



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

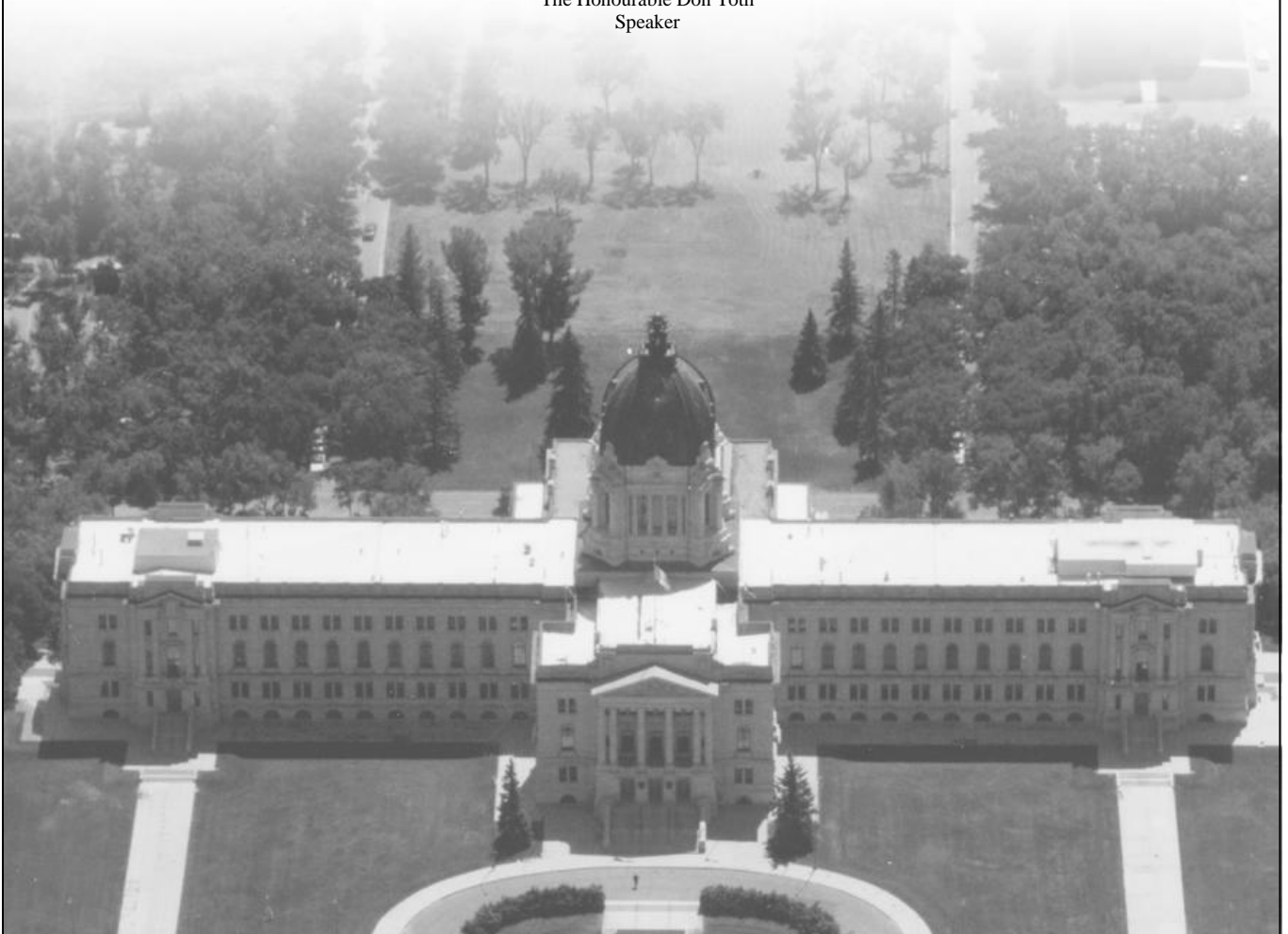
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (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	Ind.	Saskatoon Northwest
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McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
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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
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Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, 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
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]

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before routine proceedings, members, I lay on the table in accordance with section 30 of *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act* the 34th annual report of the Provincial Ombudsman for the year 2008.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, through you to members, I would request leave to make an extended introduction this morning.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for the opportunity for extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thanks to you, hon. members, for the leave.

In two days, on the 24th of April, we will mark the beginning of National Immunization Awareness Week. That day almost exactly will mark the one-year anniversary of the earliest beginnings of what we now know as the H1N1 pandemic and the largest provincial immunization campaign ever undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, at the time, nobody knew or health officials did not know here or elsewhere around the world the magnitude of what we might be facing at the time. The news coming out of Mexico was alarming, to say the least. A new strain of influenza was putting previously healthy and young people in hospitals in surprisingly high numbers and people were dying.

It started with a conference call on a Sunday morning with a small team from the Ministry of Health in terms of the response from the province of Saskatchewan. Two hours later, we had notices posted in our airports warning people returning from Mexico to be alert for signs of influenza. It was among the swiftest action in the country at the very beginnings of the pandemic.

It gives me a great pleasure today to offer formal recognition, Mr. Speaker, and to thank some of those key players who were responsible for the immunization campaign and the public awareness, Mr. Speaker, and to introduce them to you and through you to all members of the Assembly.

I would like to start with our population health branch, represented here today by several people. First of all, Rick Trimp, along with all of his staff. He was responsible for the ministry pandemic preparation and response and ran the Health

Emergency Operation Centre. This was the nerve centre.

I had a chance to tour it along with the Minister of Health. And in that nerve centre, staff undertook close surveillance of course of the virus, figured out the logistics of ensuring Tamiflu and then vaccine that they were ordered and distributed throughout the province, worked with the regional health authorities' clinical and management staff to establish vaccination clinics. The people behind some of those tasks include Valerie Mann and Leslie Grob, Tim Macauley, Tami Denomie.

I want to offer a special thank you to one of the main architects of the immunization rollout in our province, the person who Saskatchewan residents came to know as a credible and calm voice with respect to the H1N1 situation, the chief medical officer for the province of Saskatchewan, Dr. Moira McKinnon, as well as deputy chief medical health officer, Saqib Shahab.

The Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory, represented by Dr. Paul Levett and Dr. Nick Antonishyn, was key in the initial identification and ongoing surveillance and testing of the virus. The health emergency management team represented here today by Jim McIlmoyl and Garnet Matchett was instrumental in setting up the HEOC [Health Emergency Operation Centre] and acquiring key supplies for the region.

Acute and emergency services branch, represented today by Patrick O'Byrne, was responsible for monitoring activity in our hospitals. Communications branch, represented by Joan Petrie and Karen Hill, worked to distribute infection control information and advice throughout the province, coordinated the communication with the ministry, with the health regions and the federal government and other provinces and territories.

I want to acknowledge the communication staff who answered hundreds of calls from Saskatchewan residents who were obviously worried, who had real concerns for themselves and for their family members.

Thanks also to individuals in workforce planning, primary care, and to staff from our medical services branch who worked closely with the Saskatchewan Medical Association. Overseeing it, Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister, Dan Florizone, and the assistant deputy minister, Lauren Donnelly, were instrumental in terms of the leadership needed. Thanks to all.

And, Mr. Speaker, we want to thank the nurses. We want to thank the front-line staff right across this province who made sure the delivery of the vaccination was very successful, Mr. Speaker, by any reasonable measure.

On behalf of all of the residents of the province of Saskatchewan, I want to thank everyone who was helpful in the delivery of the program. There are hundreds of them across Saskatchewan today represented by those who have joined us in your gallery.

Saskatchewan was referred to, frequently referred to on the national level as having one of the best approaches to the challenge of H1N1 and among the best immunization rates at about 50 per cent of the entire population. Mr. Speaker, that is due not to the people in this Chamber, that is, on the floor. That

is due to the folks that joined us in the Speaker's gallery and to nurses and medical professionals right across this province. And we welcome them to their Legislative Assembly and in so doing we thank them for the great job they did on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to add my congratulations and welcome to Dr. Moira McKinnon and the whole team of professionals who handled the H1N1 outbreak and the response to it so efficiently and professionally. And I want to welcome them to the legislature and add our thank you to them as well.

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

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure this morning, to you and through you to the entire Assembly, to welcome in the west gallery a fine group of young people, the grade 11 and 12 students from Glaslyn Central School. They are joined this morning by their teacher, Brian Goota, chaperones Carol Lee Allen and Merv Pritchett. And I would like all members to help me welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — With leave to make an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, it's with great honour that I stand and rise today in my place to introduce the members of the Potash Council, Saskatchewan Potash Council who are here with us today.

The Potash Council was formed in September of 2008. Miners in the potash industry concerned about a number of issues for workers, but who have gotten together to deal with occupational health and safety issues in the mines. Mr. Speaker, they have produced a wonderful looking poster here and with the . . . in memory of 52 workers who have died from workplace injury in the potash industry with all the names, as a reminder to all those that have died.

Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the members of the Potash Council to rise as I introduce them. From the United Steelworkers Local 7552, Agrium, we have Kevin Climenhaga and Gord Bedient. From United Steelworkers Local 7458 at Cory, we have Randy Rounce. From the United Steelworkers Local 7689, Allan, we have Ron St. Pierre and Roy Howell. From United Steelworkers Local 7656, Colonsay, we have Scott Rushton and Allan Martin.

From Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Local 922, Lanigan, we have Rick Suchy and Derrick Fisher. From Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Local 892, Esterhazy, we have Perry Bubnick and Brian Kitch. From the Rocanville Potash Employees Association, Rocanville, we have Dale McAuley and Ernest Berezowski. And from United Steelworkers Local 189, Patience Lake, we have Neil Wolff.

We also have with us a very special guest who is presently in Winnipeg, and that's Sylvia Tkach. Sylvia is presently taking occupational health and safety in Winnipeg. Sylvia is the wife of Robert Tkach who was killed in the mines in September of 2008 in a workplace accident.

Mr. Speaker, there's a special connection here to the legislature. The husband, Robert Tkach's father was a painter, and he was the painter commissioned by Woodrow Lloyd to do his painting. So I would ask all members to welcome these people to our legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. To you and through to all members of this Assembly, I would like to join the member opposite in welcoming members of the Potash Council and Mrs. Tkach to their Assembly. And obviously all of us put great emphasis on occupational health and safety. If I could ask all members to join in this welcome, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the condition of Highway 310. This petition states that Highway 310 has deteriorated to the point where it's a potential safety hazard for those folks that travel on that highway each and every day. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to commit to providing the repairs to Highway 310 that the people of Saskatchewan need.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And this petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by the good folks from Lestock, Ituna, Hubbard, and Kelliher, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of the protection of wildlife habitat lands. And this speaks to the concern of many residents that the government currently has tabled in this House amendments to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. And that Act protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands or one-third of the

wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan in its natural state. And the prayer reads, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

To cause the provincial government to immediately and without delay recognize the importance of the protection of wildlife habitat lands and immediately withdraw proposed amendments that will negatively affect the protection of wildlife habitat lands;

And in so doing, cause the provincial government to commit to meaningful and adequate consultation with all stakeholders that will be affected by future legislative changes to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of citizens in Asquith, Biggar, Blackstrap, and Davidson. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Members, if members would allow the Speaker to move back to introduction of guests, there's a very important gentleman in the Chamber that I neglected to introduce earlier. That's greatly appreciated. My apologies.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — We do have our Provincial Ombudsman with us, Mr. Kevin Fenwick. And my apologies; I had every intention of introducing Mr. Fenwick earlier. And I believe he's joined by one of his staff members as well. So welcome to the legislative chambers.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

PRESENTING PETITIONS (continued)

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for protection for renters from unreasonable rent increases, and we know that many Saskatchewan renters are facing a dangerous combination of rising rents and low vacancy rates right across our province. And we know as well that the majority of Canadians, some 80 per cent, now live in provinces with some form of rent controls, including Manitoba, BC [British Columbia]; Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to consider enacting some form of rent control with a view to protect Saskatchewan renters from unreasonable increases in rent.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the good city of Regina. I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to

present a petition on the issue of high tuition fees for post-secondary students. And I call on the Sask Party government to have its actions match its rhetoric. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to addressing the burden placed by high post-secondary tuition fees on Saskatchewan students.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

[10:15]

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of expanding the graduate retention program. The petition is being circulated because the Saskatchewan Party government chose specifically to exclude the retention program to exclude master's and Ph.D. graduates as well as graduates from outside the province of Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable 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 petition is signed by folks from Prince Albert. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, on this very special day, on Earth Day, I'd like to read a petition regarding the Sask Party's lack of action with respect to climate change:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

To cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, acknowledge and recognize that climate change is occurring and the impacts of climate change are escalating and worsening;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to undertake immediate actions to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, actions which will serve to protect Saskatchewan people from the significant costs to our economy, global security, and the quality of life which climate change threatens to bring about, and to also protect Saskatchewan people from longer and more frequent droughts, reduced river flows as the glaciers which feed our rivers shrink, erratic rainfall with more

frequent and more serious flooding, and loss of at least the southern part of Saskatchewan's valuable boreal forest which is treasured by so many in our province;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, begin the process of creating a meaningful, significant, comprehensive, and broad-based strategy including enacting substantial and meaningful legislation and substantial and meaningful regulations, to meet the commitment solemnly pledged repeatedly in October and November of 2007 during the last provincial election by the Premier, the current member from Swift Current, who at the time of the last provincial election when he made this serious and significant commitment was serving as the leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, to reduce our province's greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent from the levels of greenhouse gas emissions which our province produced in the year 2007 and to meet said 32 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the year of Our Lord 2020, 10 years from now or one short decade away;

And in so doing, to cause the Premier to instruct his Minister of Environment, the current member from Martensville, to recognize the importance of honouring the Premier's solemnly pledged commitment and to set about the important task of developing a substantial and meaningful plan to seek a reduction of our province's levels of greenhouse gas emissions, rather than continuing to evade all responsibility in her duties to actually address this critically important issue which will directly affect our province's economy and the quality of life for all of our residents;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, reject the intensity-based reduction targets which the Saskatchewan Party government has shamefully followed the federal Conservative government in adopting, in favour of absolute reduction targets, and to immediately enact said absolute reduction targets in the new management and reduction of greenhouse gases Act;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, reverse its ill-advised decision to cut all funding to the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative and to recognize that the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative is a valuable and much-needed organization in that it generates practical options to help Saskatchewan to adapt to current and future impacts of climate change and fosters the development of new professionals in the emerging science of climate change impacts and adaptations;

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately, without delay, restore the full amount of funding which it recently cut to the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Regina and Saskatoon. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition in support of protecting Saskatchewan workers. Mr. Speaker, according to the Workers' Compensation Board, 34 people were killed in the workplace in Saskatchewan in 2010. Fifty-two workers in the potash industry have been killed, and the current government has created a culture of complacency with regards to upholding safety regulations and the acceptance of risk, injury, and death in the workplace, and that the working people of Saskatchewan should never be expected to put their lives at risk when doing their job. And we in the prayer . . . The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

Cause the government to immediately recognize the importance of creating a safe and healthy working environment for all people of Saskatchewan;

And in so doing cause the government to support the hard work and integrity of occupational health and safety officers and respect their authority by supporting them in the performance of their duties;

And in so doing create a culture and atmosphere of respect for the working people, of upholding the high standards of occupational health and safety, and by honouring those workers who have been killed in the workplace in Saskatchewan.

I so present. These petitions are signed by people from Saskatoon and Delisle.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to present a petition to the Assembly. The petition notes many Saskatchewan seniors live on fixed incomes and are victims of physical, emotional, and financial abuse. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Calls on the Legislative Assembly to enact a Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights which would provide Saskatchewan seniors with social and economic security and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of The Battlefords constituency. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion deficit budgets of the Sask Party and two years of debt growth under the Sask Party. They characterize the current budget as irresponsible, short-sighted, and taking us backwards, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads as

follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned citizens of Regina. I so submit.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. This petition is signed by residents concerned that the Sask Party government has put ideology ahead of good public policy with the closure of SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] and that it has allowed the film and television industry to languish in the last two years. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to make changes to the film employment tax credit that will allow the Saskatchewan film industry to be more competitive with other provinces; to reverse its decision to shut down the Saskatchewan Communications Network; and to work with the industry to reverse the decline in film production.

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

This petition is signed by residents of Regina. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Earth Day

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly proclaim that today, across Canada and around the globe people, young and old, will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Over 6 million Canadians will join 1 billion people in 170 countries raising awareness about the critical environmental issues that face humanity.

Across Saskatchewan, citizens are staging events and playing their part in this noble cause. In Estevan, community members are meeting at the library to learn how eating locally is better for the environment, their health, and the local economy.

Here in Regina the Seeds For Sustainability concert will be held at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum with all proceeds going to the north central community gardens. And local Girl Guides

will be connecting with their communities, spending the morning participating in a city-wide cleanup campaign.

Beginning tomorrow, a three-day film festival, complete with youth programs, workshops, and guest speakers will be held in Craik.

Mr. Speaker, despite these wonderful events, we must remember that Earth Day is a time not only for reflection, but for reminder for action. As members of this Assembly, we are the chief stewards of our province's abundant ecosystems and natural resources. It is both our duty and responsibility to not only pay lip service to the environment, but to pass strong, effective environmental legislation that will ensure healthy and vibrant ecosystems for generations to come.

To quote a Native American proverb, "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Mr. Speaker, if we're going to entrust our children with the earth they deserve, we need real action and we need to start today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today in recognition of Earth Day. This day is a special time set aside to honour the earth, our only home. Earth Day began in 1970 and is recognized as the birth of the environmental movement. It's a day to raise awareness about the need to increase our efforts to keep our environment clean and safe for our future generations. Mr. Speaker, we look at Earth Day as an opportunity to stimulate positive actions aimed at local, regional, and global issues.

Mr. Speaker, today also marks the two-year anniversary of the NDP [New Democratic Party] Environment critic's request that we adopt the federal government's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. I ask all members to join with us today in celebrating Earth Day and the fact that on the important issue of climate change, our government and the opposition, especially the Environment critic, have placed partisanship aside and found common ground on the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets we should be setting.

Mr. Speaker, if only the member from Walsh Acres could once again show those same strong leadership qualities and convince her colleagues that they should stop delaying our government's current climate change Bills, if this would happen we could get more done on the Environment file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Potash Council

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the formation of the Saskatchewan Potash Council in September of 2008, the council has been working hard to become an effective voice between Saskatchewan labour representatives and the Saskatchewan potash industry.

Participating Saskatchewan potash organizations are: CEP [Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada]

Local 922, CEP Local 892, United Steelworkers Area Council, United Steelworkers Local 189, United Steelworkers Local 7458, United Steelworkers Local 7552, United Steelworkers Local 7656, United Steelworkers Local 7689, and the Rocanville Potash Employees Association.

The council fulfills an essential role in educating their members on health and safety regulations, collective bargaining, political action campaigns, and WC [workers' compensation] compensation and appeals. They also promote workers' issues within the potash industry and lobby two levels of government to support workers' rights.

By bringing together many different voices and by representing many different unions, the Saskatchewan Potash Council has formed a strong and united voice for people working in the potash industry. The spirit of solidarity, combined with hard work and dedication, is a driving force for the Potash Council's mission to achieve justice and equality for all workers in the potash industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in recognizing the Saskatchewan Potash Council for its hard work and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Opposition Allegations

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, for some time now the NDP's been spreading the mistruth that the Premier had two companies that went bankrupt. Now they're using taxpayers' money to spread this falsehood.

The NDP MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] are using their taxpayer-funded allowances to run radio attack ads that spread a number of falsehoods, including the one about the bankruptcies.

This morning I wrote a letter asking the Speaker to review this matter pursuant to section 56 of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. We believe these NDP attack ads are a violation of the Act and the Board of Internal Economy directives.

Directive 4.1 states that members are allowed to use their constituency allowance to "convey ideas and information." I believe it is intended that the information conveyed should not be false information and that using the constituency allowance to convey false information is a violation of the directive.

I refer also to the members' code of ethical conduct which states, "To our constituents we owe honesty . . ." and "To our colleagues in this Assembly, we owe . . . fairness in political dealings."

The statement that the Premier launched two companies that went bankrupt is neither honest nor fair. It simply isn't true and taxpayers' money should not be used by the NDP to spread this falsehood. Mr. Speaker, I would challenge the NDP MLAs to provide you with documentation to prove that the statement is accurate. I know that they will be unable to do so and as such, the NDP MLAs should not be allowed to use their

taxpayer-funded allowances to spread this mistruth.

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

Labour Legislation

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier made it clear from his first days in government that he was going to war with the working people in Saskatchewan. This government rammed through Bill 5, the essential services legislation, Bill 6, *The Trade Union Act*, crippling the power of working people to negotiate and organize. And soon the government will force Bill 80 down the throats of Saskatchewan people despite the fact that it is a self-interested attempt to fix the construction industry, an industry that is not broken.

The Sask Party has mismanaged the labour legislation file so badly that even the United Nations is now recognizing the Sask Party government's incompetence. The International Labour Organization, a prestigious United Nations body, has publicly condemned this labour legislation. But did the Sask Party reverse their decision and repeal the legislation? No, they actually pledged to take the fight against the working people all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada.

While the Premier walked away from a court battle with the federal Conservatives that could have resulted in 800 million a year for Saskatchewan families, he is willing to carry on his war with working families of this province in spite of international condemnation. The Premier claims that there is too much red tape in occupational health and safety. Meanwhile the number of fatal deaths continues to rise. Mr. Speaker, the Premier should be honouring those workers who have gone to work and been killed, not going to war with their families. Thank you.

[10:30]

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

Comments on Kidney Transplant Program

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address misleading comments made yesterday by the member opposite from Saskatoon Eastview about the province's kidney transplant program. The people of this province who have kidney disease and require kidney transplants are . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. I would ask members to allow the member to make her statement.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The people of this province who have kidney disease and require kidney transplants are presented with unimaginable challenges. These people are not benefiting from the confusion, the misinformation, and quite frankly the politicization of this issue.

The member opposite said, and I quote:

I spoke to Dr. Shoker this morning . . . According to Dr. Shoker, “If there is no firm start date, the surgeons will leave.”

Minister McMorris had the pleasure of speaking directly to Dr. Shoker this morning at 9 a.m. It is . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I would ask the member, if that isn’t a quote, the member’s not to use a member’s name, but to refer to their constituency.

Ms. Ross: — I apologize. The Minister of Health had the pleasure of speaking directly to Dr. Shoker this morning at 9 a.m. It is irresponsible for the member opposite to take this comment out of context yesterday in the House, completely misleading the public and this Assembly by using comments from Dr. Shoker inappropriately and following the usual pattern of fearmongering by the NDP.

Dr. Shoker said he is encouraged by their conversation and stated that he believes no surgeon would be leaving as work continues on this program, noting that he does not speak on behalf of the surgeons, as he is actually . . .

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

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would just remind the member that over time we have been very careful on how we use certain terms and the term misleading, while it was hard to determine whether in the context, it certainly doesn’t add to the debate.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Health Care Results

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier must truly expect that Saskatchewan people have unlimited patience. Since he was appointed by the Premier, the Health minister has done nothing but make promises and conduct one study after another. But he’s forgot one thing. He’s forgot about providing any results, Mr. Speaker.

To begin with, the minister spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on his flagship Patient First Review. And what have we seen as a result? Patients on their deathbed, waiting for kidney transplants and unable to get them because this Health minister and this Premier shut down the program.

But the Premier told them, just keep waiting; just have patience. Mr. Speaker, the Premier spent millions more taxpayer dollars on a doctor recruitment agency, and the only results we’ve seen are a rise in the physician vacancies around the province. Just last week we saw three more physicians leave in Moose Jaw, leaving the two remaining doctors to shoulder the burden by working overtime. And the patients, Mr. Speaker? They will certainly have to test their patience since the clinic is now only open for limited hours, and patients are being forced to line up outside just to receive health care.

Mr. Speaker, we’ve seen women with ovarian cancer left with nowhere to turn since this Health minister forced Regina’s gyne-oncologist to close her doors due to substandard working conditions and overwork. The Sask Party government has asked for two years to address the situation, but finally Dr. Brydon too ran out of patience.

Mr. Speaker, it’s time for the Premier and his Health minister to deliver some results to the real patients of Saskatchewan.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Workplace Safety

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. As he will know, there are 14 representatives of potash workers in the gallery today, and they are here to observe question period and visit with members of the opposition. They represent thousands of miners from across the province who work in the potash industries.

These are hard-working people who pay their taxes. They’re involved in the community. They do an honest day’s work for not so much pay, but they work hard and they’re well trained and they work in dangerous jobs. And the problem is they don’t feel that their work is valued by this government. And in fact, 52 miners in the potash industry have died here, in Saskatchewan.

And my question to the Premier is this: these family members want to know when this government will stop treating them, with the high number of fatalities that are taking place, and will stop treating these fatalities as simply a matter of reality that nothing can be done about. When will they stop treating these incidents of death with the . . . take them seriously for the first time and do something about it?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to talk about this very, very serious subject and that is occupational health and safety, and in this instance as it pertains to Saskatchewan’s mines.

Mr. Speaker, what we’ve endeavoured to do and that we can demonstrate is that we are working diligently to ensure that we’re actually putting greater emphasis with greater results on occupational health and safety. For example, in conducting workplace inspections, in 2006-07, the last year of the members opposite, there were 3,621. In 2009-10, there were 4,785. That’s a 32 per cent increase on workplace inspections — an increase.

Mr. Speaker I can also offer that there were stop work orders issued. In 2006-07, there were 210. In fact last year in ’09-10, we saw 794. That’s a 278 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. There’s more to do. We know that, but we take occupational health and safety very seriously.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the sad part is that the fact that these people who work in risky occupations, and that when fatalities occur, these are a true tragedy for the family, for the community, and for the industry.

And by contrast, when a miner died in Esterhazy last fall, this government simply brushed it aside. And I say that with seriousness because that is not the way to handle this kind of an issue. And the minister can brag about the number of times that there have been inspections and when there had been contraventions, but the fact of the matter is this: that the number of deaths of working people in '07 was 21 and in '09 was 26. Those are the numbers that matter; not the number of inspections, but the number of deaths. And they've increased significantly under this Premier's watch.

My question to the Premier is this: if you're doing such a great job, why are more workers dying in this province now than before?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity again to speak to this very significant and serious subject. Mr. Speaker, for a number of years, Saskatchewan's record on occupational health and safety is one that warrants improvement. It's one of the reasons that we've put forward Mission: Zero, and that we've put in place a memorandum of understanding between the Workers' Compensations Board and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour to actually advance Mission: Zero. And that is to ensure that we're working towards the only acceptable number; that is zero occupational injuries or deaths.

What we can say is we're increasing also not only our inspections, not only our stop work orders, we're also working to ensure that there's greater transparency and information being shared. So that as of last summer, we've updated our website with more occupational health and safety and labour standard enforcement information. And we've just recently come forward with a new initiative where young people in Saskatchewan are being given the opportunity to take online tests. Those include very specific elements of occupational health and safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier and the minister. I'm not arguing whether he's getting things up on the website or not. The fact of the matter is many people can't find where it's at on the website and there's a difficult time getting information. But that's not the main problem.

The main problem is the Premier set the tone from day one with working people in this province when he said the following: that he intended to go to war with labour and working people. And that sets a tone for managers across the province. That's the problem.

He also passed labour legislation that gets condemned by the ILO [International Labour Organization]. We have workers,

health care workers without a contract going into their third year. My question to the Premier is this: how can a government that boasts of going to war with the working people of this province then say they can be trusted? The safety of the workplace, how can that be that you go to war and then have people believe that you're going to have a safe workplace?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well to echo the words of the minister responsible, obviously workplace safety is a very serious issue in this province. It transcends partisan politics; at least it ought to, Mr. Speaker. And as evidenced by the ministers who report to this legislature, two good questions with respect to worker safety, detailing the government's priorities with respect to Mission Zero, detailing an increase in the number of work site inspections, detailing an increase in the number of stop work orders. Mr. Speaker, this issue's taken very seriously.

The reference the hon. member makes is his usual, is taken out of context, and not based on the truth, Mr. Speaker. The best thing we can do in this province, the best thing we can do in this province for working families is to ensure that there is safe work places, but it is to also ensure that there are more opportunities in this province for families, unionized and non-unionized. That's why we see in record numbers, in record numbers — despite what members opposite have to say — people moving to this province to find workplace opportunities in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, it is an important issue. And if it's an important issue, one of the questions I guess could be was the number of cuts in the Department of Labour that were made to work safety and occupational health and safety and the workers' advocate.

But Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Tkach lost her husband Robert in 2008 after the Jeep he was driving went over an unmarked ledge at the potash mine in Lanigan, and he was thrown from the vehicle and then pinned beneath it. Inspectors had warned the company to ensure that hazards like this ledge be well marked after a similar tragedy at another mine. But there was no requirement placed on the company to report back on the steps it was taking to comply.

To the Premier: why were the mining companies not required to report back? And is that an indication of how seriously this government takes worker safety?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, again, obviously this is a very serious and sensitive issue. It's one that we put tremendous emphasis on. In the case that the member has brought up, I would just like to report and it's on the public record. The company was charged with contravening the following sections of occupational health and safety, and that was 4(1) and 61, 3(a), 17(1)(a), 17(1)(c), and 25(2). What we see, Mr. Speaker, is

that that company was fined the maximum penalty allowed under occupational health and safety. As well there was an order for the company to pay \$120,000 victim fine surcharge, the maximum amount. Obviously there's always more to do, Mr. Speaker. And in these moments our hearts go out to the family members and we roll up our sleeves. We know there's more to do.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, at the Seabee mine when a miner was killed in a similar incident that the department wrote a letter to all the mines saying that they should pay attention to this. That was what the response was. Mr. Speaker, Robert Tkach was driving in a jeep that did not have a seatbelt. Many of the vehicles at the Lanigan mine didn't have seatbelts, despite this being a requirement by provincial legislation, but this rule was never enforced.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Tkach is here today and she wants to ask the government what gives them the right to decide which regulations get enforced and which do not?

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

[10:15]

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, again on this specific issue, the company in question was fined the maximum amount. There is certainly more to do. I think importantly, Mr. Speaker, what we can do is look at some records regarding prosecutions, and that is in 2006-07 the final member's year in office there were six prosecutions initiated. In this past year, in '09-10, 15 — 15 prosecutions were initiated.

Certainly we know there's more to do, but empirically we can demonstrate that there is more effort with greater emphasis, Mr. Speaker, on occupational health and safety than there has been for several years. Is there more to do? Yes, there is. And we do it with the aim of Mission: Zero, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, the signal that they're sending here, the record speaks for itself. They have a fired occupational health and safety worker. When we raised an issue around a crane, they were asking where did we get the information before they acted. That's the record over there.

Mr. Speaker, they brag about increased number of inspections and contraventions, but it's not backed up by proper enforcement and meaningful follow-up, and they don't mean a thing, Mr. Speaker. Inspectors had warned PCS [Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.] to ensure that hazards like the ledge were well marked, but clearly those warnings were not enough. The miners are here today to say that all too often there is no meaningful follow-up on inspections or notices of contravention.

And to the Premier: he can boast all he likes about increased

numbers of inspections, but if it doesn't result in safer workplaces, what has he really accomplished?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I will just simply say that we have a lot of faith within our officials. We have a culture of continuous improvement, and certainly there's always more to do. I would like to also offer that, I would also like to reinforce that this is a shared responsibility. Government has a leadership role.

And what I can highlight, Mr. Speaker, is that the number of training participants taking place and participating in occupational health committee and supervisor training initiatives, Mr. Speaker, in 2006-07, there were 3,866 participating. This past year we've had 4,713 participating. That is an increase of 22 per cent, Mr. Speaker, reflecting and reinforcing obviously a leadership role to be played by the government. But also we know it's a shared responsibility. And there are actually more people participating in these kind of training initiatives that certainly help to reflect and reinforce this shared responsibility, one that we certainly put a priority on, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, we've seen what happens when workers speak out to try and make a change over there. They get fired. Mr. Speaker, it's too late to save Robert Tkach, but hopefully it's not too late to save others.

Workers at the Rocanville mine are concerned about a change in policy regarding the operation of an emergency hoist intended to be used to safely bring miners to the surface in the event of an underground emergency. Previously a trained hoist operator was required to be on site at all times. Now one only has to be on call. This means that in an event of an emergency, an uncertified operator may be the only person available to operate the hoist and bring workers from the underground.

To the Premier: what are these workers supposed to do in the event of an emergency?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're certainly interested in looking into this. This is part of our ongoing dialogue with the council. The subjects that have been included in the deliberations include enforcement activities, Mr. Speaker, physical barriers as they relate to the activities within the mining sector, codes of practice, Mr. Speaker, as well as reporting dangerous occurrences. Mr. Speaker, obviously there's more to do. This is part of an ongoing dialogue with ministry officials, and certainly we'll be happy to follow up quite quickly on the issue that's just been raised.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I should thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, he met with this individual, these individuals just about a year ago already. He met with them. And not only that, Mr. Speaker, the fact is this: the site in question was visited by the director of occupational health and safety, Glennis Bihun. Workers were promised action, but months later nothing has changed.

This is more than a simple question of certification, Mr. Speaker. If someone without proper training is forced to operate this hoist in the event of an emergency, the results could be disastrous. To the Premier: why are the lives of these miners being put at risk by this government's incompetence?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Again, Mr. Speaker, certainly that culture of continuing and constant improvement is one that informs our work. Our aim is focused on Mission: Zero.

What we're pleased to report is that, as tabled in the recent WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] report, we have a time loss rate that is actually decreasing, that is getting better within the province, Mr. Speaker. We have fewer time loss claims, and that is nearly a 10 per cent decrease since 2007, Mr. Speaker. The total injury rate is also improving, Mr. Speaker, that is, since 2007 what we've seen is an improvement of 8.4 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, obviously this is not about these kind of statistics. This is about making sure that occupational health and safety plays a key role in workplaces across the province. This is a key priority for us. It's why we've focused on Mission: Zero. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to have that emphasis.

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

Police Investigation and Member's Conduct

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier was asked on Monday morning what the government turned over to the police and he said this, and I quote, "Just what we have, what the CBC provided to us . . ."

Well we know that the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] turned over absolutely nothing to the government over the weekend, so the government couldn't turn over the audio tape or the chat transcript because they didn't have them. To the Premier: is it not the truth that the government turned nothing over to the police?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that we are co-operating fully and completely with the Regina Police Service. We are providing to them everything that is in our possession, Mr. Speaker. Regardless of what it is, regardless of what they ask for, it will be provided to the Regina Police Service. This government will co-operate fully and completely with that investigation. We don't know how long that investigation will take place but, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure you and the members of the public that the Regina Police

Service will have the full and complete co-operation of this government.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned that the Sask Party caucus has a habit of misusing taxpayers' dollars, with one Blaise Boehmer, a Sask Party caucus office staffer whose salary is paid by the taxpayers who was also operating the NDP Watch blog. Of course this is a pattern. The people of Saskatchewan learned yesterday that the Premier's legislative secretary may have been using his taxpayer-funded constituency assistant and his constituency office for personal gain.

To the Premier: has the government turned over the issue of the legislative secretary's potential misuse of his constituency assistant and his constituency office to the police? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we don't instruct the police how to conduct an investigation. We received information last week that indicated a potential criminal offence. Mr. Speaker, the government did the correct and appropriate thing. We contacted the police. We made our officials available to them so that they could provide whatever information they had received. Everything has taken place.

And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to provide that co-operation. We will let the Regina Police Service determine what, how, and when they will investigate. And if the investigation goes a different direction, so be it. But regardless of what happens with that investigation, Mr. Speaker, this government and the members on this side of the House will co-operate fully, completely, and totally.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter. The unanswered questions continue to mount. When the CBC called the constituency assistant on the business cellphone number yesterday to verify this concern, the constituency assistant hung up. We need answers, Mr. Speaker. If the Premier has not turned over the issue of the legislative secretary's potential misuse of his constituency assistant and his constituency office to the police, then there's absolutely no reason why he cannot be turned over immediately to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, we also learned yesterday that the Premier has chosen not to release any details about the expenses of the legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing because of the government's refusal to provide these answers in written questions. We do not know whether or not the legislative secretary used taxpayers' resources inappropriately.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: will he agree today to a unanimous motion of this Assembly to turn this issue over to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, on that side of the House they have two members of the Law Society. Those members of the Law Society will give them the advice, I am sure, that before anything happens . . . [inaudible] . . . by way of a civil nature, we should let the criminal procedure take place. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that that would be the advice that those members would give, and I'm sure that the member from Saskatoon Meewasin would have given that advice when he was the minister of Justice before I was.

Mr. Speaker, we will give our co-operation, it will be continuing co-operation, and we will not cloud a criminal investigation by taking steps or doing anything that will interfere, distract, or disrupt that process as it takes place. Mr. Speaker, the members on this side of the House will co-operate fully, completely, and totally with the investigation of the Regina Police Service. The Regina Police Service have in fact confirmed that they have received the information and are conducting an investigation.

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

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party promised in the 2007 election campaign to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and to reduce greenhouse gases by 32 per cent from 2007 levels. Then in May and December of last year, they promised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent from 2006 levels by the year 2020. Every few months it seems they have a new set of targets, but they won't make any of these targets legally binding. Their so-called management and reduction of greenhouse gases Act still doesn't contain targets of any kind.

To the minister: why won't she put her reduction targets into legislation, or is she just ragging the puck until after the next election?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for her question, and I would like to offer her my congratulations. As was mentioned earlier, today is her second-year anniversary. Two years ago today on Earth Day, the Environment critic for the NDP said, and I quote, "I would say the federal targets are something that they should clearly be adopting." So, Mr. Speaker, the NDP have gone from . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the member from Prince Albert Northcote to allow the minister to respond. I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP have gone from a target of 32 per cent, and two years ago they asked, their NDP Environment critic asked us to adopt the federal targets. And, Mr. Speaker, just last fall their leader said, and I quote:

My view is that we will watch as this develops and through our policy forums come forward with our proposal. But at this point, I think to do something other than the Americans is going to be very difficult.

So, Mr. Speaker, they have gone from 32 per cent to 20 per cent to 17 per cent target that they are now endorsing that the Americans are doing. They want to talk about targets, that's fine, Mr. Speaker, but they need to come up with their own plan first.

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

Ms. Morin: — You know, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party and the Minister of Environment love nothing better than spin and rhetoric. Well here is a quote, here is a quote that I think that they should be listening to. Here's a beautiful quote. And this comes from Robert Ingersoll, and it's, "In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments. There are consequences," Mr. Speaker. And the Sask Party will see the consequences to the environment under their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people can only judge this government on what they do and on what legally binding commitments they're prepared to make.

This government won't put their so-called greenhouse gas reduction targets into legislation, but they're negotiating a new West partnership agreement behind closed doors, an agreement that no one has seen, an agreement that could weaken the ability of our provincial government to defend Saskatchewan people's interests. To the minister: is there anything in this new West partnership agreement that will weaken the ability of the provincial government to address climate change and protect our environment?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for her question. I find it interesting, her accusations of ragging the puck. And we have legislation before this very House that the NDP is absolutely refusing to get through to committee so that we get this legislation passed so that we can make sure that large emitters in this province are regulated to actually reduce their emissions, Mr. Speaker.

If she were sincere about her position about addressing this issue, they would get their House Leader to work with our House Leader to get that legislation through. Because, Mr. Speaker, their very own House Leader said, and I quote, about our legislation on climate change: ". . . what we're urging the government to do is reintroduce their . . . Bill . . . because we support that Bill."

Mr. Speaker, their House Leader went on to say, and I quote, ". . . this is a Bill that has substance and structure in which to accomplish the goals of which the government has brought . . ."

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. There's a private debate

between members across the floor, and I'd ask the members to cease that debate and allow the Minister of Environment to complete her response.

[11:00]

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, and as to ragging the puck, the Leader of the NDP said, and I quote, "I think it's incumbent on large producers of fossil fuels to be clear on what their environment policy is going to be, according to the NDP." And he said, of the NDP, and I quote, "I think we've got quite a bit of work to do there," Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the NDP don't believe they have a position. I don't think the people of this province believe that the NDP have a position.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 137 — *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2010*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 137, *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2010* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing has moved that Bill No. 137, *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2010* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 138 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2010 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved first reading of Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 612 — *The Earth Day Recognition Act*

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 612, *The Earth Day Recognition Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Walsh Acres has moved first reading of Bill No. 612, *The Earth Day Recognition Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Ms. Morin: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 127, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered in committee? I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 127, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment and that the Bill and its amendments be now read

the second time, third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Leave is granted. When shall the amendments be read the first time?

I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 127 — *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read the first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — I invite the minister to move to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 127 — *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 127, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title.

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.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 104, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered in committee? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on the Bill and that it now be read a third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Or, pardon me, is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 104 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 104, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 114, *The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 114, *The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2009* and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 124 — *The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur les petites créances*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 114, *The Small Claims Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 102, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered in committee? I recognize the Minister of Justice?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill now be read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No.

102, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 102 — *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 102, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 124, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that this Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 124, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave

granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 124 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 124, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title.

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.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Human Services Committee.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 128, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 128, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 128 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour that Bill No. 128, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, with a request for leave for members to briefly introduce a guest in your gallery.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave for introduction of guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to introduce to members of this Assembly, through you, a former constituent of mine who is here for a temporary visit, but a very important one, Mr. Speaker. Rory Grooters is seated in your gallery, or more appropriately, Pastor Rory Grooters is seated in your gallery. And he and wife Karen and their kids have been not only very good friends of our family but as I say, Mr. Speaker, also constituents up until about a year and a half, almost two years ago when Pastor Grooters went down to Missouri to take his master's in theology.

He has recently returned, in part, Mr. Speaker, to go through the official ceremony of becoming a Canadian citizen. He's originally from Michigan where he was a police officer before he chose another line of work or maybe one was chosen for him. And, Mr. Speaker, he is going to be joining his . . . the rest of his family, of course his wife he met in . . . from Manitoba. He will be becoming a Canadian citizen here, I believe, later this week. And it's a pleasure to have him here back visiting, and I'd ask all members to welcome him to this Legislative Assembly.

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

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Oral notice for closure, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice pursuant to rule 66(1) that of the next sitting of the Assembly when the order of the day is called for resuming consideration of the government motion for the sessional revision of sitting times, I will move that consideration of the said motion be not further postponed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, to request leave to move a motion under rule 59.

The Speaker: — The member should state his rule . . . the reason for the motion under rule 59 for the purpose of the Assembly.

MOTION UNDER RULE 59

Investigation by Conflict of Interest Commissioner

Mr. Yates: — For days we have seen a growing cloud of questions about the member for Saskatoon Northwest, including questions about his use of taxpayers' resources and whether he used his position for personal gain.

While one small part of this has been turned over to the police for them to determine if there is any issue to pursue under the Criminal Code, the reality is that standards for MLAs go well beyond the Criminal Code. The police are not looking into the misuse of taxpayers' dollars; that is the job of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Yesterday the Minister of Justice said that the situation "puts a cloud over all members of the Legislative Assembly." For that reason, Mr. Speaker, the opposition is hopeful that the government will agree to the motion. Mr. Speaker, the motion is:

That this Assembly calls upon the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to immediately investigate the actions of the member from Saskatoon Northwest with respect to his compliance with *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* concerning the potential misuse of public funds.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Dewdney has asked for leave to move a motion under rule 59. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave is not granted. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the suggestion and the commitment of the Leader of the Official Opposition that we move to the management and reduction of greenhouse gases, I would ask that I be allowed to make a

motion to move to government business to Bill No. 121 and pass all remaining stages today.

[11:15]

The Speaker: — The member has asked, I believe, is asking for leave to move the government business to Bill 126. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave is not granted. Leave is not granted.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of order.

The Speaker: — Can the member state his point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During member statements today, the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley repeatedly used the statement, Mr. Speaker, that the official opposition, members of the official opposition had deliberately misled the public.

And on page 145 of Beauchesne's, Mr. Speaker in *Debates* of May 20th, 1959, on page on 3837; *Debates*, June 29th, 1966, page 7019; *Debates*, February 6th, 1967, on pages 12685; *Debates*, June 19th, 1969, page 10403; *Debates*, May 7th, 1970, page 6712; *Debates*, May 19th, 1970, pages 7086; *Debates*, November 24th, 1971, page 9847; *Debates*, December 22nd, 1971, page 10711; *Debates*, March 15th, 1972, pages 848 to 849; *Debates*, June 28th, 1972, page 3598; *Debates*, February 7th, 1973, page 1033; *Debates*, May 10th, 1973, page 3608; *Debates*, November 19th, 1973, page 7913; *Debates*, March 5th, 1974, page 168; and *Debates*, April 18th, 1974, page 1537, Mr. Speaker, this has been ruled out of order.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, in another section, Mr. Speaker, the member went on to say, "misleading the public." Mr. Speaker, on page 146 of Beauchesne's, that was also ruled out of order on February the 1st, 1960, on page 591.

Mr. Speaker, I think it should be very clear that the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley did what was not permitted, used language that was not permitted in the House, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask that you review the *Hansard* and rule on this order.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, indeed all of those quotes are in Beauchesne's, and I have used them a number of times in bringing forward arguments, Mr. Speaker, about the terms, the loose use of phrasing, that the members of the opposition do on a consistent basis, Mr. Speaker.

I believe in this particular case, Mr. Speaker, you have actually already ruled on this question . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Earlier in the day, as the member from Regina Dewdney stated, there were a couple of quotes that the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley had quoted. At the time, just to ensure that I had heard correctly, I was thinking in my mind that I will review it, but asked members to be mindful of their quotes.

But having had the time to sit here and also pick up Beauchesne's, as the member already has, I find that certainly the "misleading the public," based on the rules before us, is out of order and ask the member to apologize and withdraw.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will withdraw and apologize.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

2010 Budget

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — It's a pleasure once again to be on my feet to address an issue that is of very much significance in the minds and the lives of the people of the province of Saskatchewan. I'm referring, Mr. Speaker, to this year's budget presented by the government, the Saskatchewan Party government, on March 24th of this spring. And toward the end of my comments, I'm going to be asking that this motion be accepted by the Speaker:

That this Assembly recognize their government's commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan's continued economic growth and success by way of our balanced, responsible, and forward-looking budget.

Mr. Speaker, this motion speaks to a much, much larger matter, frankly, because the budget this year addresses issues that arose from previous circumstances. It addresses the reality of today and it builds on the economic future and purports, rather, to help us build a stronger economic future for the province of Saskatchewan and our many people.

Mr. Speaker, this budget was not created in a vacuum. It was created in an environment of serious intent. It was deliberated over by a number of people through a period of many months. It was weighed in on by members of the Executive Council, various ministers who brought their ideas and their proposals to Treasury Board as the budget was being developed, and eventually it was placed before our entire caucus for consideration. And budgets like this which are very significant as milestones in the life of a government aren't arrived at without that kind of intense participation and careful scrutiny.

So, Mr. Speaker, the budget that was presented this year not only stated clearly what the intentions of our government are for this upcoming 12-month period of fiscal endurance, but it speaks to where we're going to be going as we move forward in

this province, meeting the needs of the people of the province but stating clearly what we believe the role of government ought to be in the lives of the people of this province.

And it's our view, Mr. Speaker — I'd like to say that for the record — that this government believes in smaller, more efficient and effective government. We hope to hold the line on spending as much as possible. We want to evaluate programs for not just their mere existence, not just for their historical participation, but for their benefit to the people of the province, for their ongoing contribution to the effective delivery of government. And if programs can't meet that kind of criteria, Mr. Speaker, we're going to be weighing them, measuring them, and either asking for a redesign or asking for a contemplation of a new program or possibly eliminating the program.

Governments cannot be all things to all people at all times. There are limitations to what governments ought to do and what our funding will allow, and so those are the kinds of questions we're going to be asking as we evaluate programs in the future. Is this a necessary role for government or is there a better way to deliver the service?

So, Mr. Speaker, that just forms some of the foundation for the budget that was presented by the Saskatchewan Party government for this upcoming fiscal year. But it wasn't created in a vacuum, as I said, and let me just for the sake of citizens of Saskatchewan, for the members in the House today, let me set some of the additional context within which this budget came into being.

Last year at this time, Mr. Speaker, the economy of the nation of Canada was in difficult straits. The economies of virtually every province in this nation, and the territories as well, those economies were in difficult straits. But the difficulty being experienced in this nation was nothing compared to the economies of the United States, western Europe, a little later eastern Europe. Some Third World countries were badly affected by the economic downturn of the last 12 to 18 months.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we look at where Saskatchewan is vis-à-vis the economies of other provinces, the Government of Canada, and international economies around the world, I would have to say, Mr. Speaker, that we are very well positioned. We were well positioned. We weathered that storm, not without some impact, but we weathered that storm relatively well versus everybody else. And now we're moving forward, building on that stability, and building on that strength.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can't overemphasize the importance of the kind of actions taken by this government in its first two years of mandate that helped us achieve that level of stability.

Last year we saw banks going broke. We saw the world's largest insurance company go into receivership. We saw governments taking on record levels of debt. We saw industries evaporate and we saw savings disappear.

Mr. Speaker, during the economic meltdown that was affecting so much of the economy elsewhere, we saw General Motors require an unprecedented government bailout. And it's in the news again today, Mr. Speaker, because GM [General Motors]

has actually started to pay some of that money back.

But employment insurance had to be restructured to accommodate the rapid rise in unemployment. Canada even faced a potential constitutional crisis because of the federal government's response to the economic meltdown. And yet, Mr. Speaker, in spite of all that fallout, one economy emerged better than ever before. Mr. Speaker, let me say that again. One economy emerged better than ever before, and that's the economy in the province of Saskatchewan. I'm proud to say that this has been and continues to be the best place to weather the economic storm and to see the progression as we move forward in our economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to touch briefly on some of the highlights from the budget because I have some additional comments I want to make. But this budget produced a reduction in the size of government, in the amount of spending. We saw an investment in key capital and programming areas. We saw sustaining and enhancing of core government services.

We are predicting a \$20 million surplus in the General Revenue Fund. We saw overall government spending reduced by 1.2 per cent. There's no rise in government debt. It remains at \$4.5 billion as of March 21st, 2011. Our Growth and Financial Security Fund is projected to have a year-end balance of over \$500 million.

A 2010-11 infrastructure budget of \$632 million, Mr. Speaker: 177 million in municipal infrastructure funding — that's up 30 per cent over the previous year; we've got \$161 million set aside for 470 kilometres of new highway construction in the province; we've got \$16 million for agricultural research and development; we've got \$7.9 million for additional new health care training seats.

And there are many, many more highlights from this budget, Mr. Speaker, that I could enunciate today.

But let's compare that to what other jurisdictions have done in this most recent fiscal period. Let's look at Ontario. Once the country's largest and wealthiest province, Mr. Speaker, the province of Ontario in their budget this year have posted a record deficit of \$21.3 billion. And in Nova Scotia, they posted a \$221.1 million deficit for this fiscal year, and that's in addition, Mr. Speaker, to the \$488 million deficit that they posted in 2009-10.

What about our neighbours to the west, the very prosperous, successful province of Alberta? Mr. Speaker, they felt the impact of the economic downturn in some ways greater than other jurisdictions. They have posted a record \$4.7 billion deficit for the 2010-11 fiscal year, and that's in addition, Mr. Speaker, to a \$4.7 billion deficit for the previous fiscal year. So the province of Alberta has been hit very hard. They've had to go into deficit financing as contrasted to what's happened here in the province of Saskatchewan. No deficit financing here.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that this balance, this budget wasn't only a non-deficit budget but it was so clearly balanced by the very criteria used by every other government over the last 14 or 15 years, that there can be no question about the nature and the success of this particular budget this year.

Mr. Speaker, budgets aren't created in a vacuum. But not only are they created on the basis of economic realities, they form the foundation for what the citizens of the province think about the economy. And by any measure, Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Saskatchewan are convinced that this budget is the right budget, this government is the right government, and the times are right and ripe for improvement.

Mr. Speaker, how do I know that? Well people keep moving here. Mr. Speaker, we've seen the largest population growth at any time in our history outside of when the province was first opened up. Mr. Speaker, it's been years and years since we've seen this kind of growth, and that growth is a vote of confidence by the people of the nation and of other nations who are coming to the province of Saskatchewan to enjoy the stability and the success of a growing and prospering economy.

Mr. Speaker, employment is at an all-time high — 520,000 people employed in the province of Saskatchewan. That's a 1.8 per cent growth over last year, whereas the Canadian average is only point 9 per cent, nine-tenths of 1 per cent. Saskatchewan is now ranked number 3 in employment.

Saskatchewan's GDP [gross domestic product] pegged at 41.6 billion in 2008. That's a 4.2 per cent growth in that year, while the Canadian average is four-tenths of one per cent. Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the indicators of continuing strength in our economy.

[11:30]

I couldn't help but notice, Mr. Speaker, last night as I was watching the late night news, there was additional good news again. Every day we're finding a little bit more to celebrate in this province. I noticed that car dealers in this province are exceptionally happy with the results of consumer sales over the last little while. That shows a confidence by the people in the province that things are moving in the right direction, that they are going to have employment stability.

They'll have income stability which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, wages in this province are going up on a weekly basis like they've never gone up before. But consumers are finding that security, that financial security, and using it to buy consumer goods and in this instance we're talking about vehicle sales that are hitting their stride very, very significantly in this province.

What was the other thing we saw last night? We saw an indication from manufacturers that wholesale goods, the production of manufactured and other goods, wholesale sales are growing dramatically in this province.

Now they had an interview by the general manager of one of the seeding equipment manufacturers in this province who said his growth has been at least 20 per cent this year. And I've heard that story from manufacturers in my constituency. We've heard it from manufacturers all around the province.

They believe that their business is going to prosper significantly because of increased consumer confidence around the world and because this is the right environment in which they as businesses can prosper. They like our tax laws. They like our provision for infrastructure. They like what we're doing in a

whole variety of places, Mr. Speaker, that strengthen the economy, that give them the confidence to move forward and make investments in their own business.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for just the last minute or so about how this might apply in my own constituency. I think everybody in this House has heard about the Cypress Hills Vineyard and Winery. Now it is Saskatchewan's only locally produced wine and it is based on a dream by a young couple who turned their ranch into a vineyard. And, Mr. Speaker, that speaks very clearly to the confidence of this young couple in opportunity that this province presents.

Opportunity doesn't happen. Opportunity is created, Mr. Speaker. And this young couple, Marty and Marie Bohnet, took this opportunity, stepped out in an area that had never been really tried — at least not successfully — in this province, and they have turned, over the last two or three years, an idea into such a success that nobody could have imagined it. And they've been identified as the rookie of the year as a business, and this last spring were awarded the award of excellence for business.

Mr. Speaker, in their first few years they sold 16,000 bottles of wine. Last year they sold 36,000 bottles of wine. They are employing a staff of 24 people, Mr. Speaker, and they expect visits of 44,000 people over the next little while.

Mr. Speaker, the confidence of business people in this province is unbelievable. And this particular enterprise in the constituency of Cypress Hills is just one of those success stories that has become reality because of the success of this government and the kinds of budgets we have presented — investing in infrastructure, investing in education, investing in roads of all kinds. Mr. Speaker, this is a great place to be, based on the financial and economic success.

Mr. Speaker, the motion reads:

That this Assembly recognizes our government's commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan's continued economic growth and success by way of our balanced, responsible, and forward-looking budget.

I so present.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the member from Cypress Hills:

That this Assembly recognizes our government's commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan's continued economic growth and success by way of our balanced, responsible, and forward-looking budget.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased to rise here today and bring, hopefully bring some sense to the discussion that's before us here today. And I recognize that that was probably a very difficult job for the member opposite, because that member, the member from Cypress Hills, is a good man. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt of that.

He's a good man, but he had a tough job to do to read what he had to read there today. To read the speech prepared by the Premier's office must have been tough for that member because I know he's a good man and I guess he's all there for the team, but that has to be awfully difficult, Mr. Speaker.

Never in this Assembly before might we have seen a more ludicrous and irresponsible motion put forward for this Assembly. I think accurately we can describe that motion, Mr. Speaker, that unfortunately that member had to put on the table, as dishonest. Mr. Speaker, a dishonest . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I would ask members, I would ask members to be mindful of . . . Order. I would ask members to be mindful of the words and how they term the words and how they reflect on . . . even saying the motion is . . . may be termed as reflecting on a member. So just be mindful of the connotation of the words used. I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the good member from Cypress Hills unfortunately had to speak to the dishonest motion that was put forward here today. And it's representative of the budget that was put forward, a budget that can't be trusted by the people of Saskatchewan, from a government that can't be trusted by the people of Saskatchewan with the management of our finances, Mr. Speaker.

And it would be far more fair to characterize this budget, Mr. Speaker, as a deficit, which certainly it is, as irresponsible, as short-sighted, and one that drives us backwards, Mr. Speaker. And for the members to pretend otherwise is disingenuous. And it's seen for what it is by Saskatchewan people, and it only speaks to the broken trust that's occurring across Saskatchewan with the government opposite, Mr. Speaker.

What we've seen in this budget that's put forward was a budget that was prepared without vision, without plan, without any sort of coordination and organization, Mr. Speaker. We saw ad hoc, uncoordinated cuts and, Mr. Speaker, those cuts themselves, many of them are set up for failure, Mr. Speaker. So certainly what we see before us today is certainly not a balanced budget. It's the exact opposite. It's a second consecutive billion-dollar deficit from this government, Mr. Speaker, and it's the furthest thing from forward-looking. It drives us backwards, Mr. Speaker. And this budget, all from a government that certainly can't be trusted with managing the finances of our province.

Just to look back of course, we have a government that inherited \$2.3 billion in surplus, Mr. Speaker — all-time highs in revenues flowing into government coffers. And with those two strengths, Mr. Speaker, this government has launched itself into two consecutive billion-dollar deficits and debt growth that is a huge problem at this point in time. Billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. And as we look at the trend moving forward, Mr. Speaker, it's not going to slow down.

We see debt growth in each of the consecutive years planned by the Sask Party, and in fact the Sask Party isn't satisfied to just put two deficit budgets on the table, Mr. Speaker. They're planning to put a third one on the table here next year too.

That's completely inappropriate, Mr. Speaker. This at a time where the Sask Party has more revenues flowing into coffers than ever before from an economy built by the hard work of Saskatchewan people. By strong policies, economic policies of New Democrats, and by the hard-working entrepreneurs of our province, this activity is furnishing unprecedented revenues to government. And we see a government that cannot manage, Mr. Speaker. Unprecedented highs in revenues, and we see a government that can't balance their books, Mr. Speaker.

You and I know full well, Mr. Speaker, that if anyone operated their household like this or their farm operation or their own business, they'd be bankrupt, Mr. Speaker, and they'd have the kind of unsustainable spending program that this government has. It simply can't go on and it's irresponsible, Mr. Speaker.

Specifically we have a major, major problem as it relates to our rainy day fund, Mr. Speaker, a fund that had well over \$2 billion in it just over a year ago, Mr. Speaker, that is now a shadow of its former self. It's dwindling by the day. It's at \$700 million and basically \$2 billion have been drained in two years, Mr. Speaker.

At times where this economy has had strength and at a time where revenues are at all-time highs, this is complete financial irresponsibility, Mr. Speaker. As we look at our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, we see all of the equity, every last dollar has been stripped out of our Crown corporations. Over a billion dollars, Mr. Speaker, from our Crown corporations. And this at a time of unprecedented revenues flowing to government, Mr. Speaker.

So when you add those two numbers up, Mr. Speaker, we're dealing with \$3 billion of drain, of fiscal drain. A burn rate that's unsustainable and irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, and something that can't continue, Mr. Speaker. When you look at \$3 billion that's been burnt off at this period of time that is of prosperity, it's completely irresponsible. And we see debt and deficit, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. There's a dialogue I think across the floor, further removed from The Speaker. But I think if the members would like to continue this dialogue I'd ask them to either meet outside the Chamber or behind the bar so we can hear the member's comments from Regina Rosemont.

I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can understand why the members opposite are trying to interrupt this speech, Mr. Speaker, because the points that need to be made are what we're hearing from across the province. What people are saying is that we can't handle this kind of irresponsibility, this kind of recklessness, this kind of short-sighted approach, Mr. Speaker. We can't handle having a government that's without a plan, Mr. Speaker, and we can't handle having a government that's asking Saskatchewan people to pay for its own financial incompetence, Mr. Speaker.

We see a government that, at unprecedented revenues, has shelved important projects to Saskatchewan people as it relates to a children's hospital, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to 13

long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker. And we see deferral after deferral across this province, many of which haven't even yet been identified by this government, Mr. Speaker. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, this government, this Premier, this Sask Party is asking Saskatchewan people to pay for their mismanagement, Mr. Speaker, through backdoor increases, Mr. Speaker, that we're starting to see on many, many different fronts.

Saskatchewan people are needing to pay, Mr. Speaker, much more for their heat and for their power, Mr. Speaker. And when I stand up for the constituents of Regina Rosemont, I know that this is offside, Mr. Speaker. And what they say to me, Mr. Speaker, is how when a government has more money than ever before, that launches itself into a irresponsible deficit and they strip all of the money out of the Crown corporations, and now they ask me and my family and my business to pay for it, they say that's not on, Mr. Minister, and it's irresponsible.

The other area that we're seeing that Saskatchewan people are having to pay for this government's financial mismanagement is as it relates to property tax, Mr. Speaker — an issue that's incredibly important to Saskatchewan people. And we see this government and their irresponsibility and their lack of ability to be contractually bound. They sign an agreement with municipalities with great fanfare, put their signature on it. We know you can't take them at their word or trust their word, Mr. Speaker, but you can't even trust this government when they put pen to paper and sign a contract, Mr. Speaker, because they rip it up. They rip it up.

And we see the consequences of it, Mr. Speaker. And constituents across this province in Kelvington, in Regina, in Melville, in Estevan are paying more, Mr. Speaker, in their property taxes this year from a government that off-loads onto municipalities and rips an agreement, Mr. Speaker. And then the government opposite is wondering, how have they broken the trust of Saskatchewan people? Yet they don't, they can't identify these very, very important aspects that have been broken by this government.

Huge tax increases directly on the backs and at the feet of this Premier, Mr. Speaker, a government that has more revenues than ever before that's put forward two consecutive \$1 billion deficits, Mr. Speaker, and is asking Saskatchewan people to pay for it, Mr. Speaker. This is not acceptable. We see a government that mismanages our finances and asks students to pay for it, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that mismanaged their finances and asks families to pay for it, Mr. Speaker, through increases to their cost of living and destroying the kind of positive gains that we need to make as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker.

We see a government that's making life incredibly difficult for seniors, directly as a result of their financial mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that has short-sighted and ill-fated economic policy, as they don't understand the economy, Mr. Speaker. And they make cuts as it relates to our film industry that have a devastating consequence for the people of Regina, for the business people of Regina, Mr. Speaker, and for our economy. And all at a time, Mr. Speaker, when they ask civil servants to take cuts, where they put Dutch elms at risk, where they put West Nile virus as a great concern as they cut

the mosquito program.

And I know there's going to be lots of talk this summer, Mr. Speaker, on the golf courses and at barbeques across this province as they swat themselves with mosquitoes that are biting them, Mr. Speaker, and possibly giving them West Nile virus. That's a direct consequence of the irresponsibility of this government, Mr. Speaker, a government that has more revenues than ever before and one that's not prepared to lead by example.

We look to our brother jurisdictions or sister jurisdictions in Manitoba and Alberta. What do they do? They lead by example. They cut the pay of the Premier. They cut the pay of the cabinet. Not this, not this government, Mr. Speaker. They ask everyone else to pay for their mistakes, Mr. Speaker, and it's not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I don't support the foolish motion, Mr. Speaker. And I think Saskatchewan people call it what it is, an unbalanced . . .

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

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to speak to this motion. I am very proud of the budget that our government brought forward. I'd like to start off my speech congratulating our Finance minister and the Treasury Board and the process that was gone through. I know it's an elaborate process. And I think that it's come to a point that we delivered a budget that I am very proud to stand behind, as are all the members in this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

[11:45]

I would also like to start off by congratulating the critic of Finance, Mr. Speaker. I know that as a critic of Finance — a large job — you have a lot of numbers to crunch and you have to really analyze the budget. And you're out front on this issue. I think that he's just given a very impassioned speech, maybe not that accurate.

What I find troubling is that he's giving it today and not on the day the budget was introduced. And in my time here in the legislature, in most of the people's memories who serve in the legislature, they found it extremely shocking that the critic of Finance on budget day was sidelined into the penalty box while the spotlight shone on the important Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. And having heard the speech from the Leader of the Opposition, I think they might have done well to go with the young member from Rosemont that . . . In all rights, Mr. Speaker, that member has carried the pail for the opposition.

He was the guy that they put out there to take the flak when their government made some assertions which the media certainly asked some fairly difficult questions for him to answer. And he was out there well in advance, you know, maybe cheapening his own position for the good of their party. And then on budget day, when the galleries are full, Mr. Speaker, when people have come here to hear his response, he gets left . . . kicked to the curb, Mr. Speaker. If I could say kicked to the curb, I think that would probably reflect what most people thought that day, Mr. Speaker.

But I would like to speak about this budget, Mr. Speaker, and how good it is for the people of Saskatchewan. This budget is smaller, Mr. Speaker. It's a year-over-year decrease in spending which is something you haven't seen, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan in a long, long time. You haven't seen it across Canada or even in the national budget. We see year-over-year increases in spending. In Saskatchewan we took a different path, Mr. Speaker — an actual decrease.

We see a more effective government forming, Mr. Speaker. We see that we're looking at individual full-time equivalents. Across the civil service we're going to find ways to do things better, to serve the people of Saskatchewan more efficiently, Mr. Speaker, and that's important. It's important to the people of Saskatchewan to know that their government who takes their tax dollars, who is entrusted with them, is analyzing how they're spent on a yearly basis, Mr. Speaker. And I stand behind that and I'm very proud to do so.

I'd like to look at . . . I'd like to read a quote here from *The Globe and Mail* from March 25th. I know that people across Canada looked at our budget and looked at Saskatchewan and were really . . . I don't want to say shocked, but a lot of people said, now there's a province that's doing things differently. They saw deficit budgets, and I believe every . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The member from Regina Rosemont has already had the opportunity to speak. I would ask the member to now allow the member from Lloydminster the same opportunity. I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read what *The Globe and Mail* had to say about this budget the day after the budget was released. And I think it's indicative of what we've heard from many commentators, from many leaders from across Canada. And I quote: "Amid the ruin [of] . . . most governments' balance sheets, Saskatchewan stands as a beacon of light, tabling another balanced budget yesterday."

Mr. Speaker, a beacon of light is how it was characterized by *The Globe and Mail*, as by many people, Mr. Speaker, across Canada. Now I think that is truly what it is. I think that there's a lot of people across Canada that are hoping their governments see this beacon of light and recognize it for what it is — as a new way, Mr. Speaker. It may not be always as politically expedient, but I think they recognize it as the right thing.

And the beacon of light, Mr. Speaker, I want to . . . Indulge me on this. A lot of ships back 100 years ago, 200 years ago used beacons of light for navigation. They used the stars. They used a compass. But in countries they would put up lighthouses, Mr. Speaker, and the lighthouse would guide ships into harbours, around coastlines. And they were an integral, an integral navigational tool. And that's what this budget is going to be, Mr. Speaker, as other governments look to this beacon of light to guide their budgeting process, Mr. Speaker.

And this lighthouse that we have built here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, where have we built it? And I'm going to go back to maybe where the foundations of this budget were laid. In October 21st, 2008, this is a quote from the Premier, Mr. Speaker. Many things happened in 2008. The budget, the debt of the province was paid off by 40 per cent. There was tax cuts.

There was a fundamental change in the way Saskatchewan's future was looking. And there was a \$2 billion reserve put in the Growth and Financial Security Fund, Mr. Speaker. And this is what I would like to mention now:

"We expect our economy to weather the current economic storm, and Saskatchewan's revenues to remain strong," Wall said. "But at the same time, we are planning with caution by maintaining a \$2 billion cash reserve — our province's fiscal insurance policy. This \$2 billion cash reserve is the rock upon which Saskatchewan will weather that storm."

Mr. Speaker, the rock, this was the rock that our economy was going to be based on. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is being recognized across Canada that the lighthouse, the beacon of light, was built upon this rock. And, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite, there's a lighthouse here in Saskatchewan of fiscal responsibility.

The members opposite are the small children standing on the shore tossing rocks trying to break out the light, Mr. Speaker. That's what those members are. They're little children with pebbles, and they're tossing them. But, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, this lighthouse will stand strong and will guide Saskatchewan for many years. It will guide the decisions of hopefully many provinces across the country because I know I've seen the pitching arm of these children across the way, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pretty sure they cannot throw a rock hard enough to break down the lighthouse that has been built here in Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to, I'd like to talk about other lights that are going to be seen in Saskatchewan, orange flashing lights. This budget has a fundamental commitment to infrastructure. We're going to see that there's work crews on our highways. There'll be orange flashing lights. The members opposite were instrumental in passing a Bill that said we must slow down when we pass these flashing lights. And there will be many of them, Mr. Speaker, on our highways this summer.

There will be green lights, Mr. Speaker, with people coming into our province. There will be more in-migration again this year, Mr. Speaker. We've seen our populations rise dramatically in the last few years and that's going to continue. People see this province as opportunity and this budget goes a long way to ensuring that that continues, that the strength in our economy continues and the people of Canada and around the world recognize this as a good place to come to, Mr. Speaker.

I think that the confidence in housing, we see housing starts that have gone up, Mr. Speaker. We've seen wholesale sales. We've seen auto sales, as the member from Cypress Hills has mentioned, Mr. Speaker. We've seen the highest incomes in Saskatchewan's history, Mr. Speaker, recently. We've seen the lowest unemployment rate in the country here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I think that the members opposite have trouble with the economy, with Saskatchewan that has moved forward, that has left behind our darker days.

Mr. Speaker, there was a time where the premier, the deputy premier of the province had to leave the province to find opportunity. That's no longer the case, Mr. Speaker. In fact we

brought that very deputy premier back. He now sits in opposition but, Mr. Speaker, that was only eight short years ago, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that he had to leave the province. And the only lights he saw at that point were red and blue flashing lights because he was speeding . . . the speeding tickets to get out of this province, Mr. Speaker. That is no longer the case.

We now have a responsible government that recognizes that the people of this province work hard for their money, and we will manage our responsibility to be prudent with the spending and to ensure that it goes to the right places.

I'd also like to mention that educational infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, is something that our government has made its very large commitment to in the last two years. And this budget continues on with that, Mr. Speaker. On the entire infrastructure spending, it's the third largest infrastructure spending budget in the history of our province. I think that's remarkable that we can have a 1 per cent reduction in overall spending, but yet see the third largest infrastructure spending in the province's history, Mr. Speaker.

Something that we all hear about, Mr. Speaker, is health care. We see \$7.9 million to post-secondary institutions for continuation of health care training seats. That's something, Mr. Speaker, that from rural Saskatchewan is very important.

I'm getting near the end of my time here, Mr. Speaker, but I hope that the members opposite will support this motion because I know that it's the right budget for Saskatchewan, and it is a guiding light that Canada may follow to a fiscally responsible future.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, thank you. It's a pleasure to join into the discussion today on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, not because of the nature of this motion because as the member from Rosemont stated before me, it clearly is a motion that can't be trusted, from a government, on finances that certainly can't be trusted. Mr. Speaker, budgets are fundamentally about trust. They fundamentally are about government saying one thing and having the people of Saskatchewan putting their faith in that government and expecting that government to deliver what they say. But sadly, Mr. Speaker, time and time again we've seen the exact opposite from the Sask Party government.

Just, Mr. Speaker, as budgets are so often about trust, so too are relationships — relationships we have with our colleagues, with our significant others, with our family members, Mr. Speaker. And this issue of trust and relationships, it reminds me of a story I heard about a young man named Walter and Walter's quest for love.

Mr. Speaker, the earlier relationships that Walter had as he pursued love weren't all that successful, Mr. Speaker. For a while Walter chased a woman out in Ottawa. They went for long walks along the Rideau Canal. And it had its highlights, Mr. Speaker, but sadly that relationship came to an end. And it didn't take long, Mr. Speaker, for Walter to realize that at that time love could not be found in Ottawa, and it was more appropriate . . . He thought he would turn his sights to Saskatchewan and see what kind of love he could find in

Saskatchewan.

Well, Mr. Speaker, he ended up in his home community and started dating a country music singer. And it was a good relationship for some time. They went for walks along the Swift Current Creek. They watched sunsets. They sang country music songs, Mr. Speaker, but that relationship too came to an end. It did not end successfully.

Throughout the whole process as Walter searched for love, Mr. Speaker, he had his eye set on one woman, one woman that he knew was very special and a woman that he wanted to end up with. And that woman was Suzanne.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Suzanne was currently in a relationship when Walter was having his eyes set on Suzanne and seeing what kind of relationship could perhaps be sparked up. But Walter started positioning himself and pretending that he was something that he wasn't. Walter started talking about being a big-time roller in business. Walter started talking about relationships he had. All an attempt, Mr. Speaker, to impress Suzanne.

Well going on at the same time as Walter was seeking to impress Suzanne, Suzanne's own relationship with her current partner had hit a rough patch, admittedly, Mr. Speaker, and the relationship was having some problems. Suzanne was wondering well, what is this relationship with my current partner going to hold? And you know, this Walter guy, he says he's successful in business and he says he has a lot of contacts. And you know, he said a few nice things to me. Maybe I do want to give Walter a chance. Maybe there is something good there, something positive. Perhaps I can trust Walter. Perhaps the things that Walter says, I can believe in them, and I can follow the advice and the words that he gives me.

Well the problem, Mr. Speaker, Suzanne in her history, she had been, in her own family growing up, they had some serious financial problems. So she came out of a family, came out of a culture where managing the finances was among the most important things. Mr. Speaker, she wanted responsible management of the finances. So, Mr. Speaker, for the most part with her previous relationship, the finances, they had built up things to a pretty good state. Through working together, through co-operation, the state of their finances as a couple in a relationship were quite sound.

But as I said, relationships from time to time can hit rough spells. So when Walter turned on the charm, eventually Suzanne said, yes I will indeed try out this relationship and see what might happen. Well Mr. Speaker, the honeymoon phase in their relationship was indeed a great one. They went to every Rider game, Mr. Speaker. They loved going to football games. They ate a lot of cake. They loved cake.

[12:00]

An Hon. Member: — Balloons. Balloons. Did they have balloons?

Mr. Broten: — Well they gave balloons to other people, Mr. Speaker. But the honeymoon phase was a very bright one. Well, Mr. Speaker, Walter had made promises about being a good

financial planner and a good financial manager so he went out, Mr. Speaker, and got a job on a used car lot. And, Mr. Speaker, he had some high hopes in terms of the number of cars that he could sell in any given month. Egged on by his good friend from Kindersley, Mr. Speaker, Walter set sales projections in the sale of cars that were completely . . .

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — To introduce guests.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank my hon. colleagues for allowing me the opportunity to introduce to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the members of the Assembly, seated in your gallery is my sister, Meagan who is in Regina from . . . She lives in Marshall. She's a mental health therapist. And she's in Regina for the last couple of days for work and for our mother's birthday party too. She works in Lloydminster, Mr. Speaker, as I said, a mental health therapist. And I just would like all of my colleagues to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

2010 Budget (continued)

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So Walter is working on the car lot. He's been egged on by his good friend from Kindersley suggesting that he can achieve these fantasyland levels of car sales, Mr. Speaker.

And this is the story, Mr. Speaker, that Walter is telling to Suzanne. Suzanne, every night when Walter comes home, says how many . . . how are the car sales going? Are we going to be doing all right? Will we have enough in our savings? Are we paying down some debt? Are we having programs for our family members? How are the finances doing?

Well every day, Mr. Speaker, Walter just kept saying, sales are going great. Don't you worry. I have this target of selling 300 cars in one month. Please just trust me. I'm sure it's going to work out just fine.

Well, Mr. Speaker, lo and behold, in the month when Walter set a target of 300 cars, he didn't sell a single car, Mr. Speaker. And the car that he had sold the month before, Mr. Speaker, turned out to be a lemon, Mr. Speaker, and the person who bought the car came back and asked for a refund. For that month, Mr. Speaker, Walter actually had to dip into his own finances and pay back that customer.

Well, Mr. Speaker, you can understand when Walter has these pie-in-the-sky projections of how many cars he's going to sell, you can imagine how that will have consequences for the relationship that he shares with Suzanne and the finances in their household. It did not add up, Mr. Speaker, and it didn't take long after that honeymoon phase and after all that talk about selling so many cars, Mr. Speaker, that the issues of finances in the family started to pile up. Bills weren't being paid in the same way. Debt was not being addressed, Mr. Speaker. Debt was increasing. Many of the essential things needed in the household like milk, Mr. Speaker, weren't being provided any more.

And Suzanne was asking herself, I thought I could trust Walter. I thought Walter had a plan. He told me that he was good with finances. He told me that he was good at his job, Mr. Speaker. But what Suzanne realizes is that what Walter had put forward was in fact not correct. What Walter had put forward, Mr. Speaker, she could not put her trust and faith in those words.

So last I heard, Mr. Speaker, Suzanne was calling her lawyer. Suzanne had arrived at a point where she was evaluating this relationship. She said it started bright. We had a good honeymoon phase, Mr. Speaker. But given the trickery, Mr. Speaker, that Walter exhibited in hiding, in hiding his financial failure on the car lot, given the way that he changed the reporting mechanism back to Suzanne about how much he was actually earning in every given month and how much they were spending, Mr. Speaker, Suzanne said, I cannot trust Walter any longer. And Suzanne, as I said, was calling her lawyer and thinking about next steps.

Suzanne was actually considering, you know, my previous relationship. It wasn't perfect as no relationship is perfect, Mr. Speaker. But she thought to herself, when I think about my primary needs, when I think about my experience as a child growing up in a household where the management of the finances was so brutal and things were always tight and completely irresponsible, well, Suzanne said, if I look back just to my previous relationship, things weren't that bad. We have made a lot of progress over the years of that relationship between Suzanne and her previous partner.

Walter, I don't know what exactly his state is right now in the relationship. I think he's still liking to think that he's in that honeymoon phase. I believe he bought some Rider tickets on his credit card in an attempt to have a good summer, but, Mr. Speaker, Suzanne is the one that's been paying the payments on that credit card, and I'm not so certain that she'll be pleased with the short-sighted actions that she's seeing from Walter.

Well, Mr. Speaker, just as relationships are about trust, just as relationships are about one individual's putting forward a plan, being honest, being open, being transparent, being clear on who they are, not pretending that they're something that they're not, Mr. Speaker, so too must budgets be held in trust. So too must the budget being put forward by any government be able to be believed by the Saskatchewan people. And, Mr. Speaker, in the Sask Party record of budgets, we have seen a track record of budgeting that cannot be trusted.

Two budgets ago, Mr. Speaker, we saw the pie in the sky, fantasyland budget projections of \$3 billion in potash —

numbers that anyone who was paying attention to the world economy, anyone who was paying attention to the issues that people in the world were facing, would realize that projections of \$3 billion by the minister from Kindersley is in no way realistic.

This most recent budget, Mr. Speaker, we've moved on from bad projections to that of financial trickery — changing the reporting mechanisms midstream in a term, changing the way debt is recorded, changing the way spending is recorded.

So, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this motion because I believe it is a motion that cannot be trusted based on a budget that cannot be trusted from a government that can't be trusted. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure for me to enter into the debate over the Assembly recognizing our government's commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan's continued economic growth and success by way of our balanced, responsible, and forward-looking budget, Mr. Speaker.

I am very proud, Mr. Speaker, to have played a small role — and I stress small — in relation to the huge role that our Minister of Finance played. I did play a small role in the development of this budget as a member of our government's Treasury Board and I'm very proud to have been there, Mr. Speaker.

Our Minister of Finance was very focused through this process. He's focused on balancing the budget and focused on smaller government, Mr. Speaker. And those are two things that the NDP cannot condone. They have very rarely had truly balanced budgets in their history, and never smaller government.

Mr. Speaker, our 2010-2011 budget is a truly balanced budget, a budget that reduces the size of government and the amount of government spending, finally, Mr. Speaker. Government spending that grew dramatically under the NDP and has continued to grow somewhat under our government as well. And those days are over, Mr. Speaker.

This Minister of Finance has brought in a new era, an era of government restraint and responsibility and fiscal responsibility that has never been seen, at least in recent memory in this province, Mr. Speaker, and certainly not during the 14 years, or 16 years it was, of NDP rule under those members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

The problem with overspending by a government, Mr. Speaker, it makes an economy uncompetitive. And that may just seem like to a number of people, well that doesn't really affect me; that's something for economists to talk about; that's something for big business. But, Mr. Speaker, an uncompetitive economy costs jobs, drives people out of a jurisdiction, and hurts everybody's standard of living, therefore, Mr. Speaker, reducing the ability to spend on programs and infrastructure.

This budget, Mr. Speaker, invests in key capital and programming areas. It sustains and enhances core government

services, especially, Mr. Speaker, I want to mention that there will be more money for health and education in this budget.

A General Revenue Fund surplus, Mr. Speaker, in this budget, for the fiscal year estimated at \$20 million. A reduction of spending, Mr. Speaker, of 1.2 per cent. The first time in memory, Mr. Speaker, that we have seen government spending actually get smaller in this province.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly I think, no increase in government debt, as government debt will remain at 4.5 billion for this fiscal year, following a 40 per cent reduction in the '09, I think in our first budget, Mr. Speaker, as government — certainly during our term in government.

The Growth and Financial Security Fund, Mr. Speaker, projected to have a year-end balance of 510 million. This is \$510.8 million of actual cash, Mr. Speaker, unlike the former NDP government's Fiscal Stabilization Fund that contained no money at all, was just a bookkeeping placeholder, Mr. Speaker, was never, was never a fund of money, but a bookkeeping placeholder that they used — or claimed to use — like a bank account, like as if it had real money. Numerous years, Mr. Speaker, during their reign they balanced the budget by using that so-called Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Mr. Speaker, that did not exist in terms of real dollars.

Every time, Mr. Speaker, that they drew down that Fiscal Stabilization Fund, it amounted to an increase in debt for this province. The only way those cheques could be cashed was by borrowing more money, Mr. Speaker, and consequently debt grew under that government.

A 2010-2011 infrastructure budget included, Mr. Speaker, of \$632 million. Mr. Speaker, that amounts to the second largest infrastructure budget in the history of our province, second only to our last budget, Mr. Speaker.

A \$177 million in municipal infrastructure funding, up 30 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That speaks for itself, Mr. Speaker, in a time of restraint that we recognize as a government that municipalities under the previous administration have been shorted by hundreds of millions of dollars over the last 16 years.

\$250 million, Mr. Speaker, for highway construction. Mr. Speaker, we inherited a huge infrastructure deficit from those members opposite, the former NDP government. And they don't want to hear this, Mr. Speaker. They don't like to hear it and I don't blame them. I wouldn't want to hear it either if it was my record. Nobody would, Mr. Speaker.

Many areas that I could talk about in this budget, Mr. Speaker, but I want to mention agriculture in passing. I'm not going to cover every detail of it, but I want to mention that there's \$16 million in additional agriculture research and development money in this budget, Mr. Speaker. And that this budget will continue our practice of full funding for AgriStability program, a practice that is a foreign concept to those members opposite, Mr. Speaker, when they would delay and postpone funding of that program until it was too late for many farmers across the province to take advantage of it, Mr. Speaker. More cropping and pricing options in crop insurance, Mr. Speaker, under this

budget, and a wildlife predation program that will be operated through our Crop Insurance offices, Mr. Speaker.

Under Education, Mr. Speaker, we find that there's increased funding for Education, which we deem to be one of the most important programs in our province and one that we base our future on, Mr. Speaker. And among those programs or among with that increased funding for Education, Mr. Speaker, we find funding for 18 education . . . well school infrastructure projects around the province, Mr. Speaker.

[12:15]

When economic forecasters, Mr. Speaker, project or predict great things for the economy of a jurisdiction, that basically indicates, among other things, strong approval for that jurisdiction's fiscal direction as indicated by their budget. The NDP don't like to see this budget, Mr. Speaker. They don't like to see smaller government and they don't like to see balanced budgets, real balanced budgets, Mr. Speaker. Because in contrast of what they did during their 16 years it makes them look very, very bad.

Economic forecasters say things like, that for 2010 the Bank of Montreal predicts 3.8 per cent growth for Saskatchewan while the Canadian average will be 3.4. BMO [Bank of Montreal] rates Saskatchewan as third overall. RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] predicts 3.6 per cent growth for Saskatchewan's economy while the Canadian average they predict will be 2.8, second overall in the country according to RBC, Mr. Speaker. CIBC [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce] predicts 3.5 per cent growth for Saskatchewan while the average they predict for Canada is 2.7 per cent growth. Scotiabank, Mr. Speaker . . . Oh I should mention that CIBC that puts us first in their estimation. Scotiabank predicts 3.4 per cent growth, Mr. Speaker.

I could go on and on listing them individually, but I average the nine economic forecasters in the private sector, Mr. Speaker, that put Saskatchewan at 3.6 per cent GDP growth in 2011 and 2010-11 and 2011-12 and Canada at 3.2 per cent. All forecasters put us either in first, second, or third place in leading economies of this country, Mr. Speaker. And accordingly I hope that all members will, as I will, support this motion.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to apologize in advance for the story I told once already but I think it's very, very important I tell it again.

Mr. Speaker, I had a dream. And in that dream me and the member from Kindersley were about to be shot by a firing squad. And the firing squad, as we were tethered to those poles in the courtyard, the captain of the firing squad walked up to the member from Kindersley and said, before you die, sir, what is your last wish? And the member from Kindersley said, I want to hear a three-hour speech from the member from Melfort on how to balance the budget based on my potash predictions. That's what the member from Kindersley said. And the captain of the firing squad turned to me and said, before you die, sir, what is your last wish? To which I replied, shoot me first.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly the problem that we have from the Saskatchewan Party government. They simply do not know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. They don't know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. They don't have a clue what they're doing. If you have members from a wide variety of, I imagine, financial background — I'm sure they're all accountants over there — they're singing from the same song sheets. Just keep saying what you're saying based on the member from Swift Current and the member from Kindersley, what they tell you to say to the public, that's what you will say. And, Mr. Speaker, I say to them, shame on them.

Now one of the most stark contrasts that I've seen in the last couple of years is when the Saskatchewan Party government were given a chance, a chance to become government, they betrayed that opportunity, Mr. Speaker. A lot of people believed in them, and I want to tell the people that gave them the opportunity, it's all right to make that error but let's not make it again.

Because one of the first things that these guys did when they came into power, Mr. Speaker, is they put a billboard up: the Premier's face saying, look we paid down debt 40 per cent. And every fiscal conservative in this province and across the country — anybody that had any background in financial management — said, there's no way a government that's been six months into power can pay down 40 per cent of a debt that's been there for many, many years, Mr. Speaker.

So that lends credence to the whole argument that we make, is that (a) they had a huge inheritance that they got from the previous administration, compliments of the people of Saskatchewan. And yet they not once ever gave credit where credit was due, and that was at the hard work being done by the previous NDP administration and the people of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with this budget and with this silly motion, it's insulting to the people of Saskatchewan's intelligence when they put this motion forward to try and convince themselves that they're doing a wonderful job, Mr. Speaker. They're not. Two consecutive billion-dollar deficits, that is not a wonderful job, Mr. Speaker. That is a terrible job record. That's a terrible job record and you guys ought to step away, because you don't know what you're doing. You couldn't organize a two-car parade, much less a \$10 billion budget, Mr. Speaker.

So my point is, Mr. Speaker, why aren't you putting up billboards now? Why aren't you putting up billboards now? Because now you've got to stand on your own two feet and on your own record instead of blaming the NDP or taking credit from the NDP. Where are your billboards now saying, oh we're going back into debt? We're going back into debt. Why aren't you putting those up? You know why you're not putting them up? Because you're trying to hoodwink the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That's what you're trying to do. And we're going to sing from the highest mountains and the deepest valleys that this is not the truth, Mr. Speaker. This is not the truth.

And I am telling people throughout the world, in my world, that it's time to stand up to these guys. You guys have been bullying the working people. You have been ignoring the health care workers. You have turned your back on the Aboriginal people.

You don't care about the students.

After a while you begin to wonder, well who do they care about? Who do they care about? Of all the people that you have turned your backs on, who do you care about, Mr. Speaker? They don't care about anything except trying to retain power and to try and confuse the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm telling the people throughout Saskatchewan, it's time to stand up to these guys. And along with the opposition we'll stand up with you to fight back, to fight back for two simple reasons. Number one is they don't know what they're doing. That's one of the biggest reasons why. And number two is we can't afford you anymore. We simply can't afford you anymore.

And I tell the people of Saskatchewan wherever we go, wherever we go. To the Liberals, it's time for us to come back to the NDP, we will do the job that is required to bring this province to the point where we're properly financing and properly managing the financing.

We're going to ask the people, the people that many families and the people that you fired in 2007, all the families that are affected, over 500 families, let's stand up to these guys and let's start showing them what we're made of, Mr. Speaker, what we're made of.

When they put aside your involvement and when they come after the working people, let's go back to the unions and say, come on board, unions. Let's stand up to these guys and start fighting them back.

And, Mr. Speaker, the most amazing thing that I see, the most amazing thing that I see is that right across the board a lot of people, the fiscal conservatives, the people that said well let's give these guys a chance, you have betrayed that trust. They say you guys couldn't organize a two-car parade when it comes to financial management. And many people throughout your own backyards are starting to say that about the Saskatchewan Party.

And when you get up and put motions of this sort, these silly, meaningless motions of this sort, you're insulting their intelligence. And they don't like that, Mr. Speaker.

Now people across northern Saskatchewan tell me, well, well, Buckley, you know, obviously the NDP are going to give the Sask Party a hard time. And I say, okay, fine. You could say it's not balanced. They're saying it's not balanced. You got to find a neutral qualifying party to exactly say what you're saying. So, Mr. Speaker, a lot of the accountants in Saskatchewan have spoken very loudly.

But quite frankly, I go back to Murray Mandryk's opinion, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Mandryk's opinion of course is . . . And I quote from the Thursday, March 25th, 2010 *Leader-Post*, and Murray's comment — and this is a neutral person — and I quote:

But contrary to Gantefoer's assertion of a balanced budget, a claim repeated ad nauseum Wednesday, it's not balanced — not by any definition.

End quote, Mr. Speaker. Not by any — any — definition.

So, Mr. Speaker, here's a neutral party that is qualifying what we're saying. And we're telling the people of Saskatchewan, 2011, it is time to get rid of these guys because they don't know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. They don't know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. When they fudge the books and when they mess around with the elections officer and they're still in this denial state, it is time to get rid of them. You're tired, uninspired, and you need to be fired, Mr. Speaker.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to say this to the people of Saskatchewan. You trusted them, yes. It's time for us to look back and reassess where they're at. But let the Saskatchewan Party . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The 55-minute debate or 65-minute is . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, okay. Sorry about that.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, let the Sask Party name live in infamy, because they're going to war with the working people. They're turning their back on the Aboriginal people. Families are paying more. Health care is in shambles. They're killing off the Crowns and now, Mr. Speaker, they're putting us back into debt. 2011 is the time we say enough of the infamous Sask Party. It's time to bring in a government and a leader that has the experience that makes Saskatchewan what it's always been, a very strong, vibrant Saskatchewan and a great province in the country of Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, there's only 57 people, 37 people over there that are on the way. It is time to get them off the way and bring a party in that can do the job properly.

The Speaker: — The debate on the 75 minutes has ended and we'll now go into the 10-minute question. Member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the facts are the facts. So let's look at the facts and these are the facts. Undeniable, Mr. Speaker, undeniably more people than ever before are living in Saskatchewan. More people than ever before are working in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And Saskatchewan has the lowest unemployment numbers for 10 consecutive months. With all this great economic news, how can the member from Regina Rosemont continue to go around this province and tell the people of Saskatchewan that the economy is in a freefall?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, what an honour to take that question. I tell you what, Mr. Speaker. Our economy is in fine health, Mr. Speaker, due to the good policies of New Democrats, the hard work of Saskatchewan people, and the fine entrepreneurs.

What is in freefall, Mr. Speaker, is the financial management of this Premier that can't be trusted with the finances of our province — billions of dollars of debt growth, and a billion-dollar deficit with unprecedented revenues — totally unacceptable.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Funding for the children's hospital in Saskatoon is gone in this Saskatchewan Party government's budget. There was \$100 million already committed to the construction of the children's hospital. My question is to the member from Lloydminster: where is the \$100 million that has been promised for the children's hospital?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the member for that question. I think as she well knows our government has made a solid commitment to that project, and that that money will be there as it's needed, Mr. Speaker.

I think that what is important to the people of Saskatchewan to remember is the question is coming from a member who represents a party who cut 52 hospitals, closed 52 hospitals. So today for her to stand in this House with indignation about a project which is currently under way, which our government has made a commitment to, I think it wears pretty thin on the people of Saskatchewan. Specifically the people of rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, who have lived in those communities, who rely on health care in those communities.

And under their watch with the Leader of the Opposition today, as a prominent member, they closed those hospitals, Mr. Speaker. And I haven't heard them apologize for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP always likes talking about how great the resumé of their leader is. The members opposite, however, forget to tell the people of Saskatchewan his whole resumé. Their leader made investments in business ventures such as SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] where the NDP lost 28 million taxpayer dollars, and Channel Lake where the NDP lost 15 million taxpayer dollars. All these terrible investments occurred while the current Leader of the Opposition was sitting at the cabinet table helping make these decisions.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Athabasca: how can you go around telling the people of Saskatchewan your current leader has good judgment and business sense when he has made such terrible decisions in the past?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

[12:30]

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to that member that any day of the week I will compare the resumé of my leader versus his leader, Mr. Speaker, any day of the week, Mr. Speaker.

Your leader, sir, put the Country Music Hall of Fame in Swift Current in the hole. And if you can't sell country music to the people of Saskatchewan, then you're not much of a salesman,

Mr. Speaker. I'll much rather have my leader predict international potash prices and negotiate with oil companies any day of the week than a guy that can't even sell country music to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And furthermore, Mr. Speaker, our leader comes with a very solid knowledge on how to build the economy of Saskatchewan. Your leader doesn't have a clue, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't have a clue. So once again the people of Saskatchewan are left in the . . . with this huge void. They trusted this leader and that party, and that trust was betrayed, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to draw to the attention of the members opposite — and in particular to the member from Lloydminster in hopes he might finally see the light, Mr. Speaker — bottom of page 62, total debt, total debt. Charts made so a child can read it, so it shouldn't be hard for any of us in this Assembly. We're far beyond that.

Mr. Speaker, debt is going from \$7.7 billion to \$11.9 billion, Mr. Speaker. How can you be putting up billboards saying debt isn't going up?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As that member well knows, the budget line he's looking at includes Crown debt. And this government inherited a situation where their government did not plan for the future of Saskatchewan. They took the dividends out of those Crowns; they didn't reinvest it back in. And we have a vision for our province, which is a growing vision that we're going to see people moving to this province . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I'd ask . . . Order. I'd ask the members to allow . . . I'd ask the members to allow the member from Lloydminster to complete his question.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going further on that, Mr. Speaker, some of these members, you know, their vision was that if the people of Saskatchewan leave, we don't need to renew the infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. That isn't our vision.

Our vision is that more people are moving to Saskatchewan. We need to have a stable supply of electricity, phone systems. We need our gas systems at a world standard, Mr. Speaker, because we're a province that's leading the world, Mr. Speaker. And that wasn't their vision. It wasn't their priorities to invest in infrastructure. Our government has different priorities, Mr. Speaker, and I will stand by them, as will all the members on this side of the House.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The former NDP government was responsible for the worst job creation record of any province over a 10-year span. To the member from Athabasca: given this alarming trend, why did your government create such a hostile climate for business?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, one of the books I often tell people to read is a fictional book — it's history according to the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker. It is history. And that member ought not to portray herself as being somebody that's going to follow that particular path because generally people kind of think she's got a strong mind. And what she should not do is try and follow a script handed to her by people that are handling the Sask Party backbench.

Mr. Speaker, under the NDP government, this economy flourished, Mr. Speaker. Business flourished. Workers flourished, Mr. Speaker. Debt was going down. The Crowns were being strengthened, Mr. Speaker. And every time the economy of Saskatchewan was strong, guess who was in power? An NDP government, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I listened to the member from Lloydminster's speech about the lighthouse. Well I think his lighthouse . . . I think the bulb's a little dim, Mr. Speaker, when he doesn't think about . . .

And he somehow feels that, well he's got some debt in this hand and he's got some debt in that hand, and I can put this hand behind my back and I've only got this much. I'm doing really good. Well, Mr. Speaker, how on earth can he justify stripping all of the profits out of the Crown corporations and expecting the Crown corporations to borrow money when they have made that much money? And if it wasn't for this government stripping that money out to pay for their own debt and overspending, the Crowns would be sitting fine, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member was listening so intently to my speech that she wants to quote it back. So I appreciate that. But, Mr. Speaker, as she well knows or at least she should know, the Crown corporations are assets of the province of Saskatchewan. They are companies that operate within our province and they pay dividends to our government.

But I think it's also important to note that the Crown, SaskPower, the senior Crown in our province, hasn't paid a dividend and won't pay a dividend because, Mr. Speaker, because similar to my last answer, they allowed . . . Mr. Speaker, those members under their watch allowed our system to get rundown, to get to a point where it was only servicing the needs of today, not looking into the future. Our government has a different vision. We're going to rebuild our system, rebuild our generation, and be supplying power for a long time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, most of the leading financial forecasters in the country have predicted Saskatchewan GDP growth first or second in the next two years. This is an enviable position to be in compared to other regions in the nation and this is good news from leading financial professionals in Canada.

We have more people working . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The 75-minute time for debate has elapsed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 3 — Release of Intelligence File on Former Premier

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I again want to rise to move a motion, a motion that would say and along the following lines:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to release the complete intelligence file of the former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas, and further;

That in making this call, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan asserts the following [items, Mr. Speaker]
...

And if I could just run through them, that then will lay out why we are urging unanimous support for this motion. And I know from the opposition, we have discussed this in caucus, and I know that we will be supporting it, all the members who are here today. And I would urge members of the government benches to support this motion as well because it was here in this building that Tommy Douglas, after the election in 1944, did many of the things that led Canadians in general to choose him as the most important Canadian.

That's a honour that is bestowed on all people of Saskatchewan through Tommy Douglas, and including the members opposite. And many of the members of the Sask Party and many members of the Conservative Party in the vote that was taken voted that Tommy Douglas was the most famous Canadian and I'm sure that . . . the greatest Canadian, and I'm sure that if you went back to your constituents and asked whether or not you should be voting this day for or against this motion, your own members would say that you should be voting for this information to be released about the greatest Canadian.

The items that we want to discuss today and the reasons that we want this file released, first:

That public access to information is a core tenet of the democracy [of our province];

That the Canadian Security Intelligence Service should be consistent in that it routinely releases intelligence files on individuals twenty years after their death;

And as we know, unfortunately Tommy died 25 years ago so it should be automatic that the information is released. And if there is some glaring reason why it can't or shouldn't be released, then I think it's incumbent on the agencies involved to outline exactly what those reasons are, and that hasn't been done.

(3) That twenty-four years after Tommy Douglas's death and several decades after the information on him was gathered, there is no legitimate security reason for keeping the information secret;

(4) That the release of this information is important to the legacy of Tommy Douglas and to the people of Saskatchewan and Canada.

I think that's important. And we were in Weyburn the other night for an event and the mayor of Weyburn, Deb Button, Her Honour, was explaining that Weyburn and the community has created a statue of Tommy Douglas and they're going to be putting it up in the city of Weyburn over the next few months. And I'm sure all members of the Assembly will want to find out when that date is, and go and celebrate with the community of Weyburn the erection of this statue.

And what would be very important and why we're pushing this motion now is we would like to, on behalf of the legislature, get the information so that when the unveiling occurs, that all of the information that would be outlined in these files would be compiled and be part of that historic moment in the city of Weyburn.

The fifth point:

That the Assembly recognizes that Tommy Douglas served our province and our country with distinction, as the first social democratic leader in North America.

Now that is important because it started a trend of politics based on the social gospel in this province of helping neighbours and friends to build things. And it was a history that our parents and grandparents and even today are very proud of. If you needed to get together to build a community hall or a barn in the early days and there was no established contractors in the community that you could hire . . . It wasn't that people were opposed to the private sector; there was nobody to do it. So people got together and created work bees, and they would build their community in that way.

And later when they needed power in rural Saskatchewan, it wasn't that people were opposed to the large multinational power companies; they just weren't there. They weren't coming. There were no profits to be made by putting power into rural Saskatchewan. So again in a very practical way, what is now called social democracy, which really was co-operation, people got together and built little power plants, mined the coal, hauled it to town, burned it, made electricity, and then the Power Corporation was committed. And people often say, well why is Saskatchewan so backward that they keep their Crown corporations — people who don't understand where the Crown corporations came from.

The fact is our Crown corporations were created by our family

members, parents and grandparents, and they were a labour of love. They were built and created to serve the needs of the public. And that's why when the member from Moose Jaw South raised it a few moments ago, why are all the profits being stripped out of the Crown corporations, we're worried about that. We're worried about that because when they were created, they weren't meant to be a tool to be fiddled with by right wing governments every time they get elected. And they did that back in the 1980s with the Crown corporations and tried to privatize SaskEnergy under the Devine administration. The public stood up and fought that, and we saved that Crown. And we're going to have to do that again.

(6) That this Assembly values Tommy Douglas's legacy to Saskatchewan and Canada, including medicare, old age pension, family allowance, social programs, and the central Bank of Canada, civil liberties and rights [in the] legislation, and our Crown corporations;

(7) That this Assembly recognize the people of Canada voted Tommy Douglas as the greatest Canadian to mark his accomplishments.

And it's true. Wherever I go in Canada, whether it's in Vancouver or Montreal, people know for sure one person from Saskatchewan and it's Tommy Douglas. And some people say, well you shouldn't talk about Tommy Douglas or you shouldn't talk about Grant Devine because nobody under the age of 35 knows them. What an insult to young people. They know perfectly well who Tommy Douglas is, and they know who Grant Devine is, and they know, young people know their history.

And I say to members opposite that this individual who stood in this Assembly right over there where the now Premier stands . . . And think about that comparison of the father of medicare and the father of Crown corporations stood at the same desk as the now Premier, and that comparison is stark. And the Premier has used that expression in the past. It's a stark comparison.

And I say that the legacy of this man, Tommy Douglas, needs to be rounded out by releasing the information that was collected about him during those turbulent but exciting times of medicare and the Crowns and the huge debates that went on here in the House.

And the eighth reason is:

That this Assembly believes that Tommy Douglas's family, friends, and all Canadians deserve to know the information contained in the intelligence file.

And that is basically the motion that I will be moving on the conclusion of my remarks. I have only a few other things to talk about.

But in a very realistic way, Mr. Speaker, in a democratic country, the public deserves to have access to these kind of files. There is no doubt about that. And again the Canadian Security Intelligence Service releases these files on a routine basis 20 years after the death of the individual involved. That happens hundreds of times. And what isn't clear is why this file is unusual because no one knows.

I've talked to Allan Blakeney, who was around at the time of the introduction in 1962 of the actual Bill that created the medicare system, and he talks often about — he was the minister of Health at that time — and he talks about the great press conferences that were held here in the rotunda of the legislature. He indicated that there would be 50 or 60 reporters, 50 or 60 reporters from across Canada and the United States because it was a huge debate and discussion.

[12:45]

The American Medical Association — interestingly enough the same organization that fought against medicare in the United States, I might add unsuccessfully in the recent debate with President Obama — were here in this building, debating and discussing and trying to stop medicare from being introduced in our province because they knew that, if it was introduced here and took hold, that it would likely sweep across Canada. And their fear — because there was a lot of fear during that period worldwide about social programs being introduced — that it might sweep across the United States.

Well it took 50 years, but it has swept across the United States. And had we not introduced it here, and had Tommy Douglas not had the courage of his conviction, you would not see the implementation of medicare in the United States, because Canada was used as a model and an instrument to sell the program in the United States in the most recent debate. And in meeting in Denver and talking to many of the people who were involved in the Democratic race at that time, medicare was one of the big interests of people like Rahm Emanuel and how it happened in Canada.

And I met at one point with an interesting company called Blue State Digital who were doing the communications for the Obama campaign and they were very interested in how medicare was established in this province. And they wanted to know which think tank or university was responsible for the implementation and the design of medicare.

When I told them the story about medicare and how Tommy Douglas had based it on a program from Health Region No. 1 in southwest Saskatchewan where people who had been dying because they couldn't afford doctors and hospitals got together and levied a small tax on quarter sections of land and then hired a doctor — practical men and women getting together to solve a problem together, not based on philosophy or on a textbook or something they learned at university, but how to save lives by getting together to do what they couldn't do alone — I could see in the eyes of the young guy I was talking to that there was a little disappointment that it was so simple. That it was practical, made in, I might add because I'm a bit of a homer, in southwest Saskatchewan by practical men and women who weren't left or right wing. They weren't philosophical about it. They were solving a problem.

And my advice is that everything we can do in this Assembly to honour that individual — and part of it is by getting the release of these documents — we should do.

There are many people in Ottawa who are asking about this motion because they want to know what do the people of Saskatchewan think, which is the home province of the

individual we're talking about. So the importance of this motion goes far beyond this room. I think sometimes the bickering that goes on here and the personal emotions overtake what's the right thing to do. And the fact of the matter is, many Canadians will watch to see what we do in this room today — who stands for the vote and who doesn't stand for the vote — because many Canadians want this document released. And again on this issue, Saskatchewan is a leader. And the people of this legislature should be leaders on this issue. And there are people waiting to see if this motion will pass today.

Now I'm encouraged because I am told that the Premier clearly indicated and told the media on March 24th that, and I quote, "I don't think we have a problem with them being released." That is the Premier of Saskatchewan, the member from Swift Current, on March 24th. So I'm hoping he has talked to members of the government benches because that's his words.

And later he said, and he also said that if the official opposition brought this motion forward on private members' day — that would be today, the first opportunity we've had — he said, and I quote: "I don't think we'd have a big concern either way."

So we expect that it will be passed today and that the Premier will stick to his word, and that on this one item at least, we can trust his word that he said to the media and the public on March 24th. So I'm asking the House Leader, Government House Leader, that he will carry out the word of the Premier. If the Premier's not here, I've got the documentation of his quote . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Pardon? No, I said if he wasn't here at the time the vote came . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, I didn't say he's not here.

The Deputy Speaker: — I would ask the member to direct his comments through the Speaker.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — What I'm hoping is that the Government House Leader, if the Premier isn't here at the time of the vote, that he will take it upon himself to deliver on the Premier's commitment of March 24th here in the rotunda, I believe, of the legislature. And I quote again — because this is important — he said, and I quote, "I don't think we'd have a big concern either way." So again we expect that this vote will go ahead today.

Now Tommy Douglas, as we all know — I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this — but he was born in Scotland in 1904 and moved with his family to Winnipeg in 1910. He began his career as a young minister in Weyburn, gave great speeches, and people still talk about the speeches that were delivered there. And for Douglas, his service on both religion and politics were intertwined, and it's interesting.

But in Alberta at the same time, there was a young minister, Aberhart who was involved in politics but spoke from a different perspective; from the right wing, and how it was in Alberta that people are independent and you had to succeed on your own and pull yourselves up by your bootstraps. And in Saskatchewan, we had the preachings of Tommy Douglas as a politician and a minister that said, no there's a different way, and that is to do it as a community at large and help each other. And to this day, the two provinces are fundamentally different. And I'm not even making a strong argument that one is right or wrong.

Of course I believe in the theory of the social gospel and Tommy Douglas. But the fact is, when people say politicians don't make any difference, this is my point, nothing could be further from the truth, if you stick to your beliefs, if you're yourself and you're convinced about what you believe in. Tommy Douglas did that for the province of Saskatchewan. He did it both in a religious way and he did it politically.

Tommy was also an underdog. Before he was elected in 1944, the political pundits of the day made it very clear that there wasn't a hope in heck of Tommy Douglas and social democrats being elected in the province of Saskatchewan. And he had all of the media against him. And he had all of the wealth of the province, the money people, against him. And I hear the arguments sometimes from members opposite, that you people can't win the next election because you don't have the banks or the oil companies, and you don't have these people — the high level in our society. I wish we did, but maybe we don't. I don't know.

But they laugh sometimes and the member from Big Muddy has said statements about Tommy Douglas. He heckles sometimes about it from Wood River. And we need to not go to that today, but those words about Tommy Douglas aren't appropriate and shouldn't be used in this place where Tommy Douglas spent his life and gave to the province and is the greatest Canadian. It should be below us to use those kind of terms.

And I hear other people say, well you can't win the next election because you don't have any support. You just have those working people and unions, and you just have Aboriginal people and old people. Look, that's probably all Tommy had when he got elected in 1944 with the majority vote. And so I say that Tommy was always a leader and always underestimated.

But in his first term alone, he passed more than 100 Bills. And because of his leadership change, old-age pension, family allowances, and social programs came into being. He introduced, as premier, *The Crown Corporations Act* that led to the establishment of SaskPower, SaskTel. Labour legislation that was best in Canada and best in the world. He was also known as the father of medicare.

Roy Romanow often tells the story about his early conversations with Tommy Douglas. I never knew Tommy well — I heard him speak once or twice — but I didn't know him well as an individual. But Roy, as a young elected person, actually got to know Tommy. And he tells the story of flying in an airplane with Tommy in the early 1970s. And Roy was nervous. And because Tommy was such a hero, he didn't know what you should be saying to the former premier. And Roy was a brand new elected MLA; it's funny for us to think of Roy that way now. But he said to Tommy, expecting the answer to the question would be medicare, he said, Tommy — this was after Tommy had gone to Ottawa — what was your greatest accomplishment in Saskatchewan? And expecting then Tommy would talk for half an hour about medicare and Roy could relax and not have to carry the conversation. But to his surprise, Tommy said rural electrification.

And he said, looking down at the lights twinkling all the farms in the rural area evening, and the darkness showed up the lights

on all the farms, and Tommy said, my biggest accomplishment was getting electricity to the farms in rural Saskatchewan. But it also told you about the kind of guy he was. But his main reason for being involved in politics was not about himself or his family. It was about looking after your neighbours and friends.

And he also was inspired in his early days because when he was a young man, his parents didn't have the funds for the specialist. He had a bad leg, and it was a real problem for him. And the specialist indicated that the only option was amputation, but a visit to a surgeon offered to perform that surgery for free. And his reforms and the work that he did, saved his leg and someone out of the goodness of their heart helped him with that. And then he went forward and had the treatment that he needed and saved his leg. And he always believed that medicare was a fundamental part of his regime.

So with those few words, Mr. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that has been introduced, and I'm not sure if the Clerk at the Table has the actual motion. But I think at this time I will move that motion. I've read it in general and I'll read it then verbatim:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to release the complete intelligence file on the former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas, and further;

That in making this call, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan asserts the following:

- (1) That public access to information is a core tenet of democracy;
- (2) That the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) should be consistent in that it routinely releases intelligence files on individuals after 25 years of their death;
- (3) That 24 years after Tommy Douglas's death, and several decades after the information on him was gathered, there is no legitimate security reason for keeping this information secret;
- (4) That the release of this information is important to the legacy of Tommy Douglas and the people of Saskatchewan and Canada;
- (5) That this Assembly recognizes that Tommy Douglas served our province and our country with distinction as the first social democratic leader in North America;
- (6) That this Assembly values Tommy Douglas's legacy to Canada and Saskatchewan, including medicare, old age pension, family allowance, social programs, the central Bank of Canada, civil liberties and rights legislation, and the Crown corporations;
- (7) That this Assembly recognize the people of Canada voted Tommy Douglas as the greatest Canadian to mark his accomplishments;

(8) That this Assembly believes that Tommy Douglas's family, friends, and all Canadians deserve to know the information contained in these intelligence files.

I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has moved a motion:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to release the complete intelligence file on the former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas, and further;

That in making this call, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan asserts the following:

- (1) That public access to information is a core tenet of democracy;
- (2) That the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) should be consistent in that it routinely releases intelligence files on individuals after 20 years of their death;
- (3) That 24 years after Tommy Douglas's death, and several decades after the information on him was gathered, there is no legitimate security reason for keeping this information secret;
- (4) That the release of this information is important to the legacy of Tommy Douglas and the people of Saskatchewan and Canada;
- (5) That this Assembly recognizes that Tommy Douglas served our province and our country with distinction as the first social democratic leader in North America;
- (6) That this Assembly values Tommy Douglas's legacy to Canada and Saskatchewan, including medicare, old age pension, family allowance, social programs, the central Bank of Canada, civil liberties and rights legislation, and the Crown corporations;
- (7) That this Assembly recognize the people of Canada voted Tommy Douglas as the greatest Canadian to mark his accomplishments;
- (8) That this Assembly believes that Tommy Douglas's family, friends, and all Canadians deserve to know the information contained in these intelligence files.

The time of adjournment having been reached, this House now stands adjourned until 1:30 Monday afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:01.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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Premier of Saskatchewan
President of the Executive Council

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

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for Uranium
Development Partnership
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Research Council

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. June Draude
Minister Responsible for Crown Investments
Corporation
Provincial Secretary
Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

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Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital
Commission

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Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
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Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Bill Hutchinson
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Government Services
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority