. We have even more, Mr. Speaker:

Bruce Power or any other company that wants to come in and invest tens of billions of dollars is not going to want to step into a hornet's nest of political or public debate. They want that sorted out and they want a commitment from that community that is on side with this kind of investment.

So for Lingenfelter, no consultation necessary. We're going ahead and we're doing it. So I find it passing strange, Mr. Speaker, when members opposite make noises about consultation when Mr. Lingenfelter has indicated there's no need for any debate. The debate is over; the time for talk is over. He's going full steam ahead. So we'll see how these

members vote. I particularly am interested to see how the supporters of Ms. Higgins vote.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this morning to enter into this debate. Mr. Speaker, what we have before us is a motion to consider very carefully and hold public consultations on the various forms of energy generation in our province, something that we need to do on a regular basis as legislators. We need to understand what the potential is for energy generation in our province.

As well, Mr. Speaker, it's also very important to understand what our potential is to save through energy conservation to reduce our need for new energy in the future, Mr. Speaker. These are all things that we need to very seriously consider. Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the New Democratic Party was in government, all members of this House will know that we did just that. We, on a regular basis, analyzed all the options that were before us. We looked at the options of renewable energy, Mr. Speaker. We looked at the options of wind power, hydro power, geothermal, Mr. Speaker. We looked at also issues of conservation.

And, Mr. Speaker, yes, yes, we did look at the issue of nuclear as well, Mr. Speaker. We openly, regularly had SaskPower review what all the options were and bring forward those recommendations to the government. That's what any responsible, pragmatic government would do. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we did just that. We continued to examine all the options before us, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And as our motion talks about today, that type of examination should continue to go on, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, we need to look at what is the best option for the people of the province of Saskatchewan on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite can say, you know, that we should look at only one option. But we should look at them all. And we should compare the costs of each of those options and looking at what the energy needs for the people of our province are.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and as the members gleefully say regularly, yes, when we were government we looked at the nuclear option. We looked at whether or not it was the appropriate way to meet our generation needs moving forward, Mr. Speaker, as any prudent government should. They should look at the full, full gamut of opportunities and possibilities for that generation, Mr. Speaker.

And today, earlier today we had them quote from a report that was done by the former government called *Energy and Climate Change Plan 2007*. And, Mr. Speaker, on page 16 it does say, "Ongoing assessments of the potential for a nuclear reactor to supply Saskatchewan's domestic requirements or for export are regularly carried out by SaskPower." And it goes on in the same paragraph to say, Mr. Speaker, ". . . SaskPower's studies identify that current nuclear power technology is not a viable option for any new or replacement electricity generation that will take place before 2020."

And this document was a public document that the entire province could look at, Mr. Speaker. So it's there.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about the motion in front of us and where we go with this motion, Mr. Speaker. The motion talks about looking at all the options. And that's something that we all should be very willing to do, should want to do, Mr. Speaker, and we should do it in a very public way. We did this on a regular basis when we were government. These papers were available if people had interest in them, Mr. Speaker. I don't recall the members opposite ever asking for them, ever requesting to see these documents, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say what we won't do. I also want to say what we won't do, Mr. Speaker, and that's this: we won't pick a single option without analyzing the others. We won't decide we're going to do something before we even look at it, Mr. Speaker. If we were ever going to proceed down a line of direction, Mr. Speaker, we're first going to study it, first know what our alternatives are and what our options are, Mr. Speaker. And then, then only after looking at all the options, looking at the cost-effectiveness of those options, and looking at the impact of those options, then will we proceed down a line of business, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we have here by the government of today is just the opposite, Mr. Speaker. We have a government, we have a government that has decided that, and announced at their own convention, with or without the studies being done — and the studies aren't about whether they're going to do it or not; they've already made the decision they will do it, Mr. Speaker — they said very clearly, the minister said very clearly to his convention that the UDP study is not about whether or not they'll proceed down that road, Mr. Speaker. It's how to proceed down that road. So they'd already decided they were going to do it, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, studying the issue, considering, and examining is not a problem. We do that many times. Proceeding's not a problem either, Mr. Speaker, if the business case is there, if it's the best way to proceed, and if it's what the people of the province of Saskatchewan want, Mr. Speaker.

But what is a problem is when you decide, before you've even done any study of the issue, that you're going to do it. And what's even a greater problem, Mr. Speaker, is what they've done. They've decided that a single company, a single company should have the option of doing it, Mr. Speaker. And that single company, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that single company has done a feasibility study, Mr. Speaker, with the support of the government, to carry out the development of nuclear generation in the province, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there's some fundamental flaws in what they're thinking. Because, Mr. Speaker, they haven't looked at all the options. They've decided a company should do it. They've decided a private company should do it. They haven't looked at whether or not it should be done, if they're even going to go down that road, in-house, in SaskPower, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, let's put this in some context. What's being talked about is between 2 and 3000 megawatts of electrical generation, Mr. Speaker, which is over half the total electrical

generation today in the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, if a private company's doing that generation, Mr. Speaker, then what role does SaskPower play in the future?

Is this the backdoor privatization of SaskPower, one of our Crown utilities, Mr. Speaker? Those are the things that the people of the province of Saskatchewan need to examine and look at, Mr. Speaker. We need to know and we need to examine what is the intent of the government, Mr. Speaker. Is the intent of the government to privatize SaskPower through a back door? Well, Mr. Speaker, are they afraid to have that debate? Are they afraid to have that discussion, Mr. Speaker? They've gone forward with an agenda, Mr. Speaker, without, without having the public debate whether or not . . .

[11:30]

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. They've gone ahead and decided that a private power generation is the way to go, just like they went ahead and decided nuclear was the solution before they had the debate. Mr. Speaker, we may end up there. But first there should be the process in which the public and the people of Saskatchewan compare all the alternatives; they compare what type of generation they want; they look at issues like energy conservation, Mr. Speaker.

But we've had none of that. We have not had due process in this issue at all. We have a government that goes to their own party and says, it's not about whether or not we'll do it. They've already made the decision. They're going to do it without looking at all the alternatives. If it's the best option for the people in the province of Saskatchewan, if it's the best option for the people, no, they're not concerned whether it's the best option. They've already decided they're going to do it.

And then they talk about the UDP process, uranium development process that they're putting forward. The panel they're looking at is not about whether or not it's good for the province of Saskatchewan or should be the way they proceed; it's how to proceed, Mr. Speaker. And that is what the minister said at his own Sask Party convention.

So, Mr. Speaker, they had predetermined that they're moving down this road, and now it appears they've predetermined that a single company, private-sector company, will be the only option for development, Mr. Speaker, because they allowed a single company to come in here and do feasibility studies and work with them, taking out any other examination or options, Mr. Speaker.

So they've decided (a) they're going to do it; and (b) they're going to do it with a single company which results in the backdoor privatization of the SaskPower Corporation, Mr. Speaker, because over half the generation that's needed in this province — perhaps up to two-thirds or 75 per cent, Mr. Speaker — would come from an outside private company, Mr. Speaker, driving SaskPower into privatization, Mr. Speaker.

And that may not be what they want to state publicly as their intent, Mr. Speaker, but that's the end result that they go down

that road. So, Mr. Speaker, let's say just right upfront and unequivocally, Mr. Speaker, that we will not support the Bruce Power option in any form, Mr. Speaker. We will not support Bruce Power and their prospects in any form, the private generation of that power, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be open and honest. We need to know where we're going with this issue, Mr. Speaker, and we have to talk about this in the public of . . .

**The Speaker:** — Member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

**Ms. Ross:** — Our government is committed to seeking environmentally friendly ways to produce, consume, and conserve energy. So we are in support of a motion that allows us to have the opportunity to debate the energy industry in Saskatchewan. Under our government, Project Porchlight has continued to raise awareness about switching to more energy-efficient light bulbs, such as compact fluorescents.

Switching to more efficient light bulbs can produce savings of nearly 40 per cent for consumers, while also reducing emissions by lowering demand on our power plants. Under the NDP, Project Porchlight ignored our rural areas, only doing giveaways in six cities. Our government has taken steps to see that this project reaches the whole province because we don't ignore our rural Saskatchewan residents.

Our government is committed to energy efficiency, and we're taking multiple steps to make sure that Saskatchewan residents know what programs are available. Now SaskPower offers the Energy Star loan program for furnaces, and energy management manuals for area arena and rink operators. And SaskEnergy offers a rebate on programmable thermostats as the EnerGuide for housing program, an energy-efficient rebate for new homes and commercial boiler programs. SaskWater offers energy guides, toilet replacement programs, and targets urban water conservation programs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are everyday, small solutions, but they have tackled a big problem — our dwindling energy supply. Mr. Speaker, our government is being very proactive. We are looking at ways to generate power through wind power, clean coal, energy conservation, hydro power, solar power, and geothermal.

Geothermal is known as earth's energy system. It takes advantage of the earth's natural heating and cooling properties to heat and cool entire buildings. A pumper compressor is used to circulate water and an antifreeze mixture so it can work well in any climate. Now these systems have been used in Europe since the 1920s, and for the last 30 years in North America. Geothermal is a more environmentally responsible heating source than either electricity, oil-burning furnaces.

Now our government has developed a number of programs designed to encourage the use of environmentally responsible energy sources, and these programs include a new loans program for people who will install certified geothermal heating systems and/or generate their own power from renewable sources such as wind or solar.

These programs provide financial support to a growing number of Saskatchewan people who want to heat their homes with geothermal. Encouraging small-scale, environmentally responsible generation is part of the Saskatchewan Party government's commitment to curb greenhouse gas emission and ensure our province has a sustainable and reliable energy supply mix. Those eligible can receive a loan of up to \$25,000 for installation of a geothermal system, and/or a loan of up to \$25,000 for installing a renewable system in a new or existing home.

This program is delivered through SaskPower, the utility profile of energy efficiency, conservation, and load-management programs. We recognize that the interest in geothermal systems and self-generation will increase as the actual cost of producing the energy comes down. By providing financial support for our residents, we can make it even more feasible for our customers to pursue these environmentally responsible choices.

Our government made enhancements to existing energy efficient rebates for new home programs delivered through SaskEnergy. Saskatchewan residents who build a new Energy Star qualified, R-2000 certified, or EnerGuide 80 homes may be eligible to receive a rebate up to \$3,500 for the installation of a geothermal system.

Within my riding of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley I've had the opportunity to visit two such homes. The one homeowner, Phil and Sherri, have taken being energy efficient and responsible to heart. They have designed and installed a geothermal system in their home. And I remember in the 1980s when I looked at an environmentally responsible solar home that was built in the Walsh Acres area of the city, I remember looking at the 2-foot-thick walls and the windows that were about the size of a piece of paper, because at that point the understanding wasn't as good as it is today of what is needed to provide an energy efficient home.

Those homes were very uncomfortable to live in. They had very few windows, because at that point the building products weren't as efficient as they are today. When you go into Phil and Sherri's home, you do not realize that this is a home that provides a different source of heating. But rather you realize that this is a very comfortable home that each and every one of us would enjoy residing in.

Now Phil and Sherri have taken being environmentally responsible citizens to the heart. They also drive a smart car as their second car, and their other car is a hybrid car. As they have said to me, we do not consider that we are reducing our environmental footprint on this earth. We are doing an environmental fingerprint. So congratulations to residents in my riding that really understand what it means to be good citizens.

The province has also topped up support to the net metering program. Residents who wish to self-generate electricity using environmentally friendly sources, such as wind or solar, could now receive a rebate of up to \$35,000 retroactive to April 1, 2007. And I know that Phil and Sherri are looking at this program also and are looking at installing solar panels to again augment their heating system.

Saskatchewan will not have the same need for geothermal as

Manitoba. In Manitoba 55 per cent of the residents use electricity for heating, while only 4 per cent of Saskatchewan homes do. Natural gas is a more efficient heating source, and so our government is also encouraging the purchase of high-efficient gas furnaces through other programs.

We expect approximately 150 new installation of geothermal heating systems in 2008 to 2010 period to take advantage of our programs. Homeowners who are currently using natural gas but would like to switch to geothermal can do so as long as they install an on-site renewable energy source — wind, solar — that is large enough to offset the increase of the electrical load. Now this requirement is to ensure that the move towards geothermal system does not cause an increase in greenhouse gas emission. This would be either a 6 kilowatt solar system or a 3.5 kilowatt wind system. We are looking to design geothermal programs for larger commercial customers in the future.

Mr. Speaker, our government is being very proactive in providing environmentally friendly ways to produce power. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to stand and support the motion put forward by the opposition today, and I want to speak to this motion. I want to start by saying that energy conservation measures are by far the cheapest and most efficient source of new energy. The next kilowatt or the next BTU [British thermal unit] of energy that we create should be one that we create out of savings. There are all kinds of products available today. Insulation has improved over the past few decades.

Solar thermal water heaters are going to be coming into their own now in Saskatchewan, and I predict even further around the world. And I'm not confusing that with a photovoltaic — that's where you make electricity out of the sun — but the thermal just directly moves the heat off your roof system and into your domestic hot water system, and it's a lower cost of operation for the homeowner. Incidentally, between a quarter and a third of the energy used in houses is just in the heating of our domestic hot water, so there's just tremendous opportunities for efficiencies that we have not even begun to scratch.

Germany is really making massive, huge strides in both energy conservation and wind power, and I know they're moving into solar now. There's a prediction out of Germany that by between 2040 and 2050 that we would be able to, if we put our effort into solar photovoltaic panels on every house, we would be able to provide half of the power needs of industrial countries.

So if we put photovoltaic panels on all of our houses, we could take care of half of our electrical needs and, Mr. Speaker, in a very environmentally friendly way. And there would be no lasting waste, as is the case with what the government seems to be going full speed ahead without consultation. They're saying, well it's not a question of should we, should we go further into the nuclear cycle; it's how should we? And of course what I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, is that there are many, many ways that we

can avoid having to go down the nuclear cycle or the more expensive cycle, the more expensive cycle that there is.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I know I've hit some nerves because of the amount of heckling from government members opposite. And I'm reminded that anytime everyone agrees, as the Sask Party wants everyone to just monolithically agree, we just . . . like trained seals . . . [inaudible] . . . Every time everyone agrees, Mr. Speaker, it means someone's not thinking. That's what it means.

And I remind members that in a democracy, what it's about is the minority shall have its say, and of course then, conversely, the majority shall have its way. Well I'm having my say because they have the majority. I don't think they have the majority of environmentalist thinking people, but they clearly have the majority in this legislature.

[11:45]

Mr. Speaker, we say, as this motion does, we have to look at all forms of electrical supply. Energy conservation I've just spoken to. Photovoltaic. There's many, many others. I believe we have an obligation to look at the nuclear cycle. I believe we have an obligation to look seriously at that cycle, Mr. Speaker. I wish that people would investigate the good things; I wish that members opposite would investigate the good things about the nuclear cycle, and then I wish that you would investigate the flip side of it with an equal vigour.

That's all that we need to do, and I think we have an obligation as legislators, as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], to consider the facts. And there are many good facts about the nuclear cycle, but there are many areas of concern, Mr. Speaker. Not the least of which is when it comes to some of the nuclear waste.

I want to quote from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission just for about a minute here. This is quite helpful; it helped me in my thinking as I was researching here. This is a quote. You can find it on the Internet or I'm sure at the library and other places.

The basic fuel of a nuclear power reactor contains uranium 235, which is in ceramic pellets inside of metal rods. Before the fuel rods are used, they are only slightly radioactive and may be handled without special shielding. During the nuclear reaction, the fuel "fissions," which means that an atom of uranium is split, releasing two or three neutrons and a small amount of heat. The released neutrons then strike other atoms, causing them to split, and a chain reaction is formed, which releases large amounts of heat.

And it goes on, Mr. Speaker. In the interest of time I'm going to skip a paragraph, but only because of time. It goes on:

The splitting of relatively heavy uranium atoms during reactor operation creates radioactive isotopes of several lighter elements, such as cesium-137 and strontium-90, called "fission products" . . .

Plutonium is also created. Strontium-90 and cesium-137 have a

half-life of about 30 years. Mr. Speaker, the Plutonium-239 that's created has a half-life of 24,000 years. And it's the most deadly known carcinogen to man.

I invite members to just consider if the Egyptians had had nuclear power and they stored their waste in the pyramids — who would have looked after that nuclear waste after the Egyptian civilization fell and until we hit more modern times? So, Mr. Speaker, we have much to consider.

One of the things that also I want us to have a public discussion around — and not a phony, less-than-90-day, so-called consultation that the minister has referred to — but there's another thing to consider, and that is that SaskPower is looking at its capitalization going from . . . It took them 60 years to get to a capitalization of roughly \$4.5 billion — that according to the minister on March 31 in this very Chamber. And he says in the next five years the capitalization is going to go from 4.5 billion to \$16 billion — four and a half to \$16 billion. And we know who it is has to pay all of that. Much of it is going to be borrowed. According to the minister, between 60 and 70 per cent of that money would be borrowed. By my calculations, that means roughly \$7 billion of new debt for SaskPower — that's massive. And we all know who it is that's going to be paying for that.

This is for power lines to handle a nuclear power plant that the Sask Party are determined to go ahead. And what I've tried to do is scratch the surface, Mr. Speaker, and point out that there are many, many ways that are more cost-effective, that are more efficient, that will actually provide more jobs in Saskatchewan quicker, and will provide an environmental benefit much quicker than if we just leap and put all of our baskets into a huge nuclear power plant.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to look at nuclear power and all of the others. What the government is missing is looking at all of the others. They've admitted that. The minister at the Sask Party convention says, we're not asking this committee that he set up to look at should we proceed with nuclear. We're asking it to tell us how we can steamroller through it all. How can we absolutely make it happen. And that's a shame.

I wish that government members would simply spend a fraction of the time looking at all other energy forms that they spend looking at nuclear.

Mr. Speaker, there is much, much more to say. I will be supporting our motion and I'll be standing with my colleagues. I expect there's a vote on the government motion. It says we have to look at power options, and I believe we have to look at all the power options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

**Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the motion we're discussing here this morning is something that I find very similar to the motion in which we will be voting on at 1 o'clock. And, Mr. Speaker, imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and I would just like to make a bit of a comparison here. I think that people that watch the legislative channel at home would find it interesting that, in fact, it's almost verbatim. Mr. Taylor's motion that he put forward says that the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan support the consideration . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Just to remind the member that you don't refer to members by their first name but by their constituency. Thank you.

**Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly follow that.

The motion put forward that we're discussing right now states the Legislative Assembly support the consideration of further value-added development of Saskatchewan energy industry, considering the consideration of nuclear, solar, wind, hydro.

The motion we'll be voting on earlier, which was put forward by the member from Meadow Lake, it is: "That the Legislative Assembly . . . supports the consideration of further value-added development of Saskatchewan uranium industry . . ." Mr. Speaker, almost, almost verbatim.

Now the members opposite who put forward their motion and pretty much copied ours. They did add in solar, wind, geothermal — all very valuable, all initiatives that in fact our government has been doing since we took government. We have an excellent track record. We have made announcements. We have programs. We are leading on geothermal. We have the second largest wind farm in the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, I look at theirs and they don't have anything on clean coal. Now I don't know if this is an oversight, or if there's an ideological problem on that side of the House that clean coal isn't acceptable or that they feel we aren't going to go that direction, for some reason that I don't quite understand.

I think it's important that we put on the record that coal makes up almost 50 per cent of Saskatchewan's power needs. That is one of the largest proportions in all of Canada. It's something that if we want to move forward, we have 300 years of coal supply in the ground. There's so much, they've almost stopped looking for coal because we have so much.

So if their government isn't willing to look at clean coal as an option, I think that's a real problem. And I think we could be facing a disastrous situation if they are so narrow-minded that clean coal isn't even an option. I'd just like to flesh out a little further that we not only have made statements about clean coal, that we think that it's somewhere we should go on. And that's what we saw from the NDP when they were in government.

But we lobbied our federal counterparts. We got them to invest a substantial amount of money — \$250 million, Mr. Speaker, quarter of a billion dollars — to Saskatchewan for a project. We have committed the other billion. We're bringing in some private sector investment.

Clean coal, Mr. Speaker, may supply going into the future. It's never been done commercially, but if it is possible — and we are going to build a plant and prove it; a 100 megawatt power plant — it's going to be supplying power to Saskatchewan. And once the technology is worked out, it could be a real solution for our province, other provinces, for places around the world, to ensure that CO<sub>2</sub> isn't just let off into the atmosphere to cause

the damages it causes, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I will also say that when their motion came forward I was quite surprised that they would want to be on the record so publicly on such a divisive issue within their own party, Mr. Speaker. And it really gave me time to think, like what could bring this forward? The only explanation I had, Mr. Speaker, was on Tuesday I read in the newspaper that two of their candidates, two of their younger candidates, a Mr. Meili and a Mr. Pedersen, had press conferences, very publicly said — this I believe was Mr. Meili: “I am calling on all 20 New Democrat MLAs to vote ‘no’ . . .”

Mr. Speaker, they’re getting their marching orders to vote no on this coming thing. Mr. Pedersen, also on Tuesday, just two days ago, said, I urge his 20 MLAs to vote against the motion. Mr. Speaker, a clear message from two of their candidates came forward that they are to stand and vote no.

On Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday they bring forward a motion that throws mud in the face of these two candidates. I can only presume that the members of the Legislative Assembly are saying in fact, thanks, but no thanks. We will not take the marching orders from these two candidates for leadership.

I think that possibly some of the statements that have come out of their leadership candidate, Mr. Dwain Lingenfelter, may be influencing them more heavily. Mr. Lingenfelter has been clearly on the record for many years with some fairly extreme views on this issue.

This here is from 2005 *Star Phoenix*, and this is a quote out of the paper, “Former NDP deputy premier Dwain Lingenfelter not only champions building [a reactor] nuclear power plants in Saskatchewan, but also embraces locating a nuclear waste facility in the province . . .”

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that the fact that they have brought this motion forward as a party, as a bunch of MLAs has really solidified around possibly this as a leader.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lingenfelter, as quoted earlier, also invoked their Tommy Douglas as someone who, if he were here today, he would embrace nuclear power. So if you are getting the nod from people like Tommy Douglas, I guess they had no choice but to support it.

Mr. Speaker, from 2008, Murray Mandryk, Saskatoon *StarPhoenix*:

Former NDP cabinet heavyweight Dwain Lingenfelter says the case for nuclear power generation in Saskatchewan is greater now than when he delivered a major speech on the subject in Saskatoon more than two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, that’s 2008. That’s less than a year ago. He is on the record and he is very positive on this, Mr. Speaker. Now I can only think that if things go forward and one of the young men that is also running happens to win the leadership, that maybe some of the members will be overdue for retirement. It might be all 20 of them that become overdue very quickly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, just a couple more things I would like to get on the record is their leader will not be contradicting himself too heavily from some of the comments he has made in the past. “We are ready to refine and process uranium when the time is right.” Mr. Speaker, that was the leader of the NDP. “Now development of the industry is a priority for Lorne Calvert.” This is a quote, Mr. Speaker. Lorne Calvert, NDP government, having formally backed uranium refining and processing in Saskatchewan when it released its action plan for the economy in late September.

Mr. Speaker, I think that there’s a real divide in that party. I think that they’re doing some soul-searching, but I think the fact that there’s no divide in their caucus members, Mr. Speaker, is extremely telling. The results of their leadership vote, which comes up here this spring I think, may reignite some internal struggles if one of the young members who has demanded his 20 members vote against it, happens to win. It may be a cold day for them, Mr. Speaker.

But standing on this side of the House, I applaud them for their stance. I don’t care if they’re doing the right things for the wrong reasons, as long as they’re doing the right things, Mr. Speaker. I think it’s the right thing for Saskatchewan to look at all our options. It’s not about whether clean coal is good or bad, or solar is good or bad, it is time we looked into the future and said, we are going to have demands.

[12:00]

This Saskatchewan Party government is driving our economy forward. More people are moving here. We need electricity. When we look at our power needs going to the future, they are dramatically rising for many reasons. And if those members, if those members are willing to look at all options, I applaud them for that. I don’t really care what is their decision-making process, as long as the good of the people of Saskatchewan is what comes out at the end, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it’s also a time for our government to say, we need some expert advice. We have asked the UDP to put together some recommendations. We have asked them to bring in some experts, to do some research, and to give recommendations. And our minister has been very upfront and clear. He will be delivering that report here shortly and it’s part of the process. It’s very transparent. I think that’s important on this issue, Mr. Speaker.

I think it’s also important that we go forward with the clean coal. And I will ask those members again, is this just an oversight that clean coal isn’t in this while you’ve included most other things? Or is there is an actual problem with clean coal that you aren’t willing to vocalize or voice here in the Assembly? If there is, I’d ask you to have the confidence to raise your voice and tell us what is your ideological problem with clean coal. You don’t like coal? You don’t think that that’s going to be going into the future as something we can do?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say again that I support them for bringing this forward. I will be supporting our motion coming up . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member’s time has elapsed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, to follow up on what my fellow . . . comments of the people on this side, Mr. Speaker, there's over 44 commercial nuclear power reactors operating in 31 countries around the world. That's 364,000 megawatts of total capacity. There's . . .

**The Speaker:** — Time. Time has elapsed for the 65-minute debate. We'll move to oral questions. I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do have a question for the member from Meadow Lake, Mr. Speaker. At the beginning of his remarks earlier today, he indicated that the motion in front of us was acceptable, Mr. Speaker, and that he would be prepared to vote for the motion in front of us.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, the member from Meadow Lake has a motion on the paper for debate and perhaps vote later in the day — a very similar motion, Mr. Speaker, but not as extensive as the motion in front of us today.

I ask the member from Meadow Lake: given that he has an interest in supporting the motion presented right now, is the member from Meadow Lake prepared, as I am, Mr. Speaker, to give up the rest of the Q & A [question and answer] period and take this motion directly to a vote at this time.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

**Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would point out to that member that we're going to have a vote. It's going to be at 1 o'clock, and it's going to be on the motion that I brought forward previously. And we're going to have a very, we're going to have a very interesting vote. We're going to be able to see which members show up, which members aren't here. And I think that's going to say a whole bunch about where they're in their leadership race and the divisions within that party.

I would ask, I would ask the member for Battlefords, Mr. Speaker, if he would agree with his next leader, Mr. Dwain Lingenfelter, that "If Tommy Douglas were here, it would be exactly what he would be doing."

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Mr. Chisholm:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the member from Battleford. The people of The Battlefords have been asking me if I would have an opportunity to ask this question of the member: if a nuclear project was possible, and if it was possible in that part of the world and would involve 2,000 jobs during a five-year construction period, 1,000 jobs, permanent jobs forever, where does the member stand on the

nuclear issue? And this would be very interesting for the people of The Battlefords. They're listening this morning.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Interesting question from the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford who people in The Battlefords have asked me about: where does he stand on the immediate, immediate construction of Saskatchewan Hospital, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Taylor:** — Not only, Mr. Speaker, not only are people in The Battlefords concerned about potential construction jobs 20 years out, Mr. Speaker; they're interested in the creation of construction jobs two years out, Mr. Speaker. So the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford should be on the record speaking about immediate needs in The Battlefords, Mr. Speaker.

That having been said, and knowing my time is limited, this motion today, Mr. Speaker, puts forward the argument that I'm making in The Battlefords and everywhere in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — that this issue requires extensive research and debate. Everybody needs to participate in it, including representatives in The Battlefords community, Mr. Speaker, and the proponent . . .

**The Speaker:** — Member's time has elapsed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the member from Meadow Lake. Mr. Speaker, as he would be well aware, the undertaking of building a nuclear reactor is a very expensive process. Today to get that capital is not possible without being backed by a government, Mr. Speaker. So my question is, does he believe that a single source company like Bruce Power should have the right to build a reactor without having consideration for other companies, like AECL [Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.] and/or Areva and others, who may be interested in operating in the province of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

**Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I listened carefully to the member for Regina's comments, during his speech particularly, Mr. Speaker. And I would just indicate to him that I'm sure his leadership candidate, Dwain Lingenfelter, was watching, I presume. And I would just caution him to be careful because his role as deputy leader might be in jeopardy.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

**Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the summer of 2006, the former premier of the province, the

member for Riversdale, went to France to lobby for not only a refinery for uranium in the province, but also talked about building a nuclear reactor, and also even went so far as to talk about storage, Mr. Speaker, in the province of Saskatchewan.

And I would ask, Mr. Speaker, to the member of Regina Dewdney, who was an important member of that government — or at least that's what he tells me — the question is, before the former premier went to France to lobby for all of these things to develop the nuclear industry, what consultation did the former premier take with the people of this province before he left the country to sell . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As you're well aware, when the former premier was out meeting with companies across the world who have interest in the very valuable commodity we have in this province — uranium — they wanted to talk about our future in development of uranium, Mr. Speaker.

And the premier very clearly laid out to them that of course we're open for business; we're selling uranium to them. And, Mr. Speaker, and that we have always examined all the options, Mr. Speaker, but we've done it in an open, democratic process, not allowing an individual company come in and say that they're going to operate in the province without considering all the options.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the motion reads, “. . . [supporting] the consideration of the further value-added development of Saskatchewan's energy industry including energy conservation, nuclear, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and other alternative power generation . . .” and given that the member for Regina Qu'Appelle responded to the motion — she touched on all the sources except for nuclear — my question is to that member.

Is she personally in favour of proceeding with nuclear power generation with Bruce Power without a public tendering process or request for proposals or public consultation and with a government-appointed uranium development panel that is biased in favour of nuclear power generation and has been mandated by the minister to advise how to proceed with nuclear power generation rather than if to proceed?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, you know, I am so pleased that our minister had put forward today in the House the public consultation program that will be rolled out shortly, and so in fact we are very pleased with the public consultation that we are going to be undertaking.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

**Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the NDP were in government, they had only one plan for clean coal. They also had SaskPower printing up fridge magnets promoting clean coal. When they abandoned that one and only plan they had, they had no plan B. This in spite of the fact that SaskPower committed \$20 million in 2005 for design studies on a clean coal power plant.

My question is for the member from Regina Coronation Park: why is clean coal excluded from the motion?

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I mentioned in my speech — we had 10 minutes, period — I said, we have an obligation to look at all, all, all the options that there are for power generation, including nuclear conservation. But in my notes — that I didn't get to — I also had something on clean coal.

What is interesting, Mr. Speaker, is that the Sask Party is asking about clean coal when they're talking we should have consultation around nuclear. And I can't figure out why they're so determined to go on one tack. Their report has more black than anything else. Why is it that the public should believe they are interested in a realistic consultation process when so far it's just been dark?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A question to the member from Meadow Lake who heard the Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan today say that there's going to be a consultation process announced tomorrow. Mr. Speaker, earlier he said, that consultation process, the minister, would be six weeks, Mr. Speaker.

I ask the member from Meadow Lake if he believes six weeks is enough, or will he ask the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation to expand and extend the consultation period at least to the end of the year?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

**Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the member for Battlefords brought up the issue of consultation. I'd like to read a quote:

Bruce Power or any other company that wants to come in and invest tens of billions of dollars is not going to want to step into a hornet's nest of political or public debate. They want that sorted out and they want a commitment . . .

Do you know who said that, Mr. Speaker? Dwain Lingenfelter,

his next leader. So my question for him is whether he agrees with his next leader that there should be no consultation.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Time has elapsed on the 75-minute debate.

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

#### Motion No. 1 — Saskatchewan's Uranium Industry

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Harrison.]

**The Speaker:** — Before I recognize the member, it's my duty, pursuant to rule 26, to advise the Assembly that this item of business has been previously adjourned three times and cannot be further adjourned. Therefore at the conclusion of the debate or at the normal time of adjournment, whichever is reached first, every question necessary to dispose of this motion shall be put. I recognize the member from Wood River.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm once again pleased to enter the debate on the motion put forward by the member from Meadow Lake. And I think it's only appropriate at this time, Mr. Speaker, that we read the motion back into the record, and we do a little bit of a review of what we've talked about up to this point in our debate on the nuclear file. And the motion put forward by the member from Meadow Lake is:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan supports the consideration of further value-added development of Saskatchewan's uranium industry including nuclear power generation and recognizes the potential benefits to the growth and prosperity of the people of our province.

I think that's a very, very straightforward motion, Mr. Speaker. And there's so much to be gained by advancing the nuclear cycle in this province. And I know we have spoke about it to some extent, but again for review purposes, I would like to go over some of the predominant benefits to this province by expanding the nuclear cycle.

And we know — and I'll get back to it — but we know that members opposite have been against this nuclear cycle for some time. And I'll get into the more specifics a little bit later on. But here we're in a province where we had a governing party for a number of years that was totally against any enhancements of uranium in this province.

So by the fearmongering that was put forward, they actually had people in this province that sided with them to some extent just because of the fear factor. There's some issues that I think the people of this province may not be aware of, and I think maybe there's members on the opposite side that may not be aware of also.

[12:15]

For an example, they know that there is a nuclear reactor in the city of Saskatoon. And here they are so afraid of the nuclear cycle, and yet there's a nuclear reactor sitting in Saskatoon. And are they going around Saskatoon and telling people that, oh don't go near that building because there's a nuclear reactor; you'll glow in the dark. Everything is so bad about it. But in fact, we have one in the city of Saskatoon, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is so much to be gained by advancing the nuclear industry in this province. We have companies here, uranium companies — Areva and Cameco — who have the experience and hands-on involvement in the chain of expanding the nuclear industry. And unfortunately in the past, when these companies were looking at doing an enhancement of uranium in the province of Saskatchewan, they were basically chased out by members opposite. And there's members opposite that are sitting there today that were part of a group of fearmongers that actually chased the uranium enhancement industry out of this province.

So we have to have a look at the realistic side of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have all of this natural advantage for us to be leaders in the uranium industry, to make sure we're sustainably and responsibly pursuing the next reactor technology so we can have a new vision. Our vision for Saskatchewan is growth, and in order for growth, we would definitely be looking at the value chain — refining, enrichment, and potentially the power side of the uranium cycle.

We have some of the largest deposits of uranium in the world, some of the richest deposits of uranium in the world. We have in the neighbourhood of 27 per cent of the world's supply of uranium, and I would point out that I believe it's the richest supply of uranium in the world. Having visited one of the mines in northern Saskatchewan, I know that the uranium is so rich they have to mix it with sand in order to work with it.

Now we have to look at some of the reasons why we want to develop nuclear power and help grow the Saskatchewan economy. One, it would create billions of dollars. I don't know how members opposite could be against something in this province that would actually create billions of dollars.

And also, jobs. We know that members opposite aren't very keen on enhancing jobs in this province. I mean they spent years chasing them out of the province, so I understand why they are sitting there on the negative side of the issue when you talk about creating jobs in the province. I mean we had people even on the other side today speaking against our Premier going to Toronto to a job fair. What are they against? So expanding this industry would create a lot of jobs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we do not have a presence in the nuclear industry, once again we'll be left outside watching. Very, very typical of the NDP when they were in government — have people on the outside looking in. We want to keep this a wee province. And that was their philosophy. That was their policy. I mean they developed policies that would literally chase people out of the province.

The nuclear industry was one of them. And members opposite

can't say that there weren't people out there with placards when they were going to put the plant in Warman, and they were totally, totally against it. And so what did the uranium industry do? They moved out of the province. We can't move the mines out of the province because we do have the resources here. We have been left behind so many times by the NDP because of their ideology. Well we on this side of the House, we're actually looking forward.

And it's interesting. There's a number of them on the other side of the House that do not even want to discuss the development of nuclear power in this province. We find it very, very odd why they can't have an open dialogue about it and be upfront with the people of the province of where they stand. And I'm going to get into a little bit more of where they stand, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I don't know where they stand. I don't believe they know where they stand. They're firmly divided on this.

Now there's many, many reasons when I say creating jobs in the province, creating money for the province. And it'd be very interesting to see how some of the members on the other side vote. Look at the jobs it would create in the North. It can be estimated that to properly operate a reactor, 150 highly trained nuclear engineers, scientists, and physicists would be required. It requires a minimum of a university degree in a nuclear field and, in some cases, postgraduate degrees. A further 720 reactor operators, mechanical and electrical maintenance workers, chemists, and chemical technicians, physics and radiation technicians, and other managers would be needed.

Now if you look at this, these are well-trained people. They'd be high-paying jobs. And why wouldn't we want them in this province? Members opposite may not, but we do. We want to attract people, to train people, and have these high-paying jobs

I'd like to quote a little bit from Bruce Power's feasibility study because I think this is very important for the record:

The construction and 60 year operation of a nuclear facility in Saskatchewan would have a significant and stabilizing impact on the province's economy for decades to come.

... [it] has conducted an assessment to determine economic impacts on Saskatchewan of a two unit nuclear [facility] build in the province, assuming operation in 2018.

Now I think some of these figures are very, very important even to members opposite that are on the nay side of it. I think that they should be listening to these figures because they're quite important. "During site preparation and construction the project would contribute about \$4 billion to the provincial economy ... " Four billion dollars. And here we are, here we are now debating budget, debating issues in committees. And we have the members from the North going on about roads and promises the NDP made years ago. And I wonder how they would vote for this, for a \$4 billion influx of money into this province and a lot of it in the North.

So it's going to be very, very interesting to see how the members from Cumberland and Athabasca vote. Would they be

in favour of more jobs in the North for their people? Would they be in favour of expansion of the nuclear industry in the North, in uranium mines? So it'll be very, very interesting to see how they vote on this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

"The project would generate a total of 20,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs during construction." Twenty thousand. Now I know we have a shortage of workers right now, so this is all the more reason for people to be moving back to Saskatchewan, all the more reason we're attending job fairs in places that aren't as fortunate as we are in the economic times of this province.

**An Hon. Member:** — Does that bring you back to 35,000 the NDP exported?

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Yes, all we really want for starters is to get the 35,000 people back that were exported by the NDP over their 16-year reign. That's our starting line, is to get those people back.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let's just look at the annual operating impacts that this would generate: approximately 1,000 full-time jobs, in addition to 900 indirect jobs, and get this — for 60 years, 60 years. On an annual basis a project would contribute almost 240 million to the provincial economy. In fact the construction of a nuclear power station in Saskatchewan would be the largest single infrastructure project ever undertaken in our province.

Now let's look at some of the revenues that this would create. Throughout the construction phase of the project, total tax revenues generated would be 1.8 billion, \$1.8 billion. During 60 years of operation, the project would contribute over ten billion, two thousand and eighteen dollars in government revenues.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we start looking at all of the positives about the nuclear industry. And when I talk about the jobs, look at the spinoff jobs that would be available for young entrepreneurs to start businesses. I know I mentioned it when I spoke last time about it — a couple of young ladies in the North, in the mine, that when we were up there, we were briefed on it. These two ladies actually worked in the food services department of the mine. And the company manager, company manager said to them one day, why don't you form a company and start a business for feeding the mine crew? And they said, well we don't have much knowledge about running a business. So he said, well we'll give you all of the support you need. So these two ladies started up a business and took over. Now they provide all of the food services to this particular mine.

There's another company that's formed. They're employing people. They're entrepreneurs now. They're away from that ideology of the other side of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do want to get into some discussion about where the NDP are on this. And I really wish I knew where they were. They're all over the map; they're all over the place on the nuclear file.

I think today's paper probably, probably identifies it as well as anything and I just want to quote from *The StarPhoenix* today. And I think it puts it in perspective of what the other side is

going through right now. And I'm going to read from this article, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

After three decades of grappling with the issue of uranium development and nuclear power, the inability of many New Democrats to get beyond fearmongering and pandering to ignorance continues to threaten the progress of Saskatchewan.

That's how they operate — fearmongering. That's their modus operandi — fearmongering. Is there any other way that they enter into a debate on this other than the fear? Fear and smear.

The attempt this week in the legislature by departing NDP Leader [I'm quoting] Lorne Calvert to suggest untoward government meddling in a \$2.5 million consultant's report to be released on Friday by the Uranium Development Partnership only underlines the silliness that pervades the party's ranks on matters nuclear.

I wish I would have said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but in fact it was the editorial part of the paper:

What's nearly incomprehensible about Mr. Calvert's theatrics in the house is that they come from a man who, as premier, said his government might consider a proposal to build a small reactor if there was a business case for it — a prospect made all the slimmer by his NDP predecessor's decision to send packing AECL from Saskatoon, where it was researching the development of such a reactor.

Again as I've said, they chased something else out of the province. I guess that's why they look in the rear-view mirror so much as they're chasing stuff out of the province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to go further with what the paper says, and I'll just quote:

... the NDP leader seemingly sees the need to retrench from adopting a technology that's been safely delivering electricity to Ontario, many U.S. jurisdictions, China, India, Japan, and several European nations for decades.

Apparently, the NDP out of office has reverted to form, with the agitators and fear-mongers seeking to crowd out party members who dare to consider a pragmatic approach to nuclear power and uranium development in a province that for 50 years has profited from the sale of the commodity and used the cash to fund its progressive social programs.

[12:30]

That again is very, very typical. It's the ostrich theory — put your head in the sand and it's not a problem. You reap the money from selling the uranium, the yellowcake, but you have your head in the sand and say, it's really not us. And again I'm kind of bewildered by their take on this whole nuclear file, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Despite the anti-nuclear sentiments that seem pervasive enough in the NDP's ranks that Mr. Lingenfelter appears

somewhat cowed, he remains the preferred candidate by far among members of the general public who stated a choice.

Well we know what Mr. Lingenfelter's position is on the nuclear file. We also know what the two other members of the leadership race, we know their positions. They're absolutely not, there's no way they want any part of the nuclear facility.

The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, I'm really not sure what her position is. I gather that she's one that's got her feet planted firmly on both sides of the fence on this issue. Maybe yes, maybe no, maybe flip, maybe flop. Whoever she's talking to at a given time, maybe that's the way she's going to go on this file. It'll be interesting to note the vote.

Now when I talk about the NDP's position, or lack thereof a position, I'd like to go back to some of the quotes that have been used in the past and what some of the members opposite have said. Now we all, or most of us I guess, know Peter Prebble and how anti-nuke he was. And anti-everything is kind of the pervasive word from people on that side of the House. But here's what Peter Prebble had said, that "The Government of Saskatchewan should phase out uranium mining in the province . . ."

Can you imagine phasing out uranium mining in the province? That's pretty much like a golden goose, and you want to give it away to somebody. He said, "... as long as I am in this legislature, I will continue to oppose that practice [of uranium mining] . . ."

And he did. Maybe that's why he's not here any more. But he opposed uranium mining. So can you imagine members on that side of the House sitting . . . Here you got somebody opposing, somebody may be for it, others again on both sides of the fence.

Peter Prebble also is stated as saying, "We don't need a nuclear reactor in the province . . ." He also said, "... uranium mining in the province of Saskatchewan should be phased out until such time as there are proper international safeguards in place to prevent uranium being diverted for military purposes."

Well again the fear. And this is what, this is what members opposite, they get into the fearmongering on the uranium cycle — oh, they're going to make bombs out of that. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how many years have we had uranium reactors or nuclear reactors in this world that have been providing services for the people of the world? And I would suggest it's 50-plus years that we've had reactors in this world that have been providing power, and I'm going to get to nuclear medicine a little later.

Now I do want to, I do want to get on to some comments by the Leader of the Opposition. And when he was premier, when he was premier of this province he said, and I quote, "Calvert said the province would consider any business case to establish a reactor or nuclear waste storage facility in the province . . ." And I want to emphasize those words "... consider any business case to establish a reactor or nuclear waste storage facility in the province . . ." That was on November 2, 2005.

Now let me read a quote from November 3, 2005 — and I hope

the members opposite are listening because that was 24 hours later — keeping in mind what he said, that we “. . . would consider any business case to establish a reactor or nuclear waste storage facility in the province . . .” on November 2. On November 3, he said:

Let me say today . . . [definitely], the answer is no. Under my leadership in this province there will not be in Saskatchewan a nuclear waste disposal . . .

I'm wondering. In 24 hours, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 24 hours went from yes to no. Is that what is referred to as a flip-flop? Is that a flip? Or is that a flop? I think, I think it was a total flop, but I guess you could call it a flip-flop.

Now we all know, we all know the position of Lingenfelter. And there are a couple more quotes that I'd like to get on the record from the current Leader of the Opposition. In 2003 the then premier had stated, and I'm quoting:

The notion that you could build a reactor that's economic is a very, very questionable assumption. And this isn't a clean source of power. It's probably the dirtiest, given what comes out of the tailpipe . . .

The dirtiest form of power. Now, is he going to be for our motion of expanding the industry or against it? And it's hard to say because he flips one day and flops the next day, so it's very, very difficult to understand what his position is.

This is in 2005 also, and it talks about the NDP platform called for the phase-out of uranium mining. I've already discussed that.

I want to get to another one here that I really think people of the province need to hear. And this was again the Leader of the Opposition when he was premier, said:

Asked recently about the notion of building a nuclear reactor in northern Saskatchewan to power Alberta's oil sands development, Premier Lorne Calvert called it a “horrendous” proposal.

Horrendous proposal. Now for the uninitiated, I just want to again — and I mentioned this when I spoke last time — if you look up in the dictionary what horrendous is, it means horrifying. So he is saying that the idea of a reactor is horrifying. Is that to scare people? Is this part of their fearmonger plan again?

It's horrifying. It's horrifying to think that a nuclear reactor should be built in the province of Saskatchewan. How many members on that side of the House agree with the Leader of the Opposition today — that it's a horrifying thought to build a nuclear reactor in this province? Horrifying. I think that is absolutely disgusting.

And then, get this. He's talking about it's a horrifying idea to build a reactor. It's scary. It's scary. And I want to quote from the *Star Phoenix*, and it says . . . This was in 2006. Premier Calvert was in France to promote greater Saskatchewan development of the uranium industry.

Calvert should be lauded for his European vacation. After decades of destructive fence-sitting — allowing primary nuclear development but acting as if the product is morally tainted when it comes to milling, refining, using it to make energy and ultimately disposing of its waste back from where it came — the NDP government seems to finally be recognizing that Saskatchewan has a role to play in cleaning up energy production.

Well, it's a horrifying thought to build a reactor, but it's okay to go on a little trip to France to discuss building a reactor in the province. I guess that would be what's called a fun trip. A little European vacation, a little red wine in France, to discuss expanding the nuclear industry. How could one sit there in their own conscience and say, we're going over there to expand this horrifying industry. I imagine if they sat at the boardroom table they probably didn't quite use those words: we want to expand this horrifying industry in our province. I wonder if that's what he actually said. He probably didn't take along the quote from the Saskatoon paper.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to touch base just a little bit on a couple of other issues. We know — I think all of us on this side of the House know — the value of expanding the uranium industry. What it would do for the province, what it does for the coffers of the province, what it does for jobs. I don't know if we have to go much further with discussing the value it would be, but I do want to touch base on the perception at least of what people think of what the NDP's position is. And it is a perception, because nobody really knows for sure.

When the NDP were in government, there were some studies done on the nuclear file, but you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they were never released. They were never released, not even in the legislature they weren't released. What were they hiding? What were they hiding? They talked today, and there's been chirping back and forth about documents that have been blacked out. Well they know, they know that the rules . . . Some of them know the rules over there. Some of them obviously do not. But when you don't even get to see a report . . . They refused to publish or to make public the report of their study on the nuclear industry.

Now I get kind of a kick out of it the last couple of days with some of the line of questioning from the other side. I sit back and I chuckle at how poorly thought out the questions are. And I don't know if they have a new question writer or not, but it's quite laughable on a number of occasions. But here we have people talking about . . . from the other side, oh you blacked out this little line in this contract. How many, how many, how many lines did we see blacked out on the SPUDCO document? You know, I have been looking all over for the consultation on SPUDCO, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I can't find it. So I'm wondering how many lines on the SPUDCO document were blacked out. I wonder how many lines were blacked out.

And here it was, \$35 million. And member opposite chirping, so what? That's what they think of \$35 million. And the member from Athabasca can sit in the committee and ask for a road to be fixed and there's lots of money, but it's okay to squander \$35 million without even showing anybody the document.

Now I'm wondering, I'm wondering if there was a consultation done into Navigata? Where is the document on Navigata? And how much is blacked out on Navigata? I would ask members opposite, because here we're talking about them saying a line is blocked out on something. I want to know what was blacked out on the Navigata document. That's another one I've been unable to track of late.

But it cost taxpayers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about \$70 million . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . seven zero million dollars. And again the member from Athabasca talks about, he wants money for roads, but \$70 million is okay to lose. We didn't mind losing \$70 million because we in the NDP are business people. We know how to operate a business. That only lost . . . Well we had one that lost \$35 million on spuds, so it had to be outdone by losing \$70 million on another failed venture.

But that's not all, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Leave to make an introduction to the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Agreed. I recognize the member from Regina South.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well it's a great pleasure . . . And I know this will be well received on both sides of the House. We have in the Speaker's east gallery Mr. Yens Pedersen, NDP leadership candidate here to watch the debate.

And I know that members particularly on the other side of the floor, in opposition, regardless of where they are on this particular debate — for or against — will welcome his participation. Welcome from the members to Mr. Pedersen.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Wood River.

[12:45]

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

##### Motion No. 1 — Saskatchewan's Uranium Industry (continued)

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I also would welcome the member to the Assembly. I think it's probably very important for the leadership candidate to hear some of this debate and hear some of the failed NDP dealings

of the past.

And, where was I? Did I mentioned Navigata? I'll just mention Navigata again because here they lost \$70 million, and we don't know if there's more than that, Mr. Speaker, or not because it got hid after that. Was it blacked out? It was hid. That's kind of hideous, isn't it?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, how about some of their ventures into the dot-coms? There is more money lost in dot-coms because the business-minded people of the NDP figure that they are better at it than industry. And I can't get on my feet, Mr. Speaker, without mentioning my favourite one, and that's when they wanted to take over the bingo industry in this province.

Eight million dollars they lost by trying to take over the bingo industry, if you could believe it. These giants of business on the other side that wanted to run bingo in the province. My goodness.

And now, I haven't even touched on some of the larger ones like, like . . . Do anybody on this side remember when they were looking at digitizing the land titles? You could have bought it off the shelf for \$5 million, but guess what the giants of business did. They said, we can do better. We know how we can do it better than anybody else in the world. And for \$100 million, they got close. It's not there yet, but they were getting close with \$100 million. This is unbelievable. These giants of industry and these giants of business on the far side of the House — \$100 million that they could have spent \$5 million buying. No, they knew best.

And how about the Meadow Lake pulp mill? Eight hundred million dollars they blew on the Meadow Lake pulp mill. Giants of industry again — \$800 million. Now we also know, Mr. Speaker, that the then government wanted to put \$100 million more into the Prince Albert forestry Bill. That would've been gone by now. It would've been money under the bridge . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Under the bus.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Money under the bus — \$100 million. Well let's look at the reality of the \$100 million. It was trying to, it was trying to purchase votes. We'll just put \$100 million in . . . Why do you think \$800 million went into Meadow Lake? And I've stated this before, that they could've paid every member that worked there, and I think the figures — and I'm going to extrapolate a little bit — but I think the figures were, they could pay every member that worked at the pulp mill \$250,000 and buy them a \$100,000 home, and the taxpayers would've saved money.

So why, why would they put \$800 million into it? Well they had a member from up there that did get elected a couple times. He got elected and so that was there to buy votes. It was for vote-getting. Yes, they went out there and they put \$800 million . . .

Now they talked about consultation this morning and yesterday in question period. They want to talk about consultation. How much consultation do you suppose was done on the Belle Plaine ethanol plant? I kind of remember. Some of us on this side of the House would remember that Belle Plaine ethanol plant. I

think, yes maybe the consultation and what size of a tent they should have. How many school kids were they going to bribe with pizza and Pepsi to come out there and watch somebody put a shovel in the ground?

And you talk about another business venture, and I would suggest, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the whole Broe industries Belle Plaine plant was exactly the same as SPUDCO. Again the consultation process, and talk about the blackout portion of it. And where did that project go? Because I think once when SPUDCO was revealed and we found out, Mr. Speaker, we found out that in SPUDCO itself that there was no private money put in. None. Well I think somebody did quote one day and said it was \$49. But here it was all funded by the NDP government, every bit.

So I believe, Mr. Speaker, that when the whole Broe industries Belle Plaine ethanol . . . When it came to light, I believe that was the same thing. In my view it was a 50/50 partnership where the taxpayers were putting in 50 per cent and then the taxpayers were going to put in the other 50 per cent. So I guess you could say it was a 50/50 partnership, but 100 per cent funded by the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's kind of hypocritical when they talk about consultations, because I could go on with a lot of their business dealings and how little consultation there was—or no consultation. And how do you black out something when you haven't even produced a document, haven't even done any consultation on it? And I'm very, very shocked at the former premier when he's sitting there and talking about the blackout on documents. And he knows very, very well what the process is, what the procedures are. And some of the other members may not know it, but he certainly should.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to just talk a little bit about what the members opposite are going to do. I wonder if the member from Cumberland, if he's going to vote for this motion or not, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned all of the jobs that would be created in the North, all of the jobs, and he's looking for funding for roads.

And it's very, very odd of the NDP because when they were in power, they wouldn't touch any of this stuff. But now in 16 months they want us to clean up 16 years worth of mess. Well we're getting close but there's still a ways to go, Mr. Speaker, and we all know that. But I'm just wondering what position he will take, if he will actually stand up and vote against the people of the North for jobs.

And we have the member from Saskatoon Eastview that's chirping. And I wonder how she will vote. I wonder how she will vote because if she votes against it, if she votes against our motion, she's voting against who she's supporting in the leadership. If she votes for it, then she would be voting for the health side of it because I didn't even get to touch base on the health side of the nuclear industry.

We have unlimited potential, but again we have members opposite that will say, oh we don't want any part of the nuclear industry. But oh by the way, we'll take the isotopes for cancer work. Well where do you suppose isotopes come from? And well there's members opposite that don't even know, and so part of the nuclear industry and the generation of isotopes

comes from the nuclear industry.

And I wonder how many members opposite have been touched by somebody with cancer. And the cancer treatment comes from radiation. So that's part of the nuclear industry. And would they vote against this? Would they vote against medicine, nuclear medicine? How about the member from Athabasca? Will he be voting against his people in the North for jobs?

How about Regina Northeast? It's going to be interesting to see how the member from Regina Northeast votes because he's supporting, he's supporting openly, supporting Lingenfelter, and we all know Link's position on this.

How about the member from Regina Coronation Park? Will he be voting for this motion, because he openly is supporting Lingenfelter also. And so will he be voting for who he is supporting or will he be voting for the NDP ideology? Boy that's going to be a tough one.

How about from Regina Rosemont? I wonder how he'll vote on this because he's openly supporting Lingenfelter also. He's supporting Link and Link is very pro-nuke even to the point of disposing waste, so I wonder if the member from Rosemont will be supporting.

The member from P.A. [Prince Albert]-Northcote is also supporting Lingenfelter. I wonder what his position will be on the vote, whether he will vote in favour or against.

How about the member from Douglas Park? I wonder how he would vote on this because he again is openly supporting Lingenfelter. So very interesting to see how members opposite will be voting.

How about the member from Saskatoon Fairview? Because he is also supporting Lingenfelter. Now will he support the ideology of the Left or will he be supporting the person he's supporting for leadership?

And well the member from Regina Dewdney, he's openly supporting Lingenfelter also, but I really think he's going to support the motion on the nuclear side too. I really think he's going to.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's going to be very interesting to see how members opposite respond to this, to this very, very important motion. And, Mr. Speaker, there is so much positive, so much positive to come out of this whole nuclear industry in the province. We talk about jobs; we talk about the finances it would bring in. Well members opposite want to hear some more. Obviously they want to hear about, they want to hear about some of the business ventures again.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — I can't help but go into some more of the NDP . . . The member from Regina Northeast is using the same piece of paper I am so he obviously wants some more. So how about Channel Lake? How about Channel Lake? Do members, anybody remember Channel Lake? Yes it's kind of really difficult to forget about Channel Lake, but it's kind of off their

radar screen, Mr. Speaker, because they only lost 15 million on that one. That wasn't a very big deal; they only lost 15 million.

But I'm glad, I'm glad we got time to put this in because I have never seen the consultation work and the study on the power project in Guyana. We don't even know if that was nuclear or not. We've never see it. How much of that document was blacked out? Or was there even a document produced on Guyana? We're not sure. But, you know, that again is off the radar screen, Mr. Speaker, because it only lost \$2 million.

Now let's look at some of the dot-coms, again going back into . . . And I wonder what the consultation process and any process that went through on some of the dot-coms, like tappedinto.com. I think they got into that one just because it has a catchy name, tappedinto.com. And it cost \$6.7 million to the taxpayers of this province — 6.7 million.

How about Persona? Another dot-com to a tune of \$9.4 million. I really, I really wonder what the giants of business and industry and the NDP were thinking of when they got into this particular, this particular . . . these ventures. How about Craig Wireless? That was a \$10 million loss, Mr. Speaker — \$10 million.

And so the credibility of members opposite when they want to talk about consultation . . .

**The Speaker:** — Being near the hour of adjournment, it is my duty pursuant to rule 26 to advise the Assembly that this item of business has been previously adjourned three times and that every question necessary to dispose of the motion will now be put. It has been moved by the member from Meadow Lake that it being resolved:

That the Legislative Assembly supports the consideration of further value-added development of Saskatchewan's uranium industry including nuclear power generation and recognizes the potential benefits to the growth and prosperity of the people of our province.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:59 until 13:00.]

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the motion please rise. Order. I would ask the members to allow the motion to proceed quietly.

[Yeas — 53]

Stewart	Elhard	Bjornerud
Draude	Krawetz	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	D'Autremont
Hickie	Cheveldayoff	Heppner
Tell	Gantefoer	Harpauer
Norris	Hutchinson	Huyghebaert
Brkich	Kirsch	Schriemer
Allchurch	Weekes	Chisholm

Wilson	Duncan	Michelson
LeClerc	Ottenbreit	Ross
Reiter	Bradshaw	Harrison
McMillan	Calvert	Harper
Junor	Trew	Van Mulligen
Atkinson	Nilson	Yates
Belanger	Furber	Iwanchuk
Forbes	Morin	Taylor
Quennell	Broten	McCall
Wotherspoon	Vermette	

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed please rise.

[Nays — Nil]

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 53; those opposed . . .

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries. Being past the hour of adjournment this Assembly stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:01.]

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