



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

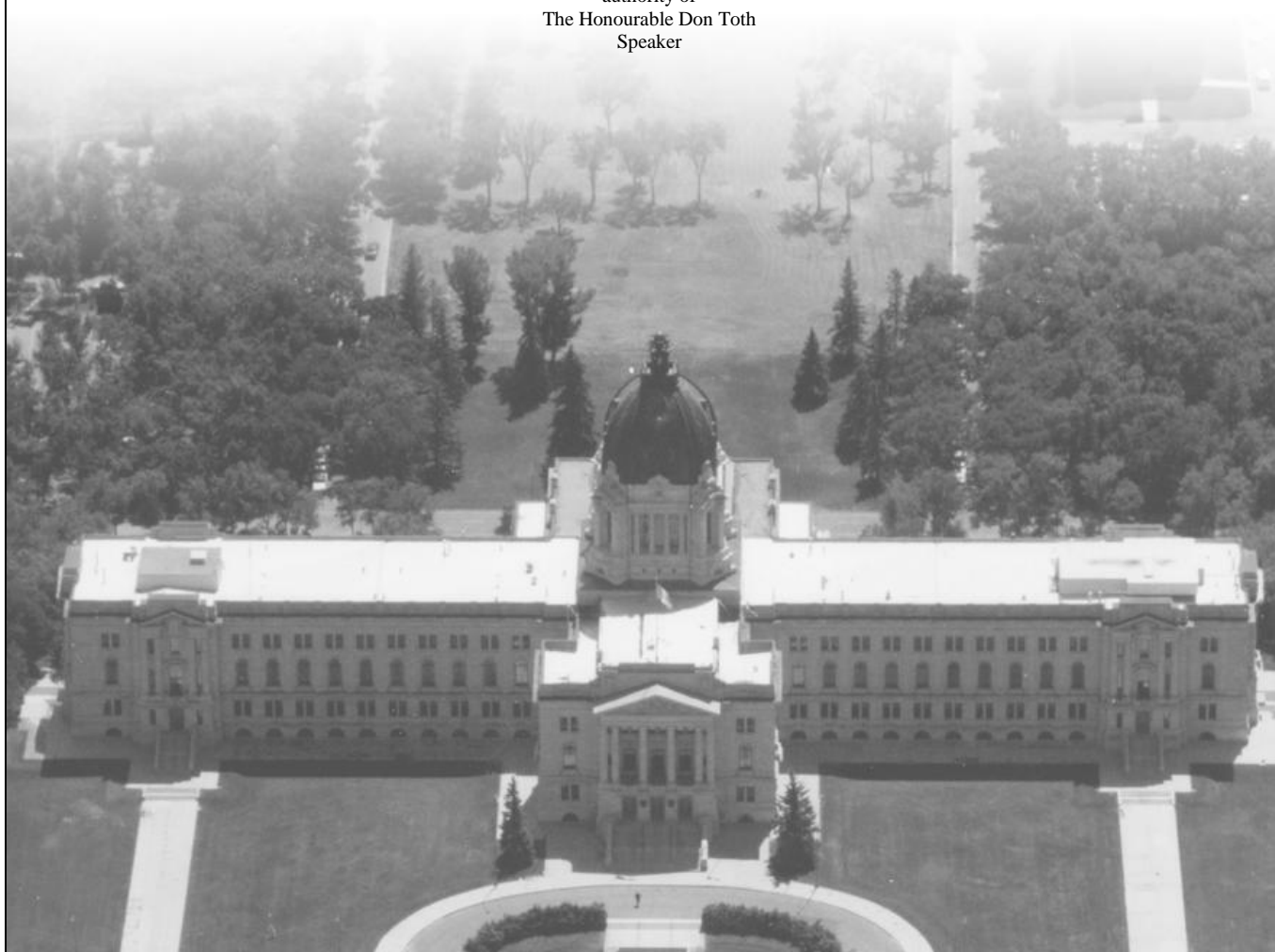
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
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The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



# MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — 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
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantefoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
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
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
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 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — Members, before I go to members, I'd like to introduce a number of teachers who have joined us today. It's my honour today to introduce to you a group of teachers who are here in the legislature to attend the 12th annual Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy.

The institute began on Saturday and will conclude on Wednesday. This group has already met with a number of people including members of the judiciary, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer and the Clerk. Earlier today, they met with caucus staff from both sides of the House, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and House Leaders. They are scheduled to meet with caucus Chairs, caucus Whips, several MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], cabinet ministers including the Minister of Education, the Premier, and the Leader of the Opposition.

I would ask as I introduce these teachers that they might wave as I mention their names, and I will do my best to pronounce their names appropriately. Ms. Marsha Barteski, Wynyard Composite High School in Wynyard. Mr. Devin Bernatchez, Senator Myles Venne School in Air Ronge. Mr. Perry Fehr, Punnichy Community High School in Punnichy. Ms. Laura Finnestad, École Vickers School in Prince Albert. Ms. Raquel Fusick, student, University of Regina. Mrs. Patty Herriot, Spruce Home School in Prince Albert. Mrs. Mari Knudsen, Punnichy Community School in Punnichy. Mrs. Darlene Parenteau, King George Community School in Prince Albert. Mr. Boris Okrainetz, Ministry of Education, the southern region, Regina. Ms. Maria Sparvier, Cowessess Community school in Cowessess First Nation. Miss Carrie Sutherland, student, University of Regina. Mr. Dean Turchinetz, Springside School in Springside. Miss Megan Van De Woestyne, student at University of Regina. And Mr. Rory Woroniuk, student, University of Regina.

And with the students we also have our steering committee composed of three teachers who've attended past institutes and officials from the Ministry of Education. From the Ministry of Education we have Mr. Brent Toles and Anna Schmidt. We also have with us Delores Syrota from Elfros; Larry Mikulcik, William Derby School in Strassbourg; and Paul Weiman, Holy Family School, North Battleford. I ask all members to welcome these teachers to the Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the Education critic for the official opposition and on behalf of all of my colleagues, I want to welcome teachers from across the province to the Legislative Assembly. I know that they are going to have some enjoyable days today after question period. In the past, teachers have been able to observe the interaction with media after question period, and no doubt they will do so

again.

I'm pleased that there are members of the legislature that you are meeting with. I'm particularly pleased that you are meeting with the Minister of Education. And as the Education critic, I don't know if we'll have estimates any time this week, but that would also be an interesting experience for teachers — to observe Education spending estimates. So with that, Mr. Speaker, welcome to the Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of government it's indeed a privilege to again welcome teachers from across the province to join in on this very, very important professional development. I know I'll have the opportunity to meet with the group tomorrow morning over breakfast, and that's usually a very tough hour. Sometimes some people like the eggs poached; others like them soft.

So I look forward very much to continued discussions. I think the professional development seminar is a great one and gives people the opportunity to see how the House actually conducts itself and the opportunity to ask many, many questions. So again, welcome to everyone from across the province.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 31 grade 12 students from F.W. Johnson Collegiate in my riding. And they're accompanied by two of their teachers, Lorraine BarronWright and Donarae Deringer.

And, Mr. Speaker, these are some of the wonderful young people from my constituency. And I'll have the opportunity later after question period to have them ask me some questions. And, Mr. Speaker, hopefully they're not going to be as tough on me as I want to be on the government today.

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

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the Assembly, I'd like to introduce, seated in your gallery, a very, very close friend of mine, Mr. Wayne McCord. Wayne, if you'll just give a bit of a wave.

Wayne is from Markham, Ontario, but we had the opportunity to go to school together. And Wayne keeps very close ties to Saskatchewan yet, as he keeps his house still in the town of McCord. So Wayne is back and forth very often.

And I've had the pleasure of doing a bit of world travel with Wayne over the last numbers of years. So I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Wayne to the Legislative Assembly here today.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, in the west gallery, I'd like to introduce to the Assembly filmmaker Robin Schlaht and film and TV editor Heather Malek who are part of a group working hard to help the government see the error of its ways in the closure of SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network].

Heather just had the opportunity to return from the Directors Guild of Canada AGM [annual general meeting] this weekend, where they passed a motion in support of SCN as the DGC [Directors Guild of Canada] which represents 3,800 key creative and logistical personnel in the film industry, also recognize the benefit that SCN has here in Saskatchewan and abroad. So with that I'd like us to welcome Heather and Robin to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Weyburn, the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to join with the member opposite and welcome Ms. Malek and Mr. Schlaht to the Legislative Assembly. We'll have an opportunity later this afternoon to meet with them, and I look forward to that discussion. And I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to other members of the Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Assembly to, reintroduce the Assembly to Tina Friesen who's in the east gallery today.

Tina is a member of the Self-Advocacy Action Group helping advocate for herself and for her peers. She gives of herself in a truly Saskatchewan way in that respect. She's a successful advocate. She's also very successful at work and highly prolific on Facebook, many friends and communicates with them often. She's a friend of mine and she's a friend of this province, and I'd like to introduce her and welcome her here to the Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I would just like to acknowledge one of the teachers that is here from the community of Sucker River but teaches at the band school Senator Myles Venne. It is an honour to have First Nations from the reserve taking part in this process to learn the political, democratic process that we have.

So I would just acknowledge Devin Bernatchez with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and just wish him all the best. I hope he gets a good learning experience, and today you'll make good friendships, continue those friendships. And I just welcome you to your legislature.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, through you and to all members of the Assembly, a young

man who is seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. He's not as tall as the other guests in your gallery today, and he has very distinctively coloured, wonderful hair. His name is Nolan Anderson. He's a champion with the Pee Wee Tier 1 Sabres hockey team in Regina.

He is an amazing athlete, no matter what he attempts. He's amazing at gymnastics — as I can witness from his antics on my trampoline in my backyard — and he's amazing on the soccer field, as witnessed when he played for the soccer team that my husband and I coached last year. And he's a very bright young man who attends French immersion school, and I'm really pleased that he could be in the Assembly today.

And with him, seated beside him is a young woman who's had a very proud accomplishment recently in that the team that she plays on for volleyball, the U13 Regina Volleyball Club Rush team won the silver medal at the provincial championships last week. And she is also attending the French immersion school with Nolan.

And before any of the teachers wonder if these two children are playing hooky today, that isn't the case. They actually have a teacher professional day at their day of school, and these two young people have decided to witness the democratic process that takes place in the Saskatchewan legislature today and be visitors in the gallery.

So I'd like all members of the legislature to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly today in witnessing how democracy takes place.

## 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 concerned citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the conditions and the safety of our highways. This petition applies to Highway 310, which according to the petition has deteriorated to the point where it's now becoming a potential safety hazard for the residents who have to drive the highway each and every day. And, Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition reads as follows:

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 Ituna and Hubbard, 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 a number of concerns that have been

raised that *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, which protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands or one-third of all wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan in their natural state, and that the government is looking at repealing the schedule of listings of these designated lands in amendments currently before the House. 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 consultations 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 concerned citizens in Asquith, Moose Jaw, and Weyburn. Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition in support of maintaining educational assistants in our public schools. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Education published a document in November that would drastically reduce the number of educational assistants in the province and replace them with a much smaller number of speech and language therapists and psychologists. And the view is that these people will not provide front-line service to children and young people in classrooms. And the prayer reads as follows:

Cause the government to provide funding for the required number of educational assistants to provide special needs students with the support they need and maintain a positive learning environment for all Saskatchewan students.

And this petition is signed by citizens from Tisdale, Sedley, Grenfell, Regina, and Glenavon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the reinstatement of the domestic abuse outreach program. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that this program provided a number of valuable services to women victims of domestic violence and their children, including helping women to find emergency shelter and accompanying them to their homes, courts, the hospital, or police station as needed. It was in fact a model for other family violence support programs throughout the province. 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 reinstate the domestic abuse outreach program as a provincial government service and make it available in all parts of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Saskatoon. I do so present.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of financial assistance for the town of Duck Lake water project. The petition is being circulated because of the undue hardship caused to the residents of Duck Lake because the Saskatchewan Party government has failed to provide adequate funding for their water system. The prayer reads:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good folks from Saskatoon, Prince Albert, One Arrow, and Duck Lake. I so present.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of an exemption for Furdale from ministry's directives. Furdale residents, in dealing in good faith with SaskWater for over 30 years, have paid large amounts for their domestic systems and in-home treatment equipment. And the alternative water supply being referred to them by a government ministry is a private operator offering treated, non-pressurized water at great cost with no guarantee of quality, quantity, or availability of water. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its order to cut off non-potable water to the residents of the hamlet of Furdale, causing great hardship with no suitable alternatives, to exempt the hamlet of Furdale from further water service cut-offs by granting a grandfather clause under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* and *The Water Regulations, 2002*, and that this government fulfills its promises to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise to present a petition in support of maintaining quality health care services. The petitioners note that the Government of Saskatchewan's heavy-handed essential services legislation is making a mockery of the collective bargaining process in this province. The prayer reads as follows:

That the honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to negotiating a fair and just collective bargaining agreement with health care workers in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of Meadow Lake. I so present.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. This petition is signed by citizens concerned that this government has let this industry languish the last two and a half years and has taken a short-sighted view with this particular budget and the closure of SCN. 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.

I so submit.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — With a point of privilege please.

**The Speaker:** — The member can state the point of personal privilege.

#### PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

**Ms. Morin:** — I've never had to do this before, Mr. Speaker, so I'm not even sure what the protocol is. But unfortunately when I was doing my introduction of guests, I inadvertently forgot to mention who the young woman sitting in the gallery was. And I just wanted to make a point of the fact that it happens to be my daughter, Morgan Morin, who's with us today accompanying Mr. Nolan Anderson. So my apologies to the House and my apologies to my daughter for forgetting to name her name. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It's duly noted.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards

**Mr. Michelson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently business excellence was celebrated in Moose Jaw with 400 business associates, friends, and families gathering together to toast the successful stories of business.

This event commemorates business achievements within this proud community that I call home. The Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce presented 11 awards in a variety of categories. A total of 25 different businesses were nominated for Business of the Year. This list included nominees from every category.

After a wonderful evening of speeches and presentations, it was Bryan Van Tassel from Boh's Cycle and sports who had the honour of taking home this award. Mr. Van Tassel described the surprise as such: "I've been in business for 20 years and I'm proud that the citizens of Moose Jaw have supported a little independent business."

The Business Excellence Awards also handed out its first-ever Business Leader of the Year award which was awarded to Darin Chow. While I don't have time to mention everyone, I would like to congratulate the Moose Jaw Real Estate Board, Heritage Inn, Bloodline Tattoo, Boh's Cycle and Sporting Goods, St. John Ambulance, Vibe Graphics, Cardinal Construction, W.J. Jones & Son, and Cypress Paving for the award-winning service.

Moose Jaw has a thriving entrepreneurial spirit, and the city is a better place for these businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Saskatchewan Children's Hospital Gala

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the honour of attending the Saskatchewan Children's Hospital Gala last Saturday in Saskatoon. In light of the fact that the Sask Party government continues to cut funding to the children's hospital, the commitment and hard work of many different people and agencies to put on amazing fundraisers such as this is really impressive.

Nadya Keenan, a 10-year-old from Saskatoon attending Pope Paul School in Eastview, was honoured at the event as the champion child, a symbol of strength and hope. Nadya was diagnosed with segmental hemangioma when she was only two weeks old. She's already endured several medical challenges but has never let her diagnosis limit her. Nadya represents just one of the thousands of kids who could be helped by the construction of a children's hospital in Saskatchewan. Despite the fact that the Premier and the Health minister never miss a photo op or the chance to take credit for someone else's hard work, neither one was at this monumental event.

In 2008 the Premier said, "This project remains a top priority

for the new Government of Saskatchewan.” Yet two years later, the only results the Children’s Hospital Foundation has seen from this government is cut after hurtful cut.

Mr. Speaker, there was \$2 billion in the provincial coffers when the Sask Party took over, enough to build several children’s hospitals in the province. Yet just more than two years later, we now sit with \$1 billion deficit, a drained rainy day fund, and all profits stripped from all but one of our Crown corporations.

Mr. Speaker, it’s time for this Sask Party government to quit stalling, immediately invest in the children’s hospital so construction can actually start.

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

#### Population Growth Benefits Saskatchewan Businesses

**Ms. Ross:** — Mr. Speaker, once again there is positive news about our great province. According to the Conference Board of Canada, the help wanted index has climbed 5.7 percentage points in March, outshining February’s strong 4.8 point increase, to reach 99.6. In Western Canada, Saskatchewan jumped by an increased incredible 32.6 percentage points. This makes Saskatchewan one of three provinces in the nation that has seen a spike in the help wanted index.

Mr. Speaker, this is by far the largest increase in the nation. Quebec is a distant second with a percentage growth at 10.7 percentage points. This is another indicator of the boundless business optimism that is growing in our province. Businesses feel confident investing in a diversified economy that has our province in the forefront of many forecasters’ growth predictions.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is incredible that our province has an ever-increasing population, and there is still a growing number of employers looking to hire Saskatchewan residents. There are jobs in Saskatchewan, and this is truly a great place for people and businesses alike to settle and plant their roots. Thank you very, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to rise and join with my colleague and the Minister of Enterprise who had an opportunity to attend the Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Moose Jaw & District Chamber of Commerce. In total there were 25 local businesses nominated for the 11 awards presented.

The Moose Jaw Real Estate Board received the award for community involvement. The Customer Service Award went to the Heritage Inn. The Young Entrepreneur of the Year was Bloodline Tattoos Company, and St. John Ambulance was named this year’s healthy workplace. New Business of the Year is Vibe Graphics, and Cardinal Construction received a rather emotional award for job creation. The Pioneer Award went to W.J. Jones & Son Funeral Home who recently celebrated their

70th anniversary. The Award for Business Innovation went to Cypress Paving, and the Marketing Award and Business of the Year recipient was Boh’s Cycle & Sporting Goods who was speechless when he accepted his award but recovered in time to sing a bit of an advertisement into the microphone. And the first-ever Business Leader of the Year Award went to Darin Chow of Chow McLeod Barristers and Solicitors.

Mr. Speaker, it was an emotional evening as the award winners were recognized for their commitment, hard work, and determination. And I ask all members to join me in congratulating the 2010 Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards winners. Here’s to Moose Jaw’s continued success.

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

#### Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend I had the pleasure of attending and bringing greetings to the annual general meeting of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society at the Westview Community School in Prince Albert.

The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society is one of the oldest volunteer organizations of its kind in Canada. Through its network of regional chapters and volunteers, the archaeological society continues to contribute to the province’s archaeological inventory, which contains over 22,000 records representing an outstanding 1,200 years of human history.

Shared stewardship of the province’s cultural heritage and building understanding to heritage experiences are key themes in the archaeological society’s newest cultural policy. This policy is titled “Pride of Saskatchewan: a policy where culture, community and commerce meet.”

By playing a vital role in these areas, the society contributes to Saskatchewan’s enviable quality of life. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not take time to acknowledge keynote speaker Leah Dorian for her fascinating and informative speech on Métis history in Saskatchewan.

2010 has been designated the Year of the Métis and will be a celebration of Métis cultural and heritage, so I’d like the Assembly to recognize this dedication to the preservation of our province’s cultural heritage. Thank you.

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

#### Premier’s Business Record

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, can a woman be just a little bit pregnant? Can a Sask Party MLA be only half asleep in the back row? Are the Roughriders just kind of Saskatchewan’s team? Well of course not, Mr. Speaker. But last week the Premier’s legal counsel in the Chamber tried to argue that the Premier’s business sense is just sort of pathetic — not entirely pathetic, just mostly pathetic.

He argued that the Premier didn’t preside over two businesses that went bankrupt. Instead the Premier presided over two

businesses that simply failed. The Premier has acknowledged that the country music hall of fame that he set up in and managed went into receivership and that the Last Stand Adventure Company wound down its operations. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have yet to see a successful company wind down operations.

The Premier can play with words all he wants. Whether his two businesses went bankrupt, bust, belly-up, or broke is semantics. What's clear is that the Premier presided over their failure, and his track record of failure continues in his current job as he mismanages Saskatchewan's finances. He inherited Canada's strongest economy and provincial finances, but he spent recklessly. He made a historical budget blunder. He drained cash from the rainy day fund. He took over a billion dollars from the Crowns to hide his mistakes. Now he's running another massive deficit budget.

While the Premier complains about semantics, it's abundantly clear that he and his government are bankrupt in many ways, and sadly it's Saskatchewan people who are paying the price. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Opposition Leader's Business Record

**Mr. McMillan:** — Mr. Speaker, as we can see from the NDP [New Democratic Party], they never let facts stand in the way of a good smear. Now they're using taxpayers' dollars to run ads that are flat out false. Mr. Speaker, it is now well established that, contrary to the NDP's taxpayer-funded attack ads, the Premier did not launch two companies that went bankrupt.

However, I can think of only one member who did. He launched two companies that did lose millions: Channel Lake and SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]. The leader of the NDP was heavily involved in both these disasters. But he wasn't using his own money, Mr. Speaker; he was losing millions of hard-earned tax dollars. First the NDP lost millions of taxpayers' dollars on unauthorized natural gas trading, and then they lost millions more on a rotten potato deal.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, that's the current NDP leader's record — two failed companies that lost millions of taxpayers' dollars on unwise investments. And he was mixed up in them both. No wonder the current leader of the NDP is so desperate to try and weave a tall tale about someone else's record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — With leave to revert to introduction of guests, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member has asked for leave to revert to introduction of guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to to introduce two individuals seated in the western gallery. They are Chris Laplante, executive assistant with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and Vice-chief Lyle Whitefish with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

We've, on the opposition side, had a good meeting with the vice-chief and certain of his staff this morning on issues of common concern, and it's good to see the vice-chief here. He's a, you know, long-time educator, a home builder, you know, champion of the Cree language. Ta wow, I should say. And of course this last go-round in the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] was elected by acclamation which, you know, I don't think any of us in this Chamber have had that pleasure, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway it's good to see the vice-chief and Mr. Laplante here in their Legislative Assembly. Please join me in welcoming them today. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave, to make an introduction, please.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has asked for leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also warmly welcome the vice-chief and all guests from FSIN to this Assembly. We certainly appreciate our working relationship with those folks and certainly intend to do more in the future. Thank you so much for coming. Welcome to your legislature.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Police Investigation and Member's Conduct

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, by refusing to release details about the expenses of legislative secretaries, the Premier has broken his promise to strengthen accountability and transparency in government. To the Premier: why does he not think that Saskatchewan taxpayers have a right to know how their money is spent?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member is asking



questions that are currently under investigation by the Regina Police Service. I've answered this before. We are prepared to continue to work with the Regina Police Service. If the member opposite wishes to bring his questions to Board of Internal Economy . . . They met earlier today. He did not bring them up at that point in time.

Our intention, Mr. Speaker, and I urge all members to, is to co-operate fully with the investigation as it unfolds, and the members on this side are certainly going to be doing that. I expect the members on that side of the House to do that as well. And, Mr. Speaker, I urge them to be patient, let the matter unroll as it should. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We on this side weren't aware that all legislative secretaries were under investigation by the police, but that's good to know.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday the government refused to ask the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to investigate several concerns related to the legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. To the Premier: is he not concerned that a long delay could impede the ability of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to investigate the matter?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to once again indicate that the matter is before the Regina Police Service. We will continue to do that. The members opposite have asked a number of written questions. Mr. Speaker, the written questions that they've asked are quite proper and appropriate, and I understand that the answers to the written questions will be provided later today.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we urge the members to continue to respect the good work that's being done by the Regina Police Service, co-operate with them. They'll have a chance to look at the answers to the written questions that will be provided, and the matter will proceed, Mr. Speaker, as we expect that it should.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In my first question I asked for those very answers to be released in open and accountable transparency, and I was told it was before the police. Now I hear I'm going to get those answers later today.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Premier's legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing deleted key information off his personal website, including all of his past speaking engagements. Such information is necessary in order to cross-reference those speaking engagements with the individual's use of taxpayers' resources. But unfortunately the Premier has refused to release any information about his legislative secretary's travel or expenses, and now the legislative secretary has started to delete the evidence.

To the Premier: does he not think that Saskatchewan taxpayers have a right to know whether they paid the bill for any of these trips?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member for Saskatoon Northwest, the former legislative secretary, will conduct his affairs as an MLA, and the rules of the House will apply to him as they do to everyone else. If there's an inappropriate mistake, inappropriate matter, the members opposite have the opportunity to bring the matter to the Board of Internal Economy. And as I've indicated before, Mr. Speaker, the matter is currently before the Regina Police Service. It is not the intention of the members on this side to take any further steps until that investigation is complete, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, with the failure of the Premier to agree to jointly move it to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, later this day we will in fact be sending a letter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner referring this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, no one is buying the Premier's argument that everything else must wait until the police investigation has concluded. The police are investigating whether or not there were any violations of the Criminal Code. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner would investigate whether there has been a violation of the trust placed in the member by the people of Saskatoon Northwest. But the Premier's delay tactics are allowing crucial evidence to be destroyed.

To the Premier: does he have something to hide? Or will he finally exercise some judgment and leadership and refer this matter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, in the NDP matter with Glenn Hagel, the matter was referred to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner who on receipt of it indicated that he was not prepared to deal with it until the police investigation was completed — dealt with it after that. Our intention is to allow the same type of events to take place and, Mr. Speaker, we will wait. We will watch what happens with the police investigation. And, Mr. Speaker, we will deal with it in an appropriate and timely manner. I'd like to urge all members to do exactly the same.

I would, Mr. Speaker, like to reiterate at this time that we expect all members to co-operate fully with the Regina Police Service. If more information comes into their possession, however it may be, it should all be turned over to the police service. And we expect that members on both sides of the House can and will do that, and we expect that all members will co-operate fully.

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

### Supply of Physicians

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the 2007 election the Sask Party promised to fix the rural doctor shortage problem. Over the last two years under a Sask Party government, the number of physician vacancies in the province has increased.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: the government couldn't keep their promise when things were booming and they had money. How are they going to keep their promise now when they're broke and they are forcing health regions to once again run massive deficits to make up for this government's chronic financial mismanagement?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, we in Saskatchewan have a College of Medicine like most every other province has a college of medicine. Unfortunately, under the NDP, for decades our College of Medicine only had 60 medical seats, the second smallest in Canada, Mr. Speaker, under the NDP.

We are facing a bit of a doctor shortage right now and it's partially because they never increased the number of training seats to train more of our own grads. We rely more heavily in Saskatchewan than any other province on international medically trained graduates, Mr. Speaker. They do a great service but we have kids in our, students in our province that we need to train up and become doctors. That's why we've increased the College of Medicine's seats to 84. That's why we've increased the residency positions to 108 — right now on our way to 100 medical seats and 120 residency seats, Mr. Speaker. But more importantly, in the last two and a half years of our government, we've seen an increase of 164 more physicians practising in Saskatchewan than under that previous government.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, adding seats to the College of Medicine isn't going to fix the problem right now. The recently announced doctor recruitment agency is not helping communities like Kamsack who cut emergency services last week because of a lack of physicians, or Moose Jaw who just lost three more doctors. It's not helping Yorkton or Lestock or Outlook who all are in need of physicians too.

Mr. Speaker, how does the minister expect to recruit doctors when he hasn't been able to negotiate a contract with the Saskatchewan Medical Association or with the Professional Association of Internes and Residents of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I take it from the preamble to the question that she's not in favour of increasing the College of Medicine. She'd rather have it go back to . . . [inaudible] . . . It's not going to help. It's not going to help, Mr. Speaker. It is extremely important that we train more of our Saskatchewan residents to practise here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That's what we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, we have set up a physician recruitment agency that will go a long ways to help attract physicians into the province and retain the medical students and residents that we have in the province, Mr. Speaker.

The solutions aren't just one solution at a time, Mr. Speaker. It's a group of ideas that are going to solve this problem, Mr. Speaker. We have those ideas. They're being moved forward. And I think the number of physicians working in Saskatchewan will continue to increase under a Sask Party government.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — The South Hill Medical Clinic in Moose Jaw is down to two doctors, and they're turning away 50 to 60 patients a day. It's not uncommon for people to have to wait weeks to see a doctor or drive an hour or more to another community. I don't think they can wait five years for the new graduate.

The people of Outlook have started a Facebook group called, and I quote: "So we have a new hospital. Big deal. Where the hell are the doctors?" In an attempt to get the attention of the government, they put this Facebook up.

Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about a private recruitment agency being used to find doctors. What's the name of this agency, and is this funded as a part of his announced physician recruitment strategy or is this a parallel running program at extra costs?

**The Speaker:** — Order. I'd just like to remind the member from Saskatoon Eastview, the members are not to say what they can't say directly, even through a quote; to be careful in your comments or the words used. I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, in the last two and a half years, we've seen the doctor complement in our province increase by 164: 92 specialists, 72 general practitioners, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to see those numbers increase. I think it's extremely important.

There are times where communities will lose physicians and gain physicians back, Mr. Speaker. There is always a bit of an ebb and flow, but what is most important is we're seeing positive numbers as we move forward, unlike under the former government, when they closed 52 hospitals and actually chased thousands of health care professionals out of this province, including doctors, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, rural doctors are calling doctor recruitment a crisis. They're in a crisis. In fact they're calling the situation the perfect storm. Dr. David Ledding from Rosetown says, and I quote:

You [the minister] need to do more . . . This is our last kick at the cat, we're going to have practices failing out there [in rural Saskatchewan].

And of course we're starting to see that. We just saw Moose Jaw. We've got Yorkton, Outlook, Lestock, everywhere.

The minister's failed to negotiate with over 25,000 health care workers. He's failed to negotiate with the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] in a timely fashion, and he's ripped up the contract with chiropractors. Mr. Speaker, how can the people trust this minister to bring doctors to their communities when he has failed at everything he has tried so far?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know she mentioned a quote, so I have a quote as well from former . . . Dr. Lewis Draper, former NDP MLA, and here's what he had to say:

It's sheer hypocrisy for Judy Junor to carp about health care. She and the present leader of the NDP were both part of the cabinet that spent 15 years shredding rural health care in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

That's from a former member of the NDP, Mr. Speaker. That's what rural Saskatchewan is facing. We in the last two and a half years have moved a long ways to start repairing some of the shredding that that former government did in rural Saskatchewan.

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

[14:15]

#### Ministry of Environment Budget

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why did the Sask Party government cut protection for the environment by 13 per cent in this budget, one of the biggest cuts in the budget?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, going into this budget cycle we were asked to look for efficiencies, and that's what we did within my ministry. And as far as the cuts within the Ministry of Environment, a large part of that is under the fire budget. There was a reduction of almost \$20 million in capital that we no longer needed. We're at the end of phase 1 and phase 2 of aerial fleet renewal, so there's \$20 million that we don't need this year that we spent last year. And there's also a \$10 million reduction in the fire budget. It's all for operations that we thought would be manageable under an average fire season, Mr. Speaker.

So the majority of the cuts in the Ministry of Environment come from those two areas. It's manageable and it's a responsible way of budgeting, Mr. Speaker, while taking care of the environment.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Well there would be argument as to whether they're taking care of the environment, Mr. Speaker. The government says it wants Saskatchewan to go green, but it still won't make it's latest greenhouse gas reduction targets legally binding. And they cut funding to go green in this budget.

When you look at last year's budget, they allocated \$15 million for green initiatives. This year they appear to be spending 15 million as well, but they've earmarked 4 million of that for SARCAN. And the funding for the beverage container and recycling system has conveniently been cut by \$4 million, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: why should Saskatchewan people see this as anything other than a cut to the green initiatives budget?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, I would imagine from the member's question that she thinks recycling is not a green initiative. I don't know where exactly she gets that from, but funding for recycling is indeed a green initiative, Mr. Speaker. It keeps waste out of our landfills; it reuses a product so we don't have to make them from new. I think it is absolutely a green initiative.

And, Mr. Speaker, as for the funding to SARCAN, I find it also very interesting that the members opposite would ask that question. They collected environmental handling charges on beverage containers and put a lot of that money back into GRF [General Revenue Fund] and not ever put it back into recycling, Mr. Speaker.

We have changed the approach for SARCAN. They are the only beverage container recycler in the province. We have increased their budget by over \$11 million from what the NDP did, Mr. Speaker. So they are adequately funded because they are growing, because people in this province do believe that recycling is a green initiative and want to be involved.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, anyone that looks at the budget will see that this is nothing but budget fudge-ity by this government in terms of hiding that money. Mr. Speaker, this kind of fiscal shell game is typical of this government. They shuffle money around to hide what they're really doing. They transfer money from the Crowns and the rainy day fund to disguise the fact that they're running a deficit. They offload expenses onto communities and taxpayers to cover their broken promises. And they move money around in an Environment budget to disguise the fact that they've cut funding to go green by more than 26 per cent.

To the minister: why is the government using more financial trickery to hide the consequences of their incompetence and mismanagement?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, what the members opposite will see in this budget is a part of a reorganization of the Ministry of Environment in order to focus on areas of importance, Mr. Speaker. As an example, we have \$1.2 million, an additional five FTEs [full-time equivalent] going to in the ministry on climate change because that's important.

Mr. Speaker, we have spent over the last two years \$2 million on a northwest sustainability development plan, something that the NDP never did. They were fine to go and lease land to oil sands development, but had no actual plan in place to make sure that all of that area was actually being developed sustainably, Mr. Speaker, so that we could protect our air and our water and the people who live there and use those resources, Mr. Speaker. So we are using our funds in the Ministry of Environment responsibly. We are putting money where it is needed to make sure that our environment is protected going forward, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Climate Change

**Ms. Morin:** — If this minister is serious about protecting the environment, she wouldn't cut \$291,000 to a program of a round table with the FSIN which was far more reaching than the minister even realizes, because she didn't have the decency to talk to them about what that program actually entails.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan now has the highest greenhouse gas emissions of any province in Canada. This government is preparing to conduct a fire sale of wildlife habitat protected lands. It's privatizing and gutting environmental protection. It's slashed the Environment budget by over 13 per cent, one of the biggest cuts of any ministry. And this government is led by a Premier who told audiences outside the province that we should "rag the puck" on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

To the minister: given this government's record of cuts and broken promises and its refusal to make legally binding commitments to protect the environment, why should anyone believe their latest promises on climate change?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, for all the member opposite's bravado and feigned outrage on this issue on climate change, we gave the opposition the opportunity on Thursday. Our House Leader introduced a motion in order to get our climate change Bill passed, Mr. Speaker, and what did they do? They said no. So who's ragging the puck on this issue?

If they want a real plan in place in this province, Mr. Speaker, they would let our climate change Bill go through, because after 16 years under the NDP, we do have the highest emissions per capita because the NDP didn't do anything, Mr. Speaker.

We are trying to do something. We are trying to put in legislation and regulations in order for large emitters to control their emissions, Mr. Speaker. The only people in this province who are stopping the reduction of emissions in this province,

Mr. Speaker, are those 20 on the other side of the bench, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Prevention of West Nile Disease

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government's short-sighted budgetary decisions just keep piling up — decisions that may save \$1 now but will cost taxpayers at least \$3 down the line.

The recent budget decision to axe the West Nile mosquito control program is an example of this short-sightedness. Mr. Speaker, why did the government make this decision to axe this program in the budget?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, there was a program that has been operating in the province for a number of years, for a few years regarding West Nile and mosquito control. It was a program that was cost shared between municipalities and the provincial government. When we look at the numbers of West Nile cases in the province over the last number of years, it spiked two or three years ago at around 1,400. Then it dropped down to about 17 or 18. Last year there was only one case of West Nile in the province, Mr. Speaker. We feel that we can move away from the mosquito control program.

But what we are continuing to do is do surveillance around the province so that, if there is an increase of the mosquito that carries West Nile virus, that we'll be able to put money towards controlling that outbreak in that area, Mr. Speaker. But as far as the whole program provincial-wide, if municipalities still want to have a mosquito control program, they certainly may.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, North Battleford received \$17,000 a year and took a lot of preventative measures with that funding. They drained ditches and other standing pools of water. They funded a larvicide program to kill mosquitoes before they grew to maturity. The number of West Nile cases is down. The program is working. Now the government is cutting the program, completely missing the whole point of prevention.

Mr. Speaker, why is the minister cutting a program that works and forcing communities to foot the bill?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said that . . . You know, the member opposite mentions that the number of West Nile cases are down. They're down significantly — from 1,400 a few years ago down to one last year, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's why we are deciding that the mosquito control program itself does not need to be funded by the provincial government.

If communities, municipalities, or cities want to continue with a

mosquito control program, they certainly may. But on the West Nile front, Mr. Speaker, our government is continuing to put money forward for surveillance, and in the event that we see a large increase in the mosquito that carries West Nile, *Culex tarsalis*, Mr. Speaker, we will be there to help control those outbreaks.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, communities are already warning that they won't be able to take some of the preventative measures that they have been over the past couple of years. And Regina officials say that as a result of the cut they will be short the staff and equipment to do complete coverage of the mosquito control program. Saskatoon says they won't have the money to spray sloughs outside the city where most of the mosquitoes come from.

So to the minister: why is he going to wait until there is a rise of West Nile cases, and why should the health of Saskatchewan people be put at risk because of this government's fiscal mismanagement?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the mosquito control program that has been in the province for a number of years, it does what it says. It controls all mosquitoes. There is only one type of mosquito that carries West Nile. We were putting in \$1 million or so annually to cover a mosquito control program when we're really only trying to target one specific type of mosquito that carries West Nile. That's why we're continuing on with the surveillance, around \$364,000.

We'll continue on with surveillance, Mr. Speaker, and if we see an increase of that type of mosquito, the *Culex tarsalis*, Mr. Speaker, we will make sure that we are there with some control to isolate that particular area, Mr. Speaker. If cities and communities want to continue on with a broader program, such as a mosquito control program, they are certainly in the position if they so choose to do that on their own.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what number of incidents or cases will be acceptable to the minister but to sit on the money and sit back and just provide surveillance is totally unacceptable. This government, this government is putting people's lives at risk of getting West Nile by cutting this program funding.

And after some sober second thought, the government reinstated a small portion of the money into the Dutch elm disease program. Mr. Speaker, healthy people are at least as important as healthy trees. Will the minister reverse his short-sighted decision and reinstate the money for the program before we have an outbreak of West Nile?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, the mosquito control

program that we were entered into with municipalities is only one form of protection, Mr. Speaker. The most effective way of protecting oneself against West Nile virus is having the proper clothing on, of course, Mr. Speaker, using mosquito repellent. Self-protection is by far the most important piece of the whole mosquito program, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll continue to educate the general public and tell people to make sure that they wear proper clothing, bright clothing that repels mosquitoes, as well as using mosquito repellent because that is by far the most effective program to prevent West Nile disease.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 139 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010*

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved first reading of Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

### Bill No. 140 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)/Loi corrective (rationalisation administrative) n° 2 de 2010*

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved first reading of Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) 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 considered a second time?

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 141 — *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 141, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act* now be introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister Responsible for Crown Investments has moved first reading of Bill No. 141, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 142 — *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Consequential Amendments Act, 2010/Loi de 2010 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

[14:30]

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 142, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Consequential Amendments Act, 2010* now be introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister Responsible for Crown Investments has moved first reading of Bill No. 142, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Consequential Amendments Act, 2010*. 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 considered a second time? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 143 — *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2010***

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 143, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2010* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved first reading of Bill No. 143, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2010*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefer:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of order with regard to the government's closure motion on the debate regarding extended sitting hours of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I'd ask the member to state the point of order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Despite having been part of the rules of this Assembly since 1917, closure has only been invoked eight times. The last time it was invoked was in 2008 after eleven and a half hours of debate. At that time, the official opposition raised a point of privilege based on the fact that standing orders of the legislatures and parliaments are traditionally only implemented after opposition parties have been consulted and their consent obtained or, alternatively, after a lengthy parliamentary debate.

At that time, the government had not consulted with the opposition and did not allow a lengthy parliamentary debate. In response to the point of privilege, the Speaker stated that "The

issues the Opposition House Leader has raised are properly questions of order and not privilege.”

Today we are once again in a situation where the government is unilaterally moving forward with changes to the rules of this Assembly with absolutely no consultation with the opposition and after just 2 hours and 16 minutes, Mr. Speaker, just 2 hours and 16 minutes of debate, significantly less time than was devoted to the debate on the issue the last time they arbitrarily changed the rules.

As instructed by the Speaker last time when the Speaker said that current concerns are properly questions of order and not privilege, I am raising a point of order on this issue today and asking the Speaker to rule whether or not the closure motion can proceed under the rules and customary procedures of the House. Since the closure motion was raised on Thursday, this is the opposition’s first opportunity to raise this issue in the Assembly.

The Speaker must always ensure that the majority within the Assembly conducts its business in an orderly manner that is consistent with the rules and customary procedures of the House. And the Speaker must also ensure that the minority’s fundamental right to be heard is vigorously protected. The Speaker can rule this closure motion out of order on the grounds that insufficient debate has occurred and that procedure is simply being used to violate the rights of the minority . . . pardon me, used to violate the rights of the minority.

Extending the hours of the Assembly is not a trivial matter. Requiring members to sit in this Assembly from 8 a.m. until midnight will directly affect our ability to effectively represent our constituents. Having question period first thing in the morning restricts the ability of delegations of concerned citizens to come to their Legislative Assembly to have their issues raised in question period. Sitting until midnight on Thursday restricts those members whose constituencies are far from Regina from being able to meet with their constituents on Fridays. The list of problems goes on and on. We need to debate this further in order to fully understand the implications of extending the sitting hours of this Assembly.

But just after 2 hours and 16 minutes of debate, the government has moved closure and intends to impose their will on the minority without any consultation and with minimal debate. For that reason, we ask the Speaker to rule this closure motion out of order and to allow the debate on the government’s motion regarding extended hours to continue.

Again, this is keeping with the instructions of the Speaker on April 9th, 2008, when the Speaker said the concerns are properly questions of order, not privilege. Given the fact that the Speaker will likely want to take time to consider his ruling, we would ask that the closure motion be delayed until such time as the Speaker has determined whether it violates the rules and procedures of this Assembly.

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

**Mr. D’Autremont:** — In response to the point of order, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most if not all of this legislation was on the order paper last fall. The opposition has had plenty of time

to study it and to consult, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite said that closure in the past was done with the consent of the opposition — far from it, Mr. Speaker. I was here when that was done a number of times by the former NDP administration. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a quote on this very topic, Mr. Speaker, from the then House leader and now the Leader of the Official Opposition, and I quote:

Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the point of order, I just want to make the comment very briefly that under the point [of order] that we are at in the agenda of the Assembly, we have seen the opposition members move adjournment motions. What we are doing here in terms of procedure might seem to be very similar: that is, moving a motion to extend the hours.

I would make the argument, a much more legitimate argument if you’re worried about getting the work of the people done, to extend the hours in order to accomplish the will of the government which is duly elected by the people of the province. That’s a fundamental principle that should be allowed in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the closure motion and the time extension that will take place in debate allows the people of Saskatchewan and the opposition as much time as possible to talk about and raise the issues that they desire to raise before this House, Mr. Speaker, and still maintain the rules that were put in place under the previous administration.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I’ve heard the point of order and the Government House Leader’s response. If the members would just give me a moment, I’d like to confer with the Clerks and just take a look at and think over the point of order that’s been raised.

I would ask the House leaders and the members of the Assembly to allow us to have a 10-minute break. We’ll resume at 10 to 3, and that will allow me the opportunity of conferring directly with the Clerks where we don’t have . . . where we’ve got the ability to sit down and thoroughly look at the point of order that’s been raised.

So this House will recess for roughly 10 minutes. We’ll resume at 10 to 3.

[The Assembly recessed for a period of time.]

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Closure Motion

**The Speaker:** — Call the House to order. And I thank the members for allowing me an opportunity to sit down with the Clerks to review the point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader.

First of all, I would like to thank the Opposition House Leader for providing a copy of his point of order. The member is correct; it is a question of order. The question of order is, has the minister followed and complied with the terms of the rule?

In addressing the point of order, the rules do not require consultation. The member raises the point that there has not been sufficient debate. Our rules do not specify that there is a specific number of hours required for closure before closure can be moved.

The Opposition House Leader states, and I quote:

The Speaker can rule this closure motion out of order on the grounds that insufficient debate has occurred and that the procedure's simply being sued to violate the rights of the minority.

On page 561 and 562 of Marleau and Montpetit, I quote:

The Speaker has at times been asked to use discretionary authority to refuse to put a closure motion to the House on the ground that a measure had not been given enough debating time. Invariably, he or she has declined to interfere with the application of the rule, deciding in each case that the Chair has no authority to intervene in the process when the closure rule is applied properly.

And quoting Speaker Fraser at the lower part of the page:

... Speaker Fraser ruled that the timing of closure in a debate is not a procedural matter and that the Chair has no discretionary power to refuse the motion and is without authority to intervene when a Standing Order is used according to the House's rules and practices ...

I therefore find that the point of order is not well taken. Before closing, I would like to point out that in some jurisdictions there are rules which attaches to the Speaker a very clear discretion whether or not sufficient hours have been spent in a debate before closure can be moved. Saskatchewan, like the House of Commons, has no such rule. If the member believes that this should be part of the rule, I invite the member to raise it with the House Services Committee.

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

## MOTIONS

### Closure

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, before Orders of the Day is called for resuming debate on item 20, the proposed sessional order for the revision of sitting times, pursuant to Rule 66(1), I move:

That debate on the motion regarding the revision of sessional sitting times and on any amendment or subamendments proposed thereto be not further adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government Deputy House Leader:

That debate on the motion regarding the revision of sessional sitting times and on any amendment or subamendments proposed thereto be not further adjourned.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:11 until 15:21.]

**The Speaker:** — Order. All those in favour of the motion, please rise.

### [Yeas — 32]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Gantefer
Draude	Boyd	Eagles
Cheveldayoff	Duncan	Huyghebaert
Heppner	Harpauer	D'Autremont
Harrison	Norris	Reiter
Hutchinson	Brkich	Elhard
Hart	Schriemer	Stewart
Allchurch	Weekes	Wilson
Hickie	Michelson	Ottenbreit
Ross	Chisholm	Bradshaw
Kirsch	McMillan	

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion, please rise.

### [Nays — 15]

McCall	Belanger	Harper
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Forbes	Vermette
Furber	Morin	Yates
Taylor	Quennell	Chartier

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 32. Those opposed, 15.

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

#### Hours of Sitting

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

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to pick up where I left off the other day. But, Mr.



Speaker, I say pleased only in the sense that I am continued to be afforded the right to speak in this Assembly. I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I'm outraged that this government would put, I'm outraged, Mr. Speaker, that this government would put their power over the privilege and the principle of what this place is all about, Mr. Speaker.

We are seeing here today that, after just 2 hours and 18 minutes of debate in this Assembly, a motion that essentially denies public participation in the legislative process. After 2 hours and 18 minutes of debate, this government, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government elected just a little over two years ago, is removing the rights of members to speak about the issues that are important to us, Mr. Speaker.

They will argue, of course, that a motion to extend the hours gives us more opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to speak to the legislation. But by and large, Mr. Speaker, those who paid attention to my remarks a week ago Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, would see exactly how wrong they are, that this extension of hours, Mr. Speaker, actually denies the public the right and the ability to participate in the legislative process, Mr. Speaker, something that we all take very, very seriously.

This whole process is, as I said, putting power before principle, Mr. Speaker. And it's an admission that the government is as adept at managing this House as they are at managing the finances of our local economy, our provincial economy, Mr. Speaker. This government, this government is as bankrupt in its policy planning processes as it is in managing the provincial resources, Mr. Speaker, fiscal resources.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am outraged that we are at this point in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we have been here for a very short period of time so far but, Mr. Speaker, already we are seeing this government in panic mode. They have decided that what they've brought forward they can't achieve, and therefore they must do something about it, Mr. Speaker. This is all desperation; it's panic. It's showing the people of Saskatchewan that this government has not got the ability to plan its way through what needs to be planned.

Mr. Speaker, as politicians we often appear in parades in our community, Mr. Speaker. We are often the second, third, fourth, fifth car in 200 or 300 cars going down the streets of our communities, Mr. Speaker. This government is demonstrating that it can't manage a two-car parade, Mr. Speaker, let alone a large one that they themselves have been in, Mr. Speaker.

These are not difficult matters, to live within the rules. And as members will know from my remarks the other day, Mr. Speaker, rules apply to everyone. And rules are quite simple, Mr. Speaker. You decide what you need to get done. You sit down to talk about how best to achieve the goals that you want to set.

Mr. Speaker, every single sporting event in the world has rules. Every single sporting event, those rules apply equally to everyone. And, Mr. Speaker, when they start the game, they understand what those rules are, and they know how to get to the end of the game, Mr. Speaker. In hockey there's overtime, Mr. Speaker, if you're tied at the end of three periods. Overtime, Mr. Speaker, is not an extension of hours; it's an

extension of the time that's allocated, Mr. Speaker.

And our rules, just like hockey, allow for overtime. If this government can't manage before the end of the day on May the 20th, they can sit for five more days, Mr. Speaker, without any special rules of the Assembly because we've reached agreements on that, Mr. Speaker. The referee can blow the whistle at any time, Mr. Speaker, but everyone knows what that whistle means, and they know what the consequences of that action are.

Mr. Speaker, this government knew before this session began that it had till May the 20th to get its agenda through. And it planned so poorly, Mr. Speaker, that now just a few weeks in, they're in panic mode because, oh my goodness, we aren't going to get all of our work done. And they blame us in the opposition, Mr. Speaker. They blame us for not allowing this stuff to move forward. Well, Mr. Speaker, where are we at in just the last little while? How many Bills are awaiting Royal Assent?

Mr. Speaker, for the public's information, every day in this Chamber we get a little blue pamphlet. The pamphlet is called *Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day of the Legislative Assembly Province of Saskatchewan*. Right now we're in the third session, the 26th legislature. And today is Monday, April the 26th, 2010. Mr. Speaker, on the back page of this multi-page document are the Bills awaiting Royal Assent, Mr. Speaker, Bills that have already been dealt with by this Assembly. They've been through first, second, and third readings. They've been through committee, Mr. Speaker.

Those Bills include: Bill 133, *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act*; Bill 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act*; Bill 118, *The Milk Control Repeal Act*; Bill 108, *The Cities Amendment Act*; Bill 109, *The Municipalities Amendment Act*; Bill 110, *The Northern Municipalities Act*; Bill 111, *The Northern Municipalities Consequential Amendments Act*; Bill 112, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*; Bill 113, *The Justices of the Peace Consequential Amendments Act*.

Bill 115, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act (No. 2)*; Bill 103, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Professional Discipline) Amendment Act*; Bill 101, *The Credit Union Amendment Act (No. 2)*; Bill 127, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act*; Bill 104, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act (No. 2)*; Bill 114, *The Small Claims Amendment Act*; Bill 102, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act*; Bill 124, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*; Bill 128, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Labour Mobility) Amendment Act*.

[15:30]

Mr. Speaker, every single one of those Bills has gone through the entire process of this Legislative Assembly. And there's still four weeks to go, Mr. Speaker, before this session is supposed to end. Today, Mr. Speaker, the government announced there's still five more Bill, four more Bills ... five, I think, Mr. Speaker, that they're introducing today. Today. And they want us, because we're going to have this extended motion now, we're going to pass those before this session ends too. Not only, Mr. Speaker, are they failing to understand how quickly some legislation is going through this Chamber and blaming New

Democrats for holding it up.

Well my goodness, Mr. Speaker, just read that list again, and I'm sure that somebody this afternoon is going to do it, Mr. Speaker. We all know that the closure motion restricts members of this House to only 20 minutes of debate. So, Mr. Speaker, I can't fully outline the benefits of where we're at today but, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite will say that the NDP has been stalling and holding up legislation. This list, Mr. Speaker, says that those comments are not accurate to the circumstances of the day, Mr. Speaker.

Now at the same time, we know that this government isn't just inept at the current time. Mr. Speaker, this government was inept a year ago as well, Mr. Speaker. This is not the first time they've had to move extension of hours. This is not the first time they've had to move closure on a motion to extend the hours, Mr. Speaker.

Back on April the 7th, 2008 after only nine days of the legislature sitting, Mr. Speaker, they moved the motion to extend the hours. On April the 8th — the next day, April the 8th, 2008 — they brought in a closure motion and we went through this whole process all over again. And, Mr. Speaker, on April the 9th the closure motion was taken, the speeches on closure, again expressing our outrage at the process, Mr. Speaker. But then what happened? In just a couple of days, Mr. Speaker, the government realized, oh my goodness we went into panic too soon, and they changed everything back to normal hours, Mr. Speaker. By April 21st we were back to normal hours and that session ended, Mr. Speaker, appropriately.

We have an agreement in this place, Mr. Speaker, we have an agreement whereby we have a calendar. And the calendar says that there's a spring sitting and a fall sitting. And the fall sitting is where everything begins. The fall sitting is the Throne Speech and introduce your legislation.

During the course of the winter, Mr. Speaker, the public reviews that legislation and that legislative agenda, and in the spring, Mr. Speaker, that legislation . . . the debate concludes in the Legislative Assembly. This government that's now into its third year has failed to understand this simple concept fully, fully. They've failed to understand the simple concept that legislation introduced in the fall with a Throne Speech can be passed and concluded by the end of the spring session, Mr. Speaker.

Here we are in the middle of the spring session, and they're still introducing brand new pieces of legislation and saying to the opposition, we're the majority. You're the minority; we will pass the legislation whether you want it to or not. And we're going to do it, Mr. Speaker, by extending the hours and not allowing the public to be a part of that process because we're sitting at 8 o'clock in the morning and we're going till midnight, Mr. Speaker. And nobody will know until kind of midnight the night before what's going to happen the next day.

Mr. Speaker, there are no notice provisions. If we're sitting in committee on a given day, how is the public supposed to know in Saskatoon and Meadow Lake and Weyburn whether they can come in to participate in a committee debate, Mr. Speaker?

They can't. They can't because of the way in which this motion is drafted, Mr. Speaker.

So here we are. This government is so caught up in the power of being government and the power of being in the majority, Mr. Speaker, that they are running roughshod over the rights of the people of Saskatchewan because the people who speak for the people of Saskatchewan are represented by the minority in the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, on this motion, have we heard a word from members of government about their legislative agenda? No, Mr. Speaker. On the legislative agenda itself, Mr. Speaker, have we heard much from members of the opposition? Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. So those who are listening to the public and those who are communicating the words of the public, Mr. Speaker, sit on this side of the House. They are members of the opposition. They are New Democratic Party members, and they were elected by constituents in this province, Mr. Speaker, to pass on messages to government.

And this is our forum in which we do that, Mr. Speaker. It's the forum in which we present information. We've listened to the public. We've evaluated the information. We have brought it forward to the government. We evaluate the government's response to that information, Mr. Speaker. We then consult further with the public, and we can conclude debate on various pieces of legislation.

There are not a lot of Bills left on the order paper, Mr. Speaker, and that's why I don't fully understand this panic that the Government House Leader and the government Deputy House Leader, where this panic exactly comes from, Mr. Speaker. This may be back to 2008, where they are afraid of something as opposed to having planned through their efforts, Mr. Speaker.

There's a number of Bills that are still up for debate. There's lots of time left in this Assembly over the course of the next four weeks to debate those Bills, Mr. Speaker. But by golly if this government, understanding the rules, wanted to have their legislative package all passed by this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, those rules were very simple. Bring forward the legislation in the fall, review it with the public over the winter, debate it and conclude it in the spring. And if you can't conclude it by the 20th of May, which is the last calendar day, simply sit another week, Mr. Speaker, and take care of it.

The other thing is, Mr. Speaker, this government seems to think closure is not important. Mr. Speaker, if we review the history of closure, the history of closure in parliamentary democracies, we will see that it is used very sparingly, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't become habit, and this government seems to think closure is a habit, Mr. Speaker. Twice in three years we are seeing closure brought forward.

The bottom line though, Mr. Speaker, is that when closure has been used in the past in most parliamentary jurisdictions within the commonwealth, it's been used on specific pieces of legislation, not on an entire legislative agenda. Mr. Speaker, specific pieces of legislation. So if this government wants to pass Bill A, Bill B, Bill C, Mr. Speaker, they could, if it's their habit, put closure on those Bills and stand up to the people of Saskatchewan and say this Bill is important to us and we're

going to ram it through. The public view doesn't matter, Mr. Speaker. We don't care about those things at all, the public view. We're going to pass this piece of legislation.

No, that's not what this government did though, Mr. Speaker. It says we've got a legislative agenda. The public doesn't even know what's all a part of that agenda, Mr. Speaker, because not everybody in the province gets this nice little blue sheet of paper every morning like we do, Mr. Speaker. We're going to just ask that you pass absolutely everything, whether the public comments on it or not.

The bottom line is, Mr. Speaker, if they want to use closure, they should be willing to stand up and say what we want that closure to do, not just blindly allow them as government to bring forward an agenda that's not transparent, that's not accountable, Mr. Speaker.

So the bottom line, Mr. Speaker, in all of this, and I see my time running down, the bottom line in all of this, Mr. Speaker, is that we have seen a government that can't manage a two-car parade, that's forcing the members of the opposition to abandon — although we will not abandon, Mr. Speaker — but they're forcing us to abandon this whole process of representing the public.

The bottom line again, as I started to say, Mr. Speaker, it comes down to who best represents democracy and the people's interest in democracy, Mr. Speaker. Well I think we're seeing here very clearly that the people's interests are best represented when parliament works efficiently, Mr. Speaker, and you work efficiently under the rules.

It's like that hockey game, Mr. Speaker. It's efficient because there's somebody blowing the whistle every once in a while — slows things down, sends you back to your benches. Think about this for a few minutes, come back on the ice, and play out the game. If at the end of the game, Mr. Speaker, you're not finished, carry on. Carry on, Mr. Speaker, keep it going and don't force the game.

You know, Mr. Speaker, you can't put 20 men on the ice at one time because that's not part of the rules, Mr. Speaker, but that's what this government seems to be doing. It's trying to put more individuals on the ice, Mr. Speaker, to play this game, as opposed to waiting till the end of the time period to see what the score is. They don't care what the score's going to be, Mr. Speaker, anything to win. Power before principle.

I talked briefly, Mr. Speaker, about this whole idea that it doesn't matter what the public says. If they want to do something, they're just going to go out and do it. Remember the last person who said that publicly, Mr. Speaker? The last person who said it was Brian Mulroney, prime minister of Canada, on the goods and services tax debate. It could have been on the free trade debate, Mr. Speaker, but I'm pretty sure it was on the goods and services tax debate. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said, I don't care what the people think. This is right. This is good public policy, and we're going to do it.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what this government seems to be saying is, we don't care what the people think. We're going to do this because we can. We're the majority. We can do this and we're

going to, Mr. Speaker.

Why does this not raise more eyebrows? Who was sitting in Ottawa at the time that Brian Mulroney was acting this way, Mr. Speaker? Well it's the Premier, Mr. Speaker. The Premier was working in Ottawa for the Conservative Party of Canada, Mr. Speaker. He was working in Ottawa, and he was learning his lessons from Brian Mulroney, the guy who said, I don't care what the people think. My agenda is my agenda. I think it's right. I'm going ahead with it no matter what anybody says.

And we all know that the Government House Leader, the Deputy House Leader, and the members of the Sask Party opposite are taking their direction from the Premier, the man who learned at the hands of Brian Mulroney and Grant Devine, Mr. Speaker. That could explain an awful lot about why the province's finances are being mismanaged and, Mr. Speaker, now the legislative agenda is being mismanaged.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I want to put forward an amendment to the motion that's in front of us. And, Mr. Speaker, I will read the amendment I'm about to move. I will be moving:

That all words in clause 1 and clause 3 and 4 be deleted and replaced with the following:

(1) Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of this Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a recess from 12 to 1 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

Routine proceedings under rule 14(2) be at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

**The Speaker:** — Order. The motion before the Assembly is the amendment presented by the member from The Battlefords:

That all words in clause 1 and clause 3 and 4 be deleted and replaced with the following:

Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be at 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a recess from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

Routine proceedings under rule 14(2) be at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the second time in three years since the

Sask Party came to government that we have a motion that's been submitted by the Government House Leader to change the sitting times of the Assembly. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a government that this is their third session and it's the second time in three years that the government, the Sask Party government, has moved a motion to change the sitting times of the Assembly. So one would have to think that there is a great deal of work that they've decided to enter into this Assembly and they just can't seem to get the work done. But let's review the record.

This is a government that doesn't have a very significant legislative agenda. This is a government that doesn't have 90, 100, 120, 130 Bills that they've brought before the Assembly. This is a government that has 48 Bills. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is a fairly light legislative agenda.

[15:45]

Now of those 48 Bills, Mr. Speaker, on April the 26th, which is today, five of those Bills have come into this House today, and the ministers haven't even given their second reading speech, Mr. Speaker. So let's do a little math — 48 Bills We're now down by 5 to 43 Bills. Now of the 43 Bills that the members have had before this Assembly, two have received Royal Assent. They received Royal Assent in December and that was the 911 Bill and the let's not use your hand-held cellphone while you're driving Bill, Mr. Speaker, and those two pieces of legislation received Royal Assent and they're in place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, 18 of those Bills are Bills that have gone through all of the stages of the Assembly. They've received second reading, they've been to committee, they've come back into the House and those 18 Bills are waiting for the Lieutenant Governor to come and receive Royal Assent. So that gets us down, Mr. Speaker, to 23 Bills. And, Mr. Speaker, two of the Bills are in committee. So fundamentally, Mr. Speaker, there are 21 Bills that were waiting to go through what is the normal democratic process, where members who want to speak to those Bills have the ability in this Assembly to enter their remarks on to the public record.

Mr. Speaker, what are those Bills that members of the Assembly, particularly in opposition, might want to speak to? Well, Mr. Speaker, I know one of the Bills has to do with very significant changes to environmental assessment. Mr. Speaker, I haven't yet had the opportunity to speak to that Bill where the government wants to fundamentally alter dramatically how we do environmental assessments in the province of Saskatchewan.

And the other Bill, Mr. Speaker, which is getting a lot of attention from the Wildlife Federation, from Ducks Unlimited, from nature conservatory, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, 2009, basically is a Bill that means open season on natural habitat in the province of Saskatchewan where, depending on who you are, you can buy land that has up until now been in legislation, protected by legislation. What these men and women want to do, opposite, is they want to move all of the land out of legislation and into regulation. And we know where that leads, Mr. Speaker. We know where that leads. That leads to a decision by government to sell off natural habitat, and that is hugely concerning, Mr. Speaker.

The other point I want to make which I think is an important point, that of the 21 Bills that are awaiting second reading, Mr. Speaker, two, three of those Bills were just entered into this Assembly last week. So, you know, this is a government that has a very light legislative agenda but they seem to be a government in a hurry to ram through their view of the world. Well, Mr. Speaker, their view of the world.

Now when you have a government that has a light legislative agenda, as I indicated to you, 48 Bills, 18 are waiting Royal Assent, two have already been assented to, so we're talking about 28 Bills, eight of which — eight — have just come into the House in less than a week. We're talking about 20 Bills of which members of the opposition have not yet had an opportunity to fully participate in determining in how we would like these Bills to proceed.

Now this is a government, and it's becoming clearer and clearer each day that this is a government that believes that they have the divine right to rule the Assembly as they please, when they please, how they please, and, Mr. Speaker, they don't really take much heed from the opposition because they are ruling by divine right, because they believe that they have a mandate. And they're going to do what they want, when they want, how they want and to heck with the members of the opposition.

Now one of the things I thought was a basic function of any government is to have legislation written, debated in the Assembly, and then passed. Now this seems to be a group of men and women that can't get the potash numbers right, they have difficulty there, so they can't really add and subtract. This is a government that can't seem to balance the books. I mean here we have the second time in three years, they're forcing closure. Two years out of three they've got a deficit budget and what we've determined, Mr. Speaker, is that they are so utterly and completely incompetent that they can't even get through what's kind of a basic function of government.

They can't add up the numbers of hours that are needed for Bills and determine how much time they need in order to get the Bills through. And they certainly don't know how to finesse anything. They can't finesse 48 pieces of legislation through this Assembly, which speaks to their utter lack of competence. Now instead of following rules which they helped to negotiate and that this Assembly came to agreement on, the Sask Party is unilaterally ramming through these abrupt rule changes.

Now as I said, we don't have a lot of pieces of legislation — 48 is a very light legislative agenda. There are some Bills that we consider to be controversial. I think they want to increase the amount of money that SaskEnergy can borrow. I think it's fair to say the opposition has some worry about that given that they've totally taken all of the money out of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] with the exception of \$195 million for a children's hospital which, Mr. Speaker, we're now being told will be a floor at the Royal University Hospital, and \$40 million for clean coal. So we're a bit worried that that \$400 million that they want to allow SaskEnergy to borrow will end up in the GRF because they can't seem to balance their budgets, Mr. Speaker.

So they have tried to spin it out in the foyer that the opposition is holding up all of these pieces of legislation. That's what

they've tried to spin. But, Mr. Speaker, I would say that, unlike the members opposite, we've been trying to do our job of going through each piece of legislation, giving it due diligence, consulting with people who are affected. In fact my colleague, our deputy leader, has been around the province speaking to people in the Wildlife Federation, talking about the reality that these men and women want to take out over 3 million acres of natural habitat that is protected by legislation. They want to move that into regulation.

And I think it's fair to say that the Wildlife Federation, ducks, nature conservatory have some concerns about that. And we want to debate that in the legislature because I guess we want to know, which pieces of legislation are you interested in selling, and to whom? Whom do you want to sell this land? That's a pretty good question. Why do they want to take 3 million acres of land that has been protected by a piece of legislation, that's natural habitat, why do they want to take it out of legislation and sell it? We want to know the answer to that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that that's not a bad question to have answered and it's not a bad idea to consult with the Wildlife Federation, in particular, that are holding meetings across the province, to see what they think because these members of the Wildlife Federation come from all over Saskatchewan. They come from all parts of Saskatchewan.

The member from Moose Jaw has been to Asquith, which was the meeting of the northwest division of the Wildlife Federation. She's been to Arcola. She's been all over the place meeting with Wildlife Federation people who have a concern about that, because they don't know what the Sask Party's agenda is here because the Sask Party didn't consult them really.

They had a technical briefing and said, we are going to change the legislation; we're going to take 3 million acres of land out of the legislation, put it into regulation, and we're going to sell as much land as we possibly can. To heck with the idea of a future heritage for future generations. To heck with wildlife. It doesn't matter. We're taking it out of legislation, putting it into regulation, and we're going to sell it off. Something like what they're doing with Crown land.

Now they'll say, well the cattlemen want this done. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think there's about 450 members of the Cattlemen's Association, but there's literally tens of thousands of people who belong to the Wildlife Federation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I think the Wildlife Federation has more members than all of the political parties in this province put together. And I think you're about to hear from the members of the Wildlife Federation.

And this is one piece of legislation that we think should be debated and debated hard in the Assembly because I'm interested in knowing, what do these members really think? Do you think it's important that legislation to take 3 million acres of natural habitat out of legislation, put it into regulation, and sell it off? I don't think once . . . the people of Saskatchewan want this to happen even though you may have a few friends that do, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader, this is quite funny, he said in the media that the Sask Party doesn't want an

extra week of question period. And I can understand why the Sask Party doesn't want an extra week of question period. And why would that be? Because 25 minutes each day the opposition gets to ask the members opposite questions, and we try and hold them to account.

And I know that there has been quite few instances in this House, particularly in the last three weeks, where those members have had not exactly a blue-ribbon day, not exactly a blue-ribbon day. And in fact I think it was on Thursday, every one of their ministers including the Premier who got up to answer questions was red-faced. And, Mr. Speaker, they were so red-faced that they sort of blended in to the carpet in the Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that they think that they are the masters of the province, that they're in charge, that they're the smartest and the best and the brightest, and they know what's best for all of us. But you know for 25 minutes a day the opposition gets to ask the ministers opposite, the government opposite, some questions. And you know hopefully these ministers will be able to answer them. But I can see why they're embarrassed by their track record because they haven't been exactly doing a stellar job of answering those questions.

Now, you know, Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that this extended hours motion proves, proves, that the Premier and the Sask Party can't manage the basic function of government. The basic function of government is to pass legislation through this legislature, and they can't seem to get Bills passed. Now this shouldn't come as any surprise because we know that the Premier doesn't exactly have a consistent track record when it comes to good management or success.

Now I know that they'll say, oh but he is the Premier. And yes, he is the Premier. But this is a Premier that has been in charge of two deficits in three years at a time when the place was booming. And I notice *The Globe and Mail* article on the weekend that had an exposé on the province of Saskatchewan, and what was interesting is they did have a picture of the Premier, but they didn't refer to the Premier in the article. And you know who they referred to? They referred to a former Finance minister of the NDP, Eric Cline, who is a vice-president of Shore Gold. And you know, when you count columns, I think Mr. Cline was quite prevalent in this article.

[16:00]

And the article talked about good governance and good policy implemented — I use the word implemented — implemented by an NDP government that caused us to be in the position that we're at today where we have many of the goods and services that the world enjoys, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a Premier that doesn't have a good track record. We have a Premier that inherited \$2.3 billion in cash — 1 billion at CIC, \$1.3 billion in cash in the rainy day fund — and now we're faced with over \$1 billion in deficit. They've drained the rainy day fund. There is not much left over at CIC. And I note that that business person from Saskatoon, the member from Silver Springs was the minister of CIC when the rainy day . . . or when the CIC was being stripped of all of its money, Mr. Speaker.

And so I would say that we have a Premier who has a sorry record when it comes to how he runs the province. In three . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, she's calling it a personal attack. It's not a personal attack; it's reality. The Premier is the Premier of Saskatchewan, and in three years that Premier has taken, he's stripped the Crowns of all of its money. He's drained the rainy day fund. They had \$2.3 billion, and he's racked up over \$1 billion in deficit. And those are the facts. That is not a personal attack.

The facts are that this government can't seem to get its legislative agenda through here without amending the hours. They can't finesse anything. And yet they only have 48 Bills before this sitting of the legislature — 18 are waiting for Royal Assent, 2 have received Royal Assent, 2 are in committee. They just introduced eight Bills in less than a week and . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, she's saying I'm making it up. Well I'm not making it up. Check the blues. Check the blues, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, as far as I know, we still live in a democracy. I still understand that individual members of the opposition get to speak on Bills. And if they can't count and they can't add up the amount of time they need in order to get their legislative agenda through, if they can't finesse anything with the Government House Leader, if they are in such a bad way that they can't get their agenda through, Mr. Speaker, I say extend the House, extend the days. Extend the days, give us a few more days and we'll get the work done.

But what they're really worried about, Mr. Speaker, is they're worried about question period because they're not doing well in question period. Because 25 minutes a day they have to answer questions. The press is here. Now I hear that they're thinking of having question period at 8 o'clock in the morning. And I think what they think is that the press won't be here and they'll be able to slip under the radar screen and carry on with their business . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, and she says that's exactly what they want to do.

The Minister of Social Services has just indicated that's exactly what they want to do. This coming from a woman who used to be the former deputy House leader. She says that's exactly what they want to do.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a pretty sorry day for democracy. It's a pretty sorry day for democracy when we have a government that hasn't even fulfilled one term, and for the second time in three years they've had to amend the sitting hours because they're so incompetent and so inept that they cannot get their legislative agenda through, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Time has expired. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to speak against the main motion here and speak in favour of the amendment. I think this is clearly an attack on democracy and it is indeed, as my colleague from Nutana says, it's a sad, sad, sorry day for democracy. And it's one that . . . It's unfortunate because we seem to see history repeating itself, and at what speed in this legislature. Usually these types of

things don't happen very often. But we've seen in this short period of time that this government's been in power, that the Sask Party's been in power, that they've reverted yet again to this.

In fact I was just looking back at my speech on April 9th, 2008 when we were speaking about a very similar motion, a motion of closure. And I just want to read a quote from Merrilee Rasmussen, a person that many of us in the House will be familiar with. She's a former employee of the legislature, and she has some expertise in this area. And she wrote a piece entitled "The Role of the Legislature."

And in her conclusion, she was reviewing the role of the legislature from 1982 to 1991. And this is a quote I want to use because I think it's very insightful. It really illuminates what is going on on the government side. Where are they coming from? This is so odd that in such a short period of time, just over two years, almost two years to the date, they have yet invoked closure.

And this is what she says, and I quote:

The erosion of the legislature continues, albeit perhaps . . . more slowly than at times in the past. The Devine Conservatives believed that they had a majority of the seats in the legislature so they could do whatever they wanted.

And we're seeing history repeat itself again, two years ago and now. Here they believe they can do whatever they want. Whatever they want. We have a process in which I thought the legislature actually made some major gains over the last many years working together, the committees on how to restructure the legislative process so we could all be more reflective of the concerns that our constituents would like us to be. But this is a major step back. And it's really no wonder because when Merrilee Rasmussen is reflecting on what the Devine Conservatives did, because (a) as she said, they believed they could do whatever they wanted because they had the majority of votes.

And that's just the way it is. That's the way it is. When you're in a tyranny, if you've got the power, you use it and you do whatever you want to do with it. And clearly, there's many people associated with the Devine Conservatives over there. Many are associated with the Devine Conservatives. In fact, in fact we see a direct link, in fact, with the Premier with the Devine Conservatives. And there's no getting around that he was schooled by Devine on how to behave in this legislature, how to behave in this House. And it's not an accident that we're seeing this being repeated just two short years later. And for what reason? For what reason? Clearly this is an attack on democracy.

We see a government that does not want to stand up to scrutiny in question period. It used to be that you'd just extended the number of days. And you'd have a few more question periods. And yes, it is a little difficult, a little more scrutiny for the government. But a government that can stand on its record has no problem. A government that can stand on its record has no problem with facing questions during question period.

It's only a government that has some questions, some problems with their record. The record they've established in this short period of time, when they've gone through a \$2.3 surplus down to a \$1 billion deficit, clearly they don't want to have questions. Clearly they don't want to have questions. And we've seen questions, many questions particularly around health care, that no wonder, no wonder they want to limit the number of days and speed through, speed through the House.

And so they don't want to extend the House, and we're very concerned about that. They'd rather start at 8 in the morning and go to midnight. And we know that there are major concerns about how we can function appropriately. We know in the days . . . And when I was first elected, there were days that we went into long hours. They weren't great. We weren't working at the best of our abilities.

And so we saw reasons why we should change that, why we should have a better committee structure. And that happened. Both parties agreed to that, and it's working very well. And so why do they want to change the rules midstream again so quickly? So we have some real problems with this, and that's why I said I'll be voting for the amendment and against the main menu.

Of course, as I've been talking, this is an attack on democracy. There's some other points that I want to talk about, the transparency and accountability of this government who really believed that they had ran on that record, ran on that position during the election that they would be more transparent, more accountable. And we don't see that at all. And in fact actually, we're seeing the opposite of that. We're seeing a government that won't answer written questions, questions we know that are straightforward, but just have decided no, we won't answer. We won't answer the questions.

And that's a real concern because clearly what are they hiding? What are they hiding, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they will not answer written questions? And we know that many, many, the vast majority of these questions are straightforward questions that they've answered in the past, answered in the past, and for some reason they won't answer them again. So they have the information at hand.

And of course I do want to spend a few minutes talking about just the simple mismanagement of this government because during the past two and a half years in power, we've had some very major concerns about how well can they budget. How well can they budget. Some of the concerns, I know within Social Services we've seen questions about the rising caseloads. People are living one paycheque away from being in poverty, and we see the poverty caseloads rising, first time in many, many years. And we've seen that happen over the past 15 years.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I really want to focus on . . . And I do want to take a moment and thank former speakers on this, the people who've risen, the member from Nutana and the member from Battlefords, how eloquently they raised the concerns particularly around the Bills. We've seen Bills progress through the House in a relatively straightforward fashion. We do want to be able to speak to each Bill that we see as important, and we've been able to move Bills forward. We've been able to move them forward, and they have been passed. And so we

have some real, real concerns.

So we don't know what the real motivation is here because clearly this is a government — and it reflects in how they conduct themselves in the House — who have a hard time managing themselves. But this is a real attack on democracy. And how can they say that when they have a House that's going to be sitting from 8 a.m. to midnight, that constituents, that the people of Saskatchewan and their concerns are going to be heard clearly in this House, that their points are going to be well made? People will not be able to do that.

And when you have question period, for example, at 8 a.m. in the morning, how is the proper research going to be done? And the media. This will be a new wrinkle for the media. I know I do want to just point out that they did try or they are trying something similar to this in Ontario, where they've moved question period to earlier in the morning. And we can see the experiences that we've had even with our experience of doing this at 10 a.m. on Thursdays — that's a special day — but if we were to do that every day of the week, this is a concern. And doing it even earlier, how can we do proper, proper research?

And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are concerns that people have and do want to be reflected in the House. And we can think about the questions that we have. And I can think about, particularly, environment — we see six Bills that are coming forward that have some major problems. They really do reflect a change in philosophy for the Ministry of Environment. And, Mr. Speaker, just to say, well we're going to go to them whatever time they come up: no, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are concerns right across the province about these Bills, whether it's climate change and a government that has flip-flopped and gone all over the map in terms of climate change. And we see today that we have a minister who would prefer to go on the attack than to talk about what her plans are. I don't think she understands what her plan is because she doesn't really ever really want to talk about her plan. She'd rather talk about everything else under the sun but her plan on climate change. We have some real, real concerns about that.

[16:15]

We have some concerns about the wildlife habitat Act, the amendment Act. We don't know what this all means. It seems open-ended. And it really is a deep concern when we see the power being removed from the legislature, the power being removed from the legislature and moved to the cabinet table and being put into regulations. And to us this really seems to be the tip of the iceberg. Because when you have a way of examining all Crown lands, all Crown lands, and of course the first part will be the wildlife habitat protected lands, where does it stop? Where does it stop?

Does this then go on to the representative area network lands that we have so . . . We've done so much work, so much work. And we've taken a lot of time to develop a good listing, a good group of land, a good representation of Saskatchewan right across the province, of lands that need to be protected. And we need to do so much more work in this area. So much more work.

I know the Wildlife Federation, Nature Conservancy of Canada,

Ducks Unlimited, Nature Saskatchewan are all deeply concerned about this. Deeply concerned, because there's more work to be done, and we seem to be moving in the . . . actually the opposite direction, the opposite direction and by stifling debate on this and not allowing people to be here, to be present because of the new hours.

And how will the hours be advertised? How will people find out about the hours so they can be here? There's some real, real concerns, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So we have concerns about environment, and I could go on, go on at that.

And of course we have labour Bills, and in particular we have Bill 80, the construction Bill. We see a ministry that is flaunting its nose at the International Labour Organization's rulings on some basic principles about how you should work in partnership between business, labour, and government. And they have been cited from the ILO [International Labour Organization] based out of Geneva, a very well-respected international organization, part of the UN [United Nations] — actually it was there before the UN; started in 1919, I believe — well respected across the world. And here we have the Saskatchewan government being cited for their infractions about how to proceed, how one ought to proceed, how a government should proceed with good legislative practice.

And to top it off, today we're talking about closure. That's unbelievable, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When you put those two together, when you put the ILO rulings and closure together, this is shocking. This is absolutely shocking. So we see an environment of a huge paradigm shift about what do they see as their role. And we see a role that they describe as supporting the economy almost at any cost, and the premise that we believe in, clean land, air, and water, and a rich biodiversity in this province, being set aside by saying, we want to pass these Bills and we want no more question periods because, in fact, we are anything but transparent and accountable.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have some real concerns and I think this is indeed a very sad day for Saskatchewan people. And I'm not sure everyone will know what's happening today. And while the government opposite can laugh, and we see them chuckling and thinking this is a bit of a humorous adventure that we're on today, in fact we're on anything at all. A government's record where twice now they're invoking closure, it's not a proud record, not a proud record for a government that has said that, in fact, they are very much for transparency and being accountable. This is something that I think that we have some real, real questions about.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I'm going to get to everything that I wanted to talk about, especially the mismanagement. And I'm sure others will pick up on that, but I do want to talk about, to go a little more in depth about the transparency and accountability aspect because clearly this is something that this Premier has staked his reputation on and we wonder over here how much longer can this trust, this faith by the people of Saskatchewan last with this Premier. Because clearly he is flaunting everyone's trust in this province that this legislature will proceed in a manner prescribed by the rules that have been laid out. And today we see this government dismissing them as if they are acting, and they are acting in many ways, like the tyranny of the majority.

And we've seen this government, we've seen a real question mark about the transparency and accountability. We see how they deal with money within their departments, their ministries, how they've shuffled it around. Last year in the fall when we were in estimates, supplementary estimates, we were not allowed to ask questions about how money was organized within departments. Because I know within Social Services there was some real questions. When we saw the poverty caseloads shoot through the roof, we saw the number of clients on transitional employment allowance go through the roof, where just months prior they said they were going to go down and, in fact, we saw them go up by some 40 per cent. We couldn't figure out where were they finding money to pay for this. Well we were not allowed to ask for that.

And we hear, for example, in committee that the Watershed Authority is now required to borrow money, borrow money to do basic maintenance. Now that is something new. That is something new. How transparent is that?

Usually when you're doing basic maintenance on infrastructure in this province, you're using general revenue funds. That's why you have those funds — to do your basic maintenance. No, we understand that in fact some agencies are in fact having to borrow money.

And perhaps the most egregious, the one example I have from my riding is when the domestic abuse outreach program was cut last November and no one was told about this program being cut — no one at all. All of a sudden it was being cut. In fact I don't think the Ministry of Social Services even told the . . . I don't think the Ministry of Social Services told the Minister of Social Services and I don't even . . . and definitely did not tell the Ministry of Justice that another program was coming their way.

It was only during question period, where the two ministers were kind of embarrassed by not knowing what was going on with the domestic abuse outreach program, it came to light. And now I understand that in fact they are scrambling, they're doing some consultations, and while the consultations look promising, there's still no money there for that kind of programming. They're going to have to shuffle money around. They're going to have to find it because clearly there's no money.

So when you have a government that can't keep track of their finances and you have a Minister of Resources predicting some outrageous numbers for potash, outrageous numbers last year, and then you have the kind of work that we saw, you wonder how this can actually happen. But when you look opposite, you understand.

And so I have to reflect yet again on the quote by Merrilee Rasmussen that talks about what was happening during the '80s with the Devine Conservatives where . . . I wonder what she would say today about the rate of the erosion of the legislature and its powers because when you see this kind of thing happening twice — twice do we see closure in just over two months — I find this a sorry, sorry day for democracy.

And when she said, and I quote:

The erosion of the legislature continues, albeit perhaps



more slowly than at times in the past. The Devine Conservatives believed that they had a majority of the seats in the legislature so they could do whatever they wanted.

And you see the direct line between the Devine Conservatives and this government here — a Premier that was schooled by Devine and many of the folks there involved with that government of the day. And it's no wonder that they're acting very much in the same way, very much in the same way, that they have a majority and they will act like it. And they have a tyranny of a majority and that's how they're going to act. They have an agenda. They have an agenda that we believe is very dangerous for some things in Saskatchewan.

And whether it's biodiversity, the conservation of some very important lands in Saskatchewan, or Bill 80 where you have the workers of Saskatchewan, the construction workers being under attack — and we see that quoted by the International Labour Organization from Geneva — we have some grave, grave concerns.

And so it's no wonder that we saw this day coming, no wonder that we saw this day. And it's a very, very sorry day indeed because clearly this government is acting in a manner, a tyranny of majority, and they don't really care what other people have to say. They don't really care at all, Mr. Speaker. And so this is a sad day indeed for . . .

**The Speaker:** — Just recognize the member from Cannington, the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member may state his point of order.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment put forward by the member from Battleford, I believe, is fatally flawed, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to point out in the motion that it says, and I'll . . .

(1) Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Monday, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. [this is the important part now, Mr. Speaker] with a recess from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

That's, if I may paraphrase now, with a recess on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Further it says that routine proceedings on Thursdays shall commence at 10 a.m. So routine proceedings are called on Thursdays and immediately recessed. Mr. Speaker, it means we're not sitting at all on Thursday. I believe this amendment is out of order.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I've listened to the member's point of order and it certainly . . . Okay. I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The hon.

member opposite is, I think, reading an intent into the motion that is not intended, very clearly. It's intended that the hours shall be Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mr. Speaker, on Thursdays, the hours would be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mr. Speaker, and with no recess. And routine proceedings, Mr. Speaker, on each of the . . . or on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesdays would be 1:30 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

**The Speaker:** — I've listened to the member's point of order and the Opposition House Leader's comments. And given the fact that under Beauchesne's, on page 174, if a motion is unusually . . . if there's irregularity of a motion, a motion can be withdrawn or modified to be no longer objectionable. And on listening to the Opposition House Leader, it would certainly appear that the intent of the motion was to read that the session would sit at its normal times on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Unfortunately, the way it's worded, as the Government House Leader has pointed out, it can be read to mean that the Assembly will recess at that time period.

Would the member from The Battlefords be prepared to have his motion modified in order that there'd be the clarity?

Also pointed out, pointed out that the Speaker actually, under 566(4), also has the unquestionable authority to modify motions with respect to form. But I would be more than prepared to accept a recommendation from the member from The Battlefords that the modification be made.

I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Speaker, I think that the Opposition House Leader has indicated our intent on the motion. I firmly believe that clarity is important. Whatever it takes to ensure clarity, I'm willing to work to see that that happens. The key word there is, whatever it takes, whatever it takes to ensure clarity, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore I would accept modification of the motion to ensure clarity that outlines the intent as expressed by the Opposition House Leader a few moments ago.

[16:30]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Members, I'll read the motion so that there is, if there's any . . . We'll make sure that we've got clarity on the motion so that it receives approval of all members. And the motion from the member from The Battlefords:

That all words in clauses 1 and 2 and clauses 3 and 4 be deleted and replaced with the following:

Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be at 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a recess from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

And shall sit on Thursdays from . . . And on Thursdays, the Assembly shall sit from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Routine proceedings under rule 14(2) be at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

Is that wording in agreement with the members?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Thank you. Debate shall continue. I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is once again a great honour for me to rise and take part in a debate in this Assembly on behalf of the fine people of Regina Northeast. And, Mr. Speaker, we normally do that with a great deal of joy and excitement because it's an opportunity to convey the thoughts and the wishes of the good folks from my constituency and have the privilege of doing so.

It's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that we once again find ourselves in this debate, a debate over . . . Really, it's a debate over democracy. Yes, what's at risk here is democracy. And this is what really the fundamental question is, is the rights for people to have the opportunity to be represented and through their representatives to have the ability to convey their thoughts, convey their opinions, convey their wishes, and to do so in an atmosphere of co-operation, of understanding, of willingness to accept. And that, Mr. Speaker, seems to be really the question at heart here, and we have a government that has decided that they want to limit that ability. They want to restrict the abilities to have freedom of expression in a manner that will best represent the people of the constituency.

I think it's probably no accident, Mr. Speaker, that we find ourselves in this situation for the second time in two years, the second time under this government, the Sask Party government, that we find ourselves debating a motion put forward by the government to change the sitting times of this Assembly.

It would strike me as strange, Mr. Speaker, that we find ourselves having to deal with this almost on a yearly basis, but certainly on a every-second-year basis, because the government finds itself incapable of presenting its legislation in a businesslike manner, to be able to have a reasonable debate, to allow democracy to take place, to have that debate that which . . . It's a fundamental principle of democracy is a right of debate and to have that debate take place in a timely fashion within this House, to be able to meet the needs of the opposition, the needs of the opposition to express their opinions and the opinions that are passed on to us by not only our constituents but by the stakeholders across this province who have at stake, a lot of times in the Bills, the particular issues that they wish to bring forward.

And they do so, Mr. Speaker, because they haven't got the ability to manage the House and to manage the business of government in a professional, in a businesslike manner to ensure that there's a proper opportunity for the opposition to express its concerns on behalf of the people of this great province, while yet getting the business of the Government of

Saskatchewan done.

And we realize, Mr. Speaker, that there is a need to have this government business done. There is a need to have changes. Often changes or amendments to legislation, there's a need for it. And that need has been identified by the government, hopefully after a fair amount of consultation with the stakeholders involved that will be affected by the changes to the Act.

And I'm hoping in some cases that has been brought to the government's attention by those stakeholders, and stakeholder groups will come forward to meet with the government and outline what their concerns are and how they believe that legislation should be changed — in many cases modernized. Some of the legislation that we may have in place may not be reflecting the reality of today but be looking more at the time in which that legislation was put in.

But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, we need to have the ability for the opposition to have time, time to consult with the stakeholders, consult with those various groups who find themselves on the front lines of the effect of changes to legislation or even new legislation being introduced, so that we can get feedback from them to identify perhaps something that the government has missed.

I'm hoping that the government, and I think any reasonable government would be open to the criticism, constructive criticism to make improvements to the Bills that will, at the end of the day, have a more positive or a positive effect or a better result for the people of this great province, and that be the opportunity for the opposition to do so through a debate.

But we need that time also, Mr. Speaker, to do the consultations, to talk to the various stakeholders that are involved as to how they feel to changes to particular piece of legislation may affect them. That, Mr. Speaker, is something that this government is moving quickly to deny, and I mean quickly, Mr. Speaker.

I think the records will verify we've only had about two hours and 18 minutes of debate in committee and we need to have the opportunity to consult with the stakeholders to bring back that information, and certainly, certainly, Mr. Speaker, two hours and 18 minutes of debate isn't any indication the opposition is trying to hold up legislation. I would say that that's really not on at all, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the government wants the House to start to sit at 8 o'clock in the a.m. in the morning and sit right through until midnight. Mr. Speaker, that denies the ability of the opposition members to be able to consult with stakeholders in their various critic areas and various critic responsibilities, particularly as it applies to legislation that the government is introducing, the government has tabled. And the opportunity for the opposition members to get that feedback — so critical, so critical to the fundamentals of democracy to have the ability to get that feedback, to have the ability to express to the government that they have missed something here or if these amendments go through in their present form perhaps would have a negative effect on groups out there or individuals out there, Mr. Speaker, and that opportunity for that consultation is now being denied.

Mr. Speaker, what is really at risk here is the fundamental principle of democracy — the opportunity to debate and freely debate and freely express the opinions of those people that we represent. It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, and in some ways sad when we look at the history of our country, look at the history of the world. And we note throughout history there has been many wars, many battles, many wars fought over the principle of democracy, over the rights of individuals to have the ability to determine their own destiny, over the rights of individuals having the opportunity to, in a public forum, debate those issues, debate those rights, and to secure those rights for the majority.

Mr. Speaker, there have been wars, wars fought throughout history over maintaining the principles of democracy. Democracy has risen from the ashes of such battles, Mr. Speaker, and today we see that very principle, that very principle of democracy, under attack here in this legislature here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at the history of our province and we think back to those people, Mr. Speaker, who throughout history in this province have given their lives to defend the principles of democracy in two great wars as well as the war in Korea as well as other police actions or battles throughout the world and peacekeeping roles throughout the world, Canadian citizens and Saskatchewan citizens have given their lives to protect the rights of democracy.

We look at the news, Mr. Speaker. We know it around the world today, we know it around the world today there are people who are prepared and have and do, on a regular basis, put their life on the line to protect democracy — in some cases, Mr. Speaker, in some countries in the world to develop that democracy. That's how important it is. And yet, Mr. Speaker, we have a government here who is prepared to run roughshod over democracy by being able to restrict the ability for the opposition to be able to function to its fullest, to be able to do the consultation that is required right across the role of government right across the piece, Mr. Speaker.

And democracy is a very, very, very important, I guess you would say, way of government that is very fragile and if you don't work at maintaining democracy you can lose it. I think it was Winston Churchill who — and I don't know if I'm perfectly correct here — but I think it was Mr. Churchill who said that democracy may not be the best form of representation of people, but it certainly beats whatever is in second place.

And I think democracy is a system that is always under development, always under change, always under, hopefully, improvement, Mr. Speaker. And I think that is what the role of government and the role of opposition should be, is to look at improving democracy so it generates the best representation for the people of our great province here. And this, Mr. Speaker, is not a step forward by no means. In fact this is a step backwards.

There is no opportunity for co-operation here. There's no opportunity for negotiations, Mr. Speaker. It's the heavy-handedness of government and yet you wonder why. You wonder why, Mr. Speaker, because when we look at what's really going on here, we're looking at, so far in this

session, Mr. Speaker, the government has introduced 39 Bills in this session. That of course does not include the eight Bills it has introduced in the last week or week and a half or so. So, Mr. Speaker, in reality there's 47 Bills have been introduced. plus there's one Bill that's been outstanding from the last session, which was not included and that's Bill 80. That's been carried forward from the previous session. So we have 48 Bills altogether. The government has introduced 48 Bills.

Two of these Bills have been passed and received royal assent. And that happened last fall, Mr. Speaker — Bill 116, the cellphone Bill and Bill 99, the 199 amendment Bill. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that on those two Bills, I think there's probably examples, and good examples of co-operation between opposition and between government bodies. And it was recognized that these were Bills that would benefit Saskatchewan people. At the end of the day, the majority of Saskatchewan people would receive a benefit from these Bills.

And particularly in the cellphone Bill, which would improve the safety of the motoring public on our highways, Mr. Speaker, so that when the good folks, including myself, drive . . . I like to do a lot of my phoning when I'm driving and I do that. And I must admit, I have one of the Bluetooth mechanisms that allow me to be able to do a hands-free calling, and I'm still working at getting used to it.

It's not exactly a 100 per cent, I haven't gotten it down to a 100 per cent science, but I'm working at it. But it does simply free up one's hands. It does allow one to have a greater control over one's vehicle, and which is very, very important.

Because at the end of the day, we want to ensure that the operation of the Legislative Assembly is an operation that will benefit the majority of the people of this province and do so in a positive way. That, Mr. Speaker, is one of the Bills that does it in a positive way. It does bring safety, a greater level, a greater degree of safety to our motoring public. And I think that's very important, Mr. Speaker.

And it's one that I suppose all of us have to work at, ensuring that we have the talents, I guess you would say, to operate the new technology. But it is simple enough, Mr. Speaker, for me to operate it. And if I can operate it I think, Mr. Speaker, it's safe to say just about anybody else could because when it comes to technology, particularly when it comes to computers, I struggle often just to be able to turn it on, let alone be able to do anything more with it. But I freely admit that, Mr. Speaker, without any difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, 18 Bills have been passed and are now waiting Royal Assent. Two Bills are in committee: Bill No. 80 and Bill 119, the ticket sales and scalping.

[16:45]

So, Mr. Speaker, here is a clear indication. If you look at the record here, Mr. Speaker, you can see that the opposition certainly has not been dragging its feet. The opposition certainly has not been holding back legislation. The opposition has been working in a very co-operative way with government, moving the House and moving the business of Saskatchewan, moving the business of Saskatchewan people forward.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, if you look at where we are, where we're at at the present time in our cycle compared to any other sitting of this House, you'll find we're right in there. We're right in that band. We're right in, right there where certainly there's no indication at all that the opposition is dragging its feet and holding back legislation.

And the rules, Mr. Speaker, of the legislature, as I understand them, are fairly clear. If the government feels a need, that they haven't been able to move on their legislative agenda fast enough, far enough by the end of the appointed time, the agreed-upon time of adjournment of this House, they can extend that for five days. There's five days leeway there, Mr. Speaker, that helps the government get its agenda through and helps the opposition to have enough time to be able to properly scrutinize the Bills that are being put forward by the government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think there's really no reason, there's really no reason for the heavy-handedness of government introducing this particular Bill because what it does, it restricts the ability of the opposition to do its job, to do its job in consultation with those folks out there who are affected by the changes to the legislation that the government is proposing.

And, Mr. Speaker, I say that because if you look at the number of Bills that have gone and where they're — gone through this House — but where they're stationed, where they're stationed in the process, it will indicate that we're no different than any other session, that we're moving along at a regular and an accepted pace, Mr. Speaker. And there is no reason for this heavy-handedness of government because the opposition certainly, certainly is not restricting the flow of the legislation. It's allowing legislation to work through in a businesslike manner.

Mr. Speaker, there is also eight new Bills that have been introduced within the last week or thereabouts, and they haven't even received second reading yet. So, Mr. Speaker, why would the government expect us to blindly pass these Bills and deny, deny democracy is what this is. They haven't even called them for second reading, and they want us to blindly pass the Bills. Mr. Speaker, that's not fair. That's not fair to the people of Saskatchewan. It's not us, it's the people of Saskatchewan who are being denied the principles of democracy.

And all we're asking for is to have the time, a reasonable amount of time to do the consultation work, to talk to those individuals who are affected, to talk to those groups who may have the input, that wishes to have time to present their side of the story and indicate the effect of . . . how they may be affected, I should say, by the amendments and the legislation, Mr. Speaker. So there's really no reason for this other than, Mr. Speaker, the government isn't able to manage the affairs of the legislature.

They have clearly indicated they can't manage the affairs of the people of Saskatchewan. They've taken a province, Mr. Speaker, that they inherited that had a \$2.3 billion surplus, and within three years they've blown the surplus. The surplus is gone. It's gone, Mr. Speaker, and they have . . . racking up a debt of over \$1 billion. A brand new debt, Mr. Speaker, and it's

not an investment debt, it's a spending debt. And there is a huge difference there, Mr. Speaker. And it's only \$1 billion. It's only \$1 billion. Why? It's only \$1 billion because they stripped all the profits from the Crown corporations except SaskPower. They stripped all the profits from the Crown corporations in a dividend to lessen the debt, to lessen the deficit, but still left a deficit of \$1 billion, Mr. Speaker.

One has to be concerned. One has to be concerned, not only as an elected member of this legislature, but as the public of Saskatchewan are growing more and more concerned about this government's track record on mismanagement of the affairs of this province, which is mirrored by the mismanagement of the business of this House, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's one of the same.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's without a doubt in my mind, Mr. Speaker, that this government is incapable of making long-term decisions. We've seen that happen last time, Mr. Speaker, that this government introduced the amendment to change the sitting hours of the House. We've seen that introduced, and then all of a sudden they backed off because they were scared that the opposition may have co-operated with them because of the new rules regulations, to the degree where they no longer have enough business just to keep the House running this full term.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would daresay that this government is simply indicating through its record that it hasn't got the capability of managing the province of Saskatchewan and the affairs of the good people of this province. Why? Simple. They inherited a province of 2.3 billion and within three years have left the province with a debt of \$1 billion. That's \$3 billion, not millions, not millions but billions of dollars. And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, there's a huge difference between millions and billions of dollars. When we had a Conservative government in the past in this province that put Saskatchewan in the hole on a regular basis over a 9-year period — or 11-year period, I believe it was — that they did so by hundreds of millions of dollars a year, by hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

This government is trumping that. This government is putting Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan people in debt by billions of dollars a year. And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that hole is much, much deeper and a much, much steeper climb to come back from for the future generations.

Mr. Speaker, that is just an indication that this government hasn't got the capacity to govern this province. It hasn't even got the capacity to be able to manage the affairs of the Legislative Assembly in a way that is orderly, in a way that is effective, and in a way it is of best interests of Saskatchewan people. That, Mr. Speaker, this government has proven over and over again, that they simply haven't . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here we are debating a closure motion. When I came here earlier today for question period, my seatmate says, well are we going to do some work on behalf of our constituents, on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, or are we going to be stuck debating a Sask

Party closure motion? Well we know what we're stuck debating — a Sask Party closure motion.

And what a shame it is. We're going to blow a whole day when we could have been dealing with Bills. Bills that deserve scrutiny, deserve our scrutiny, deserve our diligence and our attention. Bills that have been getting the diligence and attention of opposition members. The proof is in the pudding. The hon. member for The Battlefords read a list of Bills that have been passed, are sitting waiting for Royal Assent as I speak. And here I am speaking on what? The other Bills that are waiting to be dealt with? No. I'm dealing on a silly closure motion brought forth.

It's the second time in two years that this Sask Party has gotten scared of their own legislature. They're frightened that they can't manage a two-car parade, never mind a three-house paper route. Mr. Speaker, we've got a Sask Party that doesn't even understand the new rules, the rules that they helped negotiate, the rules that gave us a fixed calendar.

And I'll just want to say this about that. What happens . . . I've been around, as you know, Mr. Speaker, quite a number of years. In my 24 years here so far, I have seen changes in government. I started in opposition, then I was part of the NDP government, now I'm part of the New Democrat opposition again. And that's the normal ebb and flow. But what I have seen is it doesn't matter who's in opposition, they take their job seriously and they scrutinize the legislation and they scrutinize the budget. And they're looking for ways to either recommend improvements or to point out where the government just doesn't get it, where they just aren't acting on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. Either way, that's the job of the opposition, and oppositions do their job diligently, typically.

And then at some point — maybe it's an aha moment; maybe it's that all of the hours of endless hours of research is caught up and we've had time, oppositions have had time to consult with people that legislation involves, that the budget involves — and it's just almost like a dam bursting and the legislation flows through and without fail gets passed. Without fail. Mr. Speaker, we could be dealing with the budget, we could be dealing with legislation, we could be dealing with anything other than the hours of legislation.

But let me say this about the hours, the hours that we're supposed to sit. You know, we get elected. All of us, everyone in this room that's sitting as an MLA is elected. And one of the things we get to do is to pick the hours that we should work. And for the most part, Mr. Speaker, we pick hours that kind of make some sense — that allow the research to take place, that allow for us to consider legislation, that allow for us to consider Bills, that allow for us to consider budget. But every once in a while, we just seem to go on tilt. We just seem to go on tilt.

Mr. Speaker, can you tell me any other occupation in the universe, any other occupation in the universe that would say, oh I want to be sitting, I want to be looking into the camera, I want to be under public scrutiny, have to be here from 8 a.m. . . . That's not a bad start time, incidentally; 8 a.m. is fine. Most of us start work before . . . But we have to be here attached to this Chamber at 8 a.m. until midnight — 8 a.m. until midnight.

And you know I've seen right wing parties call for free votes in the legislature and free votes in the House of Commons. They're great when they're in opposition for calling for that. But I want to call bogus because there is no way that every Sask Party member is that nuts that they want to sit from 8 a.m. until midnight for a month now. There is nobody that's that crazy — Just it's not on; it just isn't.

Mr. Speaker, we have the ability to get the business done. We have the ability to be talking about the budget and about Bills. We have that ability. We should be using that ability. I just want to point out for government's edification too, when we're in here all those hours, from 8 a.m. until midnight, it's the government's responsibility to maintain quorum, which is 15 members at all times, Mr. Speaker. There's an obligation for government to maintain quorum. And I know that because it was part of my responsibility for a long time, 16 years in government, and for the most part we succeeded, Mr. Speaker.

Now we're into a situation where . . . We changed the rules about four years ago and in fact changed the sitting times. We extended the sitting times, Monday through Thursday, and almost made up for the old five-day schedule. And why did we condense it to the four days, Mr. Speaker? It was so that out-of-Regina MLAs could have a Friday, a day in their constituencies to meet with constituents, to talk about issues, to talk about concerns, maybe hear their suggestions, hear of their problems, and then come back to Regina to this very building, this legislature and deal with them, try and make our province work a little bit better. That's what the members of the government now and us put together some four years ago.

And here we are now saying . . . Being forced to deal with 8 a.m. to midnight, five days a week, I mean it's just crazy to think that any MLA is going to have more than the fleeting passing moment to speak with any of their constituents, never mind our families. Never mind the things that have to happen day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, in a democracy, the majority ultimately has its way. But in a democracy, the minority has its say first. And that is an important principle in any democracy: the minority has its say, then the majority gets its way. And this is not a case where that's happening in any way at all. We're sitting here in a heavy-handed Sask Party government forcing closure, forcing hours of work that no sane person would want to work under. How is this somehow beneficial for good governance? How does this help the government or the opposition deal with legislation in any meaningful way, Mr. Speaker? How can we possibly provide the diligence that our constituents hired us for when they elected us in November of 2007? How can anybody possibly function that many hours a day, wrapping their heads around budget and legislation and constituents and family? It just doesn't work. It can't possibly work, Mr. Speaker.

[17:00]

Mr. Speaker, some people would have us believe that with extended hours that somehow it gives us more opportunity to speak. And you know that's just not the case either. I'm reminded of a little bit earlier today when I had . . . I was actually standing in on a school group for the hon. member for Regina Dewdney when he was here dealing with this issue at

the very front end of it. And I got talking with a couple of the teachers that came. And I said, you know, it's kind of like if you extended the hours of your school. You know, you normally sit from roughly 9:00 a.m. to 3:30, you know, five days a week.

But if you, in an emergency, you said, well no, you've got to be here at 8:00 a.m. and we're going to teach you right through till midnight. You know, Mr. Speaker, it'll work one day. It might even work two days in a case of a nuclear war or something, you know, some huge crisis. You might be able to push it for two days. You might, if you're just exceptionally strong and have this determined constitution, you might even make it for three days. But after that, I guarantee you those students aren't learning anything. They're exhausted. I guarantee you that the teachers, all but the tiniest handful of them, would just, couldn't keep up with the lesson planning, Mr. Speaker, never mind stand up and deliver these lessons for those kinds of hours.

It is nuts for us to think for a minute that this is going to result in better speeches, more freedom of speech, better legislation, a better budget. Well I can tell you how you can get a better budget. That's easy. Just call an election. Get out of the way, let New Democrats run it because we wouldn't be \$1.9 billion out in potash alone. We left a \$2.4 billion surplus on the books. That's turned now. There've been two successive nearly \$1 billion deficits in two years. Mr. Speaker, at a time of plenty, the finances have been mismanaged, have been arguably bungled, have been terribly mismanaged.

And where does this leave us? It leaves us with a government that says, oh no, we won't extend the sitting five days. We'll extend it these hours instead and create this crisis of democracy. We'll extend the hours until you're so exhausted you can't fight. Well my constituents deserve better than that, sir. My constituents deserve my diligence for every piece of legislation and every budget item. I can't do it from 8 a.m. to midnight. I cannot do it. I cannot do it. It's just not possible. I cannot do it. I cannot do it.

To those constituents who elected me for — I'll point out this with pride — for the seventh straight time in November of 2007, I say thank you ever so much. I am so humbled, Mr. Speaker, to be standing here in this legislature on their behalf. But I apologize to them. I apologize to every one of those constituents that I am unable to do the job. I cannot, I cannot do what the Sask Party is demanding that I do for the next month. I might be able to do it for a day or two. I might be able to do it for a day or two. I cannot physically keep that pace from 8 a.m. to midnight thinking about Bills and budget and all of the other meetings, the committee meetings that we have in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I cannot do it.

And I feel bad about that because though I know I'm not the best MLA in the universe. I know that. I know that, but I'm far from the worst MLA. And I do try and be diligent on behalf of my constituents. I do try and do the job. I don't always succeed, but this Sask Party government is forcing me to failure, forcing me to failure. And it's a failure on behalf of my constituents, every one of them in Regina Coronation Park. And I defy a single MLA to stand up and say that they can do a whole lot better, that for a month they're going to go from 8 a.m. to midnight and they're going to be diligent and they're going to

be right on top of their game all those hours.

It's nonsense. It cannot happen. It will not happen. Shame on the government. Shame on the Sask Party for thinking it can happen. Shame on you for thinking it can happen. It is absolutely not right for any democracy for that to happen. Good legislation, good legislation and good budgets will pass. They all deserve scrutiny.

And in fact, you know, some of our best legislation that we passed, we wanted scrutiny. We wanted people to understand it. I remember the Bill we passed last year that I had the pleasure of introducing and taking it through, and that was the Gallenger amendment to *The Highway Traffic Act*. And I wanted for people to understand what it was we were doing. That legislation deserved scrutiny. In many ways it still does deserve scrutiny, if for no other reason than the memory of Jim Gallenger, the highway employee that gave his life trying to keep our highways safe.

Good legislation will pass. It deserves scrutiny and it should get it. Then it should pass. Good budgets deserve scrutiny and an opportunity for government members to brag about it, for opposition members to say, well done. And that does happen on occasion. For the most part, we're busy finding things that should be done better. But it does happen.

But bad legislation and bad budgets don't deserve to be rushed through in the dark of the night, passed at 11:55 or 11:59 p.m. when everyone is simply too tired and too exhausted to carry on. Bad Bills and bad legislation, Mr. Speaker, are wrong, wrong, wrong. And I am predicting that the Sask Party will get that message by the next general election. Bad legislation and bad budgets pushed through by closure, pushed through by extended hours that are extended far beyond anything even reasonable. Far beyond anything that's reasonable.

And then just watch, Mr. Speaker. Government members are going to stand up and they're going to vote all as one. They're going to go . . . [inaudible] . . . all as one, saying yes. Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full. They're going to say, I can do it. I can sit from 8 a.m. until midnight. I can do it. I can give my constituents what they voted for me .

I ask members of the Sask Party government to just think if that is really . . . If you can look yourself in the mirror . . . You don't have to look at me. You don't have to answer to me. Ultimately you'll have to answer to your constituents. But if you can look at the mirror and look at yourself and say, I can do it, then by all means you should stand up and you should vote for that government closure motion, Mr. Speaker. But if you can't — if the answer is no, I can't do it from 8 a.m. till midnight for a month solid — then, Mr. Speaker, the answer has to be, quite clearly, democracy has to prevail.

This legislature is about democracy. My seatmate talked about wars and people having gone to war, and people are still going to war. And governments everywhere are telling us it's for freedom of speech. It's for freedom and democracy is what they're saying, Mr. Speaker. Well how does that work when we come here, a place that should be the seat of democracy, and the government is telling us something absolutely different than that? Absolutely different. How can that possibly work? How

can this be a good thing?

Here we are, day 50 of this legislature. Day 50. What did we see? Three new, four new Bills passed this morning — or not passed, introduced — I'm sorry, introduced. First reading, introduced this morning. We had some introduced last week. Bills that haven't even been called by the Sask Party government for second reading. And we're being asked to deal with closure. You see the absurdity of it. You see how wrong that is. When there's a half a dozen Bills that the government has the right to introduce.

Government should introduce legislation. I would argue that many of them could have been introduced before day 50 of the legislature, you know, when we're in the final month according to our schedule. But governments have the right to introduce it. Governments also have the right to wait and introduce it in the fall. Some of the legislation can be done then. Governments have a right and an obligation to manage the legislature, to manage the needs of the people of Saskatchewan, to manage the budget. Governments have an obligation to provide for the fair and equitable democratic operation of this province.

On every front, the Sask Party government is failing, Mr. Speaker, failing. They're wrong on every single count here. Wrong. We have passed . . . The member for The Battlefords read the list, the legislation we have already passed. It's just waiting for Royal Assent. And the list is fairly lengthy, and it's been growing every day when we've been dealing with government business. Not dealing with this nonsense about motion of closure, this motion that's going to extend the hours from 8 a.m. to midnight. I mean it is beyond absurd.

Mr. Speaker, I want to end where I was 10 minutes ago in my speech, and that was I want to again apologize to my constituents. I want to thank them for electing me November of 2007. I thank them and I'm eternally grateful for all of their support. But I want to apologize because I can't do what the Sask Party government is demanding that I do by sitting from 8 a.m. to midnight all these days for the month. I'll do my very best, that's my commitment to my constituents. I will do my very best, but I already know, sir, it will not be the best that they deserve. And they deserve more and that's a shame.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — The member's time has expired. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm quite happy to enter into this debate because basically it is a debate about democracy. And I have been here for 12 years, and I have to say I've heard many of my colleagues say the same thing — I've never actually seen this kind of behaviour in the House in all of that 12 years. The total disregard for not only the long-standing processes of the legislature that have been agreed to by both parties . . . And I was on the rules committee when that agreement came through.

And the understanding we had at the time was to make things better for people who are working here so they can do their jobs and still give a great service to the people of Saskatchewan in their constituencies. So lots of the things that we saw happen were because we wanted to make it better here. This is just absolutely undermining and totally throwing out and disregarding all the good work that's been done for those years

when we came to that point of agreement.

The rules mean something to this legislature and they mean something to us as legislators. And I don't get that feeling any more. I get the feeling that the rules mean nothing to the Sask Party government. If they don't like them, they don't listen to them, and if they can, they will change them. And by changing them they . . . I mean just ramming them through. This is such a bullying tactic that it's hard to believe that that is still something that's prevalent in this day and age, that people could actually get away with this without some sort of outcry. And I'm happy to say that 20 of us will be able to speak to that and represent the outcry of the public who do not like to see their rights trampled.

And I think the message that I would take if I was a member of the public is that if this Premier can treat this House like this, if this Premier can treat the members of the Legislative Assembly, and particularly the opposition who have a job to do for due diligence on all the actions of the government, if the Premier can trample those people's rights — all of our rights and the rights and the procedures of this Legislative Assembly — they should worry about what he will do to their rights.

And I think that that's going to become clearer and clearer to people, that there is no commitment to rules of order, to rules of the Assembly, to respect for people's rights, to respect for this Assembly. It is so disrespectful it's almost . . . It is shocking. I heard that word used already. It is shocking. It almost takes your breath away to think that this could actually happen in a legislature in Saskatchewan. I thought . . . I mean we lead in the country in many places. I've been to many conferences where people look to Saskatchewan to provide leadership. This will not be one of our shining moments. It will certainly not be a shining moment for Saskatchewan.

[17:15]

And when this gets reported, and it always does, people around the country watch and they see what happens in the parliaments of the country, and they will not be judging us very favourably. This will not be . . . This will be a black mark against Saskatchewan. And the Saskatchewan Party government will have to wear this across the country.

When people look at how this was done and why this was done, the absurdity of it is only part of it. The actual disrespect for the House and for the members of the House and the work of the members of the House is far worse. It is far worse to have that statement on record that no one cares about that anymore, but if you don't like the rules, you just change them.

That is not the work of this Assembly. The work of this Assembly is to look at legislation that best fits the vision of Saskatchewan, that works for the people of Saskatchewan. How coming to work at 8 in the morning where delegations won't be able to get here, how changing all the hours in such a punitive, ham-handed, hard-headed way, in any way, shape, or form serves the people of Saskatchewan is beyond me. And I do believe it's going to be beyond their comprehension as well.

And I think they're going to send a message to the Sask Party, and it won't be very positive. And I don't know if it'll even take

18 months for it to happen, but I do know in 18 months people will be well aware of this, well aware of how this government acts, well aware of how this government treats people and their rights, and this is only part of that. I mean it's a demonstration to people that are watching or that will hear about this, about how this government respects the democratic process.

And the member from Cannington talks about uncooperative. Well I understand that the Sask Party wanted us to sign a agreement to pass all Bills, including ones we hadn't seen — including ones we hadn't even seen. That is not how you do due diligence. We've had Bills presented in this session where we've seen what consultation the Sask Party has done or proposed, purported to have done. The wild ponies, First Nations were not consulted. They were not consulted.

And this big thing about, we had to have it done. Well you have to do things right as well. There is a certain respect for the legislature when you don't do that. I mean when you disrespect the legislative process, it really weakens all of democracy. And I don't think these people get it. The Sask Party do not get that. They do not get what they're doing to democracy.

And I think that's a very sad commentary on all 38 people that sit there, that they have no idea of what's happening to democracy under their, under their watch. And this business about bullying and ramming it through and coercing and threatening and all the things that they're doing behind the scenes, do you think people don't know? People talk. And when we go out and talk to people, they come up to us and say, what about this? What about this? And I'm pretty sure that they're not going to be fooled very long, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is the second time in two years that the Sask Party has tried to do this. It is a clear signal that they cannot manage the affairs of government. In particular in this legislature, simply can't do it. Is beyond their comprehension, how to actually move Bills through in a timely fashion. Don't get it.

And it's a total commentary on their lack of ability to negotiate. Twenty-five thousand health care workers are sitting out there for two-plus years because nobody over there knows how to negotiate. The doctors are sitting there, they have nothing either because nobody over there knows how to negotiate. The kidney transplant program is in jeopardy because negotiations have failed. So this government has no track record on negotiations.

They've said they're going to war with workers. Well they're going to war with everyone, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is a war on democracy. And I think people, no matter where they work or whether they're unionized or not unionized, will see that because people in Saskatchewan are pretty sophisticated and have been leaders in the country and in the world, moving forward many agendas. This will be a black mark on Saskatchewan, and I'm embarrassed to say that I'm part of this legislature that is actually going to have to see this happen.

And I think my constituents will certainly miss the contact they have on Fridays with me. And this is something that is unnecessary. I mean the Bills that have gone through already, the Bills that are sitting waiting Royal Assent, there's 18 of them ready. We've moved those through the House. There's 19 more that are still being debated, and some of them have significant issues attached to them. One of them is *The*

*Opticians Act*, which we were getting basically two different opinions on whether it should be passed or not. And at least two letters or two organizations have said, withdraw the Bill.

We were part of the tobacco Act debacle that happened a couple of weeks ago. Somehow that was a test of somebody's macho or machismo to ram that thing through, and the stakeholders were bewildered, bewildered about how that actually went. Sitting in committee, in Human Services, where the staff, the Clerks were running all over the place, the stress was palpable in the room because that's simply not how things are done.

Not only does it show disrespect for the legislature, it shows disrespect for the staff here. The people who understand how the legislature works, tend to do their job that way. And when it's been interfered with, like the tobacco Act was, everybody's wondering what happened. So it certainly is a message to people who come here and have seen how this works. The tobacco community came and listened and saw how it worked. Nobody had to actually tell them, they saw it with their own eyes. They heard it, and they commented on it. I mean, it was noticeable how badly that was handled.

So if you don't have a handle on how you deal with the basic functioning of the legislature, you can't move Bills through in an appropriate manner, respecting the stakeholders and the legislative process and the opposition. That's a sad commentary on your ability to govern. And I think that's basically what people are getting from all of this idiocy that's happening around here.

All the Bills that have been introduced are moving along as they should. There's many that still need commentary, and having been with the tobacco Act, the wild ponies Act, now *The Opticians Act*, I do understand that the idea of consultation that the Sask Party has is certainly not what the stakeholders have, and it's certainly not what we have as an opposition. And to do our job, we need to talk to people. And when we talk to them, they tell us. They reinforce the idea that, no, you know, we haven't been consulted. And if it's somehow somebody's idea of consultation, it isn't meaningful in any way, shape, or form.

So like I said at the beginning, the government, when they can't abide by the rules that they help negotiate, it does send a message about how they honour agreements. And the chiropractors will tell you that when they ripped up an agreement already.

So there is no honour dealing with the Sask Party, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that is another commentary that I think it would be fairly embarrassing to have to admit, that there's no honour there. If there is agreements in place, they mean nothing. When you see the chiropractors can have theirs ripped up, what does it mean to sign a paper with the Sask Party? It means nothing. It doesn't mean anything.

So people don't have any trust. If your word doesn't mean anything, you're in a sad state. If your word does not carry any weight and you can't abide by your word, then you are in a sad state. And I think there's quite a few people over there who have obviously . . . You know, when you throw a stone into the dark and somebody yelps? There you go.



So despite the government's spin and rhetoric, the opposition has not been holding up legislation. As I mentioned just a few seconds ago, there's legislation moving through the process. Eighteen Bills are waiting for Royal Assent. This is not something that has clogged up the House.

So whatever machismo is going on here and muscle flexing and blowing hard and blowing long and whatever that means, it's not actually working. It's not working. It's not fooling anybody. You can blow smoke up people's, you know, nose and it's not going to, it's not exactly going to fool them. I don't think people . . . They aren't fooled. They understand what's going on. And I think as they understand more, it will certainly not be, it will not be positive for the Sask Party.

And when we see rules extended like this, I think my colleague from Coronation Park was right. I don't think people expect to have people working 12, 14 hours a day and doing good work. It's pretty hard to maintain that pace and do good work. And I know that there was certainly, there's certainly the ability in the rules to add an extra week if that becomes necessary as we get closer to the end of the session. There are many days left to accomplish the work of this House. And obviously this motion is disruptive and disrespectful, as I've mentioned several times, and it's disruptive to the House. And it's certainly not necessary to have it done because we have time. And if we don't have time, we have the ability, according to the rules that have been mutually agreed upon in a respectful process, we have the ability to add another week.

Well the House Leader, the member from Cannington, has said that the government doesn't want another week because they don't want another question . . . They don't want four more days of question period. Well, boo hoo. You know, question period is when the ministers are accountable to the public. When we have questions that we ask, we don't ask them because they come out of the blue. We ask them because the public wants to know the answers. And if we don't have that opportunity, then the public is the one who is being punished. And I think people will definitely get that one.

I think the government is embarrassed. They want to get out of here. They don't feel . . . I think they're pretty much embarrassed. They don't want to add another week of scrutiny with question period. I can see the embarrassment. I mean I see them sitting there. They're either laughing or joking or trying to somewhat disregard the process and disrespect the process. Most of all, it's smirking and laughing and swinging their chairs around and turning their backs on people. I think that that actually is a signal to anybody who's in the gallery watching.

And people have commented on that action from budget day when the Premier had a temper tantrum in front of, I don't know, 500 people in the gallery, in the building, had a temper tantrum that he had to apologize for. People saw that and they certainly remember it. And when they come here and they watch, many comments are made about the activities of the government. And we know that the Premier . . . I'm not surprised, and when the Premier is leading this government, he doesn't have a good track record of management. He has a record of failure. He can't manage.

And it's pretty evident that nobody can manage that side of the

House. They're on their second House Leader, and he's certainly doing a lot less better . . . a lot worse than the first House Leader was. And I think if we had a report card of how many points of order that the member from Cannington has stood up on and lost, I think it would be like 95 per cent. Most of it is specious. I mean he totally has disregarded any common sense and stands up to make a fool of himself at any opportunity, the drop of a hat. So we definitely have a track record from this government of not being able to manage, and here it is demonstrated again in not being able to manage the business of the House.

This is a pretty sad commentary on a government who simply has had two deficit budgets, has blown \$2.3 billion that was left in the coffers when they took over. In fact when they first took over, the government said, oh this is in stark . . . We're in a stark circumstance. They weren't even right then. The first day into government, they weren't right, and they haven't been right since.

And all this wild talk about potash revenues and wild speculations about costs of what potash would be — everybody seems to want to stick their oar in the water — none have been right. It certainly does not lend to any degree of trust in the public that this government can actually manage the province.

And people do understand that we are doing well here, despite the Sask Party. The groundwork was laid, as *The Globe and Mail* article on the weekend said, quoting Eric Cline, the groundwork was laid before '07. And when this government, the Sask Party government came in, things were in place already for the boom to happen. But they've blown the boom. Like people are coming forward and saying, well what happened to me? Why can't . . . why isn't this happening? Where did all the money go? In fact that's the question I get from young people: where did all the money go? Well they don't . . . Nobody can answer that. Nobody can say, where did the money go?

Basically the children's hospital was kind of a bit of a gloomy event on Saturday. No one was terribly excited about the message that they had got in this budget, and there was certainly some odd conversations going on that I thought were certainly, I think, indicative of how that community in Saskatoon trusts . . .

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — Order. The decibel level is increasing dramatically. There's a lot of side conversations, and I'd appreciate it if I'd be allowed the opportunity, as would the other members, to hear the member who has the floor. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think last year's budget, '09 budget had a lot of talk about transparency and accountability. A lot of things in there talking about how this government was going to perform better so people could understand what was going on and they would be accountable. Well that certainly disappeared awfully fast. Never worked for even one year and certainly has never seen any of it in this current budget.

And this current budget, I don't know how anybody can say it's

a balanced budget when everybody with any degree of economic intelligence has seen through it and has commented on that. And I think it's again going to go to people's trust. People won't trust somebody who can't manage the finances of the province and they can't manage the business of the House. That's two strikes already. I mean it isn't going to take long to make the next swish and you're out.

So I think that all the things that we have seen in the budget, a lot of them are hidden and they're going to be coming out slowly. We've seen them trickling out. And some of the cause and effect will happen, and I think the people of Saskatchewan will see that this government really doesn't have their best interests at heart. They don't care about people. They care about their own agenda, which appears to be, one, at war with labour, second is privatization. Those things are key points of this government's agenda.

So it doesn't matter about democracy. We can trample that. We can trample people's rights, we can trample their expectations. It doesn't matter. And that message is quite clear.

[17:30]

I don't think people are confused about that message. I think they've got it. I think they've heard it, that there isn't anything that's constructive for most people that are living in a certain income; that there's things like vehicles, government vehicles being taken away from community-based organizations that relied on those to do the work of their organizations. They're gone.

And that's something that's quietly been eroded. And there's so many of those things, those quiet things that have been taken away that they basically at a certain point become a pile of very bad news for people that will look at them and say, this is significant. This is a significant problem and we should do something about that. And that opportunity to do something will come November of 2011.

And I don't think there's going to be much left for the Sask Party to ride on because if you've ridden on two deficits — probably three coming up, which most people have seen in the budget books; three will be coming, maybe four — and you've totally trampled democracy and you've shown to people that it doesn't matter, that when we try to have an institution like this legislature and have respect for it and respect for the work that it does, legislation that it passes, budgets that it passes, policy that it puts forward, you've eroded that. You've smacked it.

And you think that somehow people will like that and they'll respect you for it? I don't think so. I think that people will see that you don't have any respect for this facility and this institution. Then how are you going to respect them? And I think that people's rights will be trampled on, which we've seen in many cases now. Small things coming forward, big things coming forward.

I can only imagine what's going to happen with the health districts with the budget they've got. They're already talking about the deficits they had last year and what's going to happen with next year. It's going to be a catastrophe. And I don't think anybody over there has a clue. They don't have a clue. I don't

know who they listen to, but I gather from the way that we see business going through in the House, they don't listen to anybody.

It's somebody, and I think it's the Premier sets the direction. And the group around him says, this is how we're going to go and make it fit and make it work. And so here we all are suffering the consequences of that dictatorship, that heavy-handed dictatorship.

I mean, that is not how we've done business up to this point. And I said, I've been here 12 years. I have not seen the business of the House conducted so poorly as I have since the Sask Party government has come into power. It's absolutely . . . I think someone mentioned earlier that it's almost like governing with the Divine right, and I don't think there's any pun intended. I think people are starting to think that this government feels they have a divine right, the people gave them the right, and they're going to make it . . .

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — Order. The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to speak in favour of the amendment and against the motion for closure.

I do come to this debate with a slightly different approach than some of my colleagues, although I do want to reiterate I completely agree with them. I completely agree that this is reflective of this government's inability to manage anything. In prosperous times . . . I'm new in this Legislative Assembly, and I don't quite get how there can be record revenues and this government has to make cuts. Record revenues the last two years, and we have to make cuts. And particularly these cuts are being done poorly and without any regard for consultation with the groups impacted.

SCN is a really great case in point. SCN, two and a half years, no consultation with their independent board, between the ministry and this independent board. No connection or contact with the film and television industry. SCN is a critical piece, one of many pieces in the film and television industry here in Saskatchewan, but a critical piece nonetheless. And this government made cuts without consulting the people who knew anything about this.

So in prosperous times, we're making cuts and not particularly wise cuts. Short-sighted. Again I'm new here, but I understand that the government is in control of the House business and can't seem to organize themselves to get the work done in the time that has been allotted. Being fresh around here, I don't quite understand how that works. When you're in charge of something, you have a plan. You've set out a plan, and then you work to achieve your goals. And if you don't know how it works, you don't deserve to be sitting on that side of the House.

I completely agree that this motion translates into less accountability, less transparency, and a lack of democracy. Question period, moving question period till 8 in the morning will limit the opportunity . . . There's many community organizations, many groups of people who like to come, who

it's their right and their privilege to come to this Legislative Assembly and watch the proceedings. Moving it to 8 in the morning makes it very difficult from anyone outside, from anyone outside of Regina to come here and participate.

This government is making, by limiting . . . If you can't finish your business in the time that's allotted and you have to . . . And you're not willing to add days on the end. You get to the end period and you have the opportunity to add days, but you don't want to add days because you don't want to face question period. That is a problem. Question period is our opportunity as opposition to stand up and ask questions of the people who have concerns. When I get up and my colleagues get up to ask questions in question period, we're asking questions on behalf of people who have raised concerns. To limit that opportunity I think is shameful.

My colleagues before me on both sides of the House introduced a fixed calendar with fixed hours that both sides negotiated, so if business isn't done in that time, there was a capacity in the existing rules, without a rule change, to add to days of the sitting. So why do you . . . When they did make these changes to fixed hours, they did it because it made sense. From a work/family perspective, it was better for MLAs. I think we're all more effective with our work if we all have a little bit of balance in our lives. But it more importantly was effective, better for our constituents, getting MLAs back in their constituencies on Friday to be able to make connections and do the work that we're supposed to be doing, representing our constituents.

So how is this, I'd like to ask how this is good for or how this is beneficial for good governance, sitting 16-hour days. There's all kinds of research that shows actually a six-hour workday . . . Technically if you crunched it down, we generally all work about 8 to 10 hours, or other professions. But 16 hours a day? How can you do anything properly and well if you're working for 16 hours a day? Things will slip and not be done properly or well.

All that said, as I said, I want to reiterate what my colleagues said, but I also come to the table with a slightly different perspective. This time about a year ago, a little bit longer, I made the decision to jump into the race to be the candidate, to put my name forward as the candidate in Saskatoon Riversdale and, as was my hope, to become the MLA for Saskatoon Riversdale, my home for much of my life.

As a very committed mother of two young kids, this wasn't a decision I took lightly. I was well aware that would be many demands on my time and many challenges facing me and my family. But I'm more than willing to make those sacrifices, and I have the family support necessary to do this job well and to ensure that my kids are in loving care when I'm not there for them.

But there are a whole lot of people out there, a lot of women in particular — both men and women, but women in particular because women are still responsible by and large for the care of our children and our elders — but there are a lot of people out there who would love to consider putting their name forward and to serve their constituents. There are a lot of people out there. Sadly though, when you find out . . . And I think people

understand that politics is a very demanding job. There's long hours. There's time away from our family, so it's already a bit difficult and challenging for sure. But when people hear the absurdity of sitting from 8 in the morning till midnight there's no way, when we think about our roles as caregivers, that most people will be willing to put their name forward to stand for politics.

And I come to this place as a firm believer that our legislature needs to look more like the diversity of our province, whether it's more women, more First Nations and Métis people, more people of visible minorities. And something like this, putting a motion like this forward totally turns people off and makes people think, why would I want to engage in a job that keeps me away from my family 16 hours a day, or has the capacity — and on short notice, you know. And I am incredibly hard-working and more than willing to make those sacrifices, but you know what? When the rules change, that is a problem. That is a problem.

I am willing to work evenings and weekends, and I do that. I serve my constituents well, but my constituents don't expect every ounce of my lifeblood, or any of us for that matter, to be given away.

You know this is a barrier for women to enter politics. Women are still the primary caregivers of children and of seniors. That is a fact. That is a fact. It slowly is starting to change. And I would say, you look around the House here, most, most . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Your job is 365 days a year.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Yes. Yes. The member from Martensville is telling me my job is 365 days a year. I do in fact recognize that. And I am more than willing to serve my constituents, but I also want to see this legislature look like the diversity of this province because decisions that get made in here have an impact on all of us. And quite honestly, a room full of white people in suits isn't the best thing for our province when it comes to outcomes.

In order to attract women into politics, I'm a big proponent. I can do this job because I have the support, but by and large, people who have engaged in politics of the past — look around this room — the women who have participated generally have done so after they've had their families, launched their families, their families are on their way. The reality is, most women who enter politics do so when our kids are much older because our husbands usually aren't willing to step outside of the workforce to become at-home parents.

I have a husband who is willing to do that because he wants to help me break ground for other women to enter politics so our policy decisions can look better. And again I have to emphasize, I do not shy away from hard work. I work many, many hours a day, long after my children have gone to bed, but I don't think anybody expects politicians to completely . . . I may be an MLA and I may be a representative for my community, but the reason people elected me is because I was a mother who knew and understood their issues and was connected and knew what was going on . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And I can hear someone over there saying, oh you poor thing. You know what? It's not about me. This is

about making sure that we have a legislature, we have a legislature that looks like the diversity of our province, and this is not the case at all.

**An Hon. Member:** — You're mean, heartless people.

**Ms. Chartier:** — No, it's not about . . . And it isn't about being mean and heartless. It's about trying to change our institutions so they look like they should and we do what we need to do to make sure we pass good policy. And part of that is about having people involved in politics who represent the province. And I'm sorry, but we're not a legislature that's reflective of the diversity of this province at all — not in the slightest bit. And if you're not going to have a legislature that looks like the diversity of your province, you should at least be consulting with other people. And I think that this government has shown us very clearly that they don't have the capacity to consult with all the stakeholders.

I think the most important thing here too though is thinking about our ability, how sitting 16 hours a day impacts our ability to serve our constituents. I know that throughout the day we all take calls. We all get emails while we're here, trying to stay connected, but this legislature is a bit of a bubble. The reality is this legislature is a bit of a bubble.

I love when I go home to my community and I'm out and about on the weekends, on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, talking to people, finding out what's going on. It's a wonderful opportunity to sort of be grounded and think, okay, this is what it's all about. This is the reason I'm doing this job. It's because of these people and this constituency, and I want to give them voice. And again if you can't manage your House and get the work done needed in the allotted time, well shame on you. And as I said, you don't deserve to be sitting on that side of the House . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Sorry . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh no, I . . .

[Interjections]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — Order. It would be interesting to hear the full extent of that discussion, but I think we'll leave that for another time. The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has the floor.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Sorry, Mr. Speaker. In my experience it's sometimes very hard for me not to engage with the banter on the opposite side of the House. I haven't fully learned to tune these people out yet. And I know that you're listening very intently.

So again though the whole notion of attracting more women into politics, it's very much . . . All the work-family research right now shows that young people are not willing to do what those of older generations did in terms of abdicating their family responsibilities just to work. People nowadays want some balance in their life. That is a reality. All the empirical evidence illustrates that and I am in a position, I am in a position that many men have been in for years and years and years in politics.

I have a husband who has opted out of paid labour so I can do this job. But you know what? I fully . . . I love this work and

it's great, but I'm still a mother and I still . . . Just because I'm here, I don't want to be completely disconnected from my children. And I don't think my constituents expect that either, as many of them are having many work-family issues as well, and they want to have a life with their kids.

[17:45]

But, you know, this is about making sure we create a workplace . . . This is not a particularly family-friendly workplace. And as I said, I am in a position to make that sacrifice. And I have a willing family, whether it's my husband who brings my nursing toddler here to Regina with us when we're here or when I'm back in Saskatoon, but a lot of people don't have the partner or the spouse who's willing to opt out of paid labour, be it a man or a woman. Fewer women are willing to. Many women have careers of their own and aren't so inclined to want to opt out of paid employment so they can stay home while their husband serves in the legislature. That happens less and less.

So we've created a space here that is very limiting in terms of the number of people we can attract to put their names forward to run for politics. And I think being able to change the rules as you go along, all recognizing that, yes, this is a demanding job and the hours are long, but 8 in the morning till midnight is absurd. It is absolutely ridiculous. And how can one do good work? How can anyone do good work when you're working from 8 in the morning till midnight? I would challenge someone over there to explain that to me.

And again I just want to reiterate the point that since we don't have a legislature that's reflective of the diversity of our province, at the bare minimum there should be consultation going on. And everybody's wondering over there, well why don't we just pass all the legislation they put before us? Well we've had people point out major flaws in their legislation, at the bare minimum flagging concerns. Whether it was *The Tobacco Control Act*, the wild ponies Act, *The Opticians Act*, if you're not reflective of the diversity of the province, at least make sure you're talking to people so you have good information when you're making decisions.

There's such a disconnect here between this government and people who are on the ground where the rubber hits the road. They want to be a part of the process of making sure good policy is passed, and that just is not happening. Again as I said, SCN is a classic example, and this government is going to do great harm to the film and television industry here in Saskatchewan with the closure of SCN. And why is it happening? It's because they never met with their independent board in two and a half years. Two and a half years, there was not any meaningful contact between the government and the independent board of SCN. And again up until the budget happened, there was no consultation with the film and television industry about what they needed. And had this consultation taken place, these decisions wouldn't have to happen and wouldn't have to have such a negative impact on people.

We suppose we are a representative democracy. This is the kind of world in which we live, right here, right now. This is a representative democracy. But there still needs to be mechanisms for a participatory democracy because we don't

have all the answers. I don't have all the answers. I know they certainly don't have all the answers. How do we get the answers? We get the answers by consulting with people, by a broad range of people, not the one stakeholder you like. You need to talk to a broad range of people to ensure that the legislation you're passing makes sense. And my concern here is that has not happened.

In my short time in this legislature, I've seen a complete lack of consultation. The domestic violence program in Saskatoon, the domestic violence program, you cut this. The domestic violence program in Saskatoon has been cancelled, and the only way they, the domestic violence program . . . There was no consultation with the people in Saskatoon. This is a program that should have . . . It was cancelled because we heard that it was a one-off. Well you know what, Mr. Speaker? This is a program that should have happened throughout the province. And people expect, people expect if you're going to be cutting something that you have some contact with them.

Quint, a community organization that has huge impact in my constituency, that has put many people in houses, many families in the core of Saskatoon, have helped them become homeowners and be well established and repopulate the core with families, their funding was cut just out of the blue. Their whole component of provincial funding was cut. And that was a politically motivated decision, I would argue, and had no basis in reality or need. An organization that was doing good work, very good work in my constituency and other constituencies in the core, cut with absolutely no, no consultation or warning.

This is the other thing. Everything seems to happen without any warning. You'd think if you had to make some changes that you'd want to engage with stakeholders, but that's not the case. And again my biggest argument is, if you don't have a legislature that is representative of the makeup of the province, at least you should be talking to people. And this government just seems to like to talk to the one or two stakeholders that are fond of them, but that pile of stakeholders is getting smaller and smaller.

I can tell you, I had a very interesting conversation with a young man actually over the weekend, from rural Saskatchewan. And he made it very clear . . . He actually worked on one of the members opposite's campaigns and then said to me, you know what? They think their support's in rural Saskatchewan, but man oh man, it is dwindling.

So this is a young man in rural Saskatchewan who worked on a campaign in 2007 for one of the members opposite and his family is still connected in rural Saskatchewan and still lives there. He's living in Saskatoon.

Which . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay. I'm sorry, I still have a very hard time not engaging with things going on opposite. I'm sure that'll get better in time. But this young man, anyway, was very adamant that he had talked to all kinds of people in his community. He had worked on a campaign for a Sask Party member, a sitting MLA, and would not be doing that again. And again, he made it clear it wasn't just him. He had talked to lots of people who had reiterated that support for the Sask Party is dwindling.

Trust is a huge issue. If you can't be trusted to manage the finances in a time of record revenue, record revenue — more than \$10 million in government coffers and you have to make cuts. Again, I'm new here but that is astonishing to me. I don't understand how that could possibly happen, how you have record revenue and you have to tighten your belts. Well I do understand because they've gone on a spending spree for two and a half years without any big vision or forethought about what that should look like. And so now they have to tighten their belts but unfortunately they're making these random cuts without being connected to reality and not really realizing what those cuts do to people.

So, Mr. Speaker, this move to extend . . . This move for this motion I think is deplorable, and will do nothing to support and promote a more diverse legislature in our province.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Elhard):** — The member's time has expired. I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise . . . Well actually it's not much of a pleasure. I didn't think we would be in this debate again this evening of debating this closure motion and moving to the extended hours. But all of the things I had thought about talking about on this whole motion, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, this legislature has always stood for tolerance, good debate, and an understanding and consideration for the views that each of us bring as elected members of the legislature.

And to hear the banter that was being thrown across the floor when the member from Riversdale was up speaking about the difficulties of being a woman in the legislature and the difficulties of being a woman with a younger family in the legislature, the comments were quite disconcerting, Mr. Speaker. And this I think better explains the whole process of how we have seen the Status of Women office basically wiped out, how we've seen gender-based analysis being done throughout government and on government policies and processes wiped out, that joint job evaluation and the process that the Government of Saskatchewan went through over a period of time putting in place a pay equity policy framework, recognizing that women are affected differently by policies and programs that are put in place, it seems to be in jeopardy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that's a great concern. Not only as a member of this legislature, but when one of my colleagues cannot stand in this House and speak her views without being criticized and some disconcerting comments being made across the floor, it's truly appalling, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, after making that point I'll get back to the whole reason for the debate this evening. For the second time in two years, two years . . . This government's been in place not quite three years, but twice we have stood in this House and debated the extension of hours. And not just four hours a day. No, it's always exaggerated. It's always over the top. It always has this feel of being bullied about it, Mr. Speaker.

It's not negotiated as things are normally done in this House where we sit down and . . . Do you know, people across the province may watch question period and think, wow, it's just a bit of goofiness and theatre that goes on in this legislature. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know that there's a great deal of

conversation that goes on. Otherwise we have worked together. We have always given a daily schedule to the opposition. That doesn't happen any more. When we walk in this door as the opposition, representing our constituents, we find out just before we walk in the door what's coming up for that day. So we just have to come in and be prepared for whatever may happen.

Now maybe the government feels that that's the appropriate way but, Mr. Speaker, I'm finding more and more . . . Do you know, people in the labour movement felt that they were being targeted and ignored when Bills 5 and 6 and Bill 43, Bill 80 were brought before this House, pushed through the process. And some have been passed. Bill 80 is sitting on the docket waiting to have its final vote at the end of this session. Many people thought, well the Premier was right. He had just gone to war with labour.

But, Mr. Speaker, as we move through a couple more sessions, we're finding more and more people have been ignored. We are hearing of groups that . . . SCN, for example, when the Chair of the board, of the independent board of SCN, says that the minister hasn't even taken the time. Two and a half years the Sask Party government has been in power, they have never met with the board of SCN.

Aboriginal communities across the province — we could list many — they have never had a sit-down meeting with the minister in two and a half years. So, Mr. Speaker, this government obviously feels that they have some kind of right, by winning an election, that they can do whatever they like, whenever they like, and not do proper consultation or proper processes that go with the democratic system that we have enjoyed for many years.

So, Mr. Speaker, here we are for the second time in two short years. The Sask Party can't manage its own agenda so it's put down a change, a motion that will change the sitting times of the Assembly. And like I said, it's not just four hours or not just five hours, or extend it a week. No, they want to sit from 8 o'clock in the morning till midnight.

And here we are right now, Mr. Speaker. They even denied that we should have a dinner break, which we normally had. It's time to get out of the House, go for a walk if you like, have something to eat, relax; come back to sit for our evening session. Basic consideration, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but obviously it's more of the tactics that they feel will push their agenda forward.

And, Mr. Speaker, what is . . . I mean the government's basic function is to put forward legislation that it's written — hopefully with consultations but that's questionable — have debate in the Legislative Assembly, move it through into committee, and it will be passed. Hopefully better legislation will be passed at the end of the scrutiny, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that there has been input from constituents. There has been time for us to have conversation with our constituents — what works; what doesn't work — offer suggestions, do a critique of what the government is putting forward.

But, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing over and over again that this isn't the way the government feels that it should work. It

doesn't feel like it should be questioned. It doesn't feel like, or obviously doesn't feel that it has to give an explanation to stakeholders that are involved in any of this.

And, Mr. Speaker, those initial concerns that were felt by labour and felt by other stakeholders, the opposition is treated the same way. So I would say to them, don't feel like you've been singled out. The government treats everyone like this.

[18:00]

And I almost wonder if it goes back to some of the Premier, the now Premier when he was leader of the opposition had gone to a number of Republican conventions down in the United States, and I think he brought back the kind of George Bush logo or lingo and added to it. It was kind of, you're with us or you're against us, and there was nothing in between.

And that seems to be the attitude that we're seeing permeate from this government, Mr. Speaker. And more and more citizens are concerned, and we're hearing many, many complaints in our constituency offices and receiving emails and having a number of conversations. But, Mr. Speaker, it just basically boils down to, this government can't manage its own mandate. It's had a great deal of difficulty putting together budgets.

And I just spoke to my local media in Moose Jaw about the new TV ads that are currently being run. And he asked me about the ads, and I said, well all of it's fact. All you have to look . . . any of those figures are contained in the government's own budget and financial documents that have been released this budget year and last budget year. It's all fact, Mr. Speaker, and you can find it in the government's own documents. But they don't like seeing the facts out there, and they don't like hearing the truth.

But when it's out there, it raises concerns when people see the deficit that's being run up or close — \$1.3 billion in deficits in two years. Debt is climbing this year. It's up over \$750 million. And we've seen over \$1 billion taken out of the Crown corporations.

So don't seem to be able to manage. And clearly that hits on the financial side of the work of government, but now we're seeing it again arise in this House where they can't put forward a schedule or don't seem to be able to put forward a workable schedule to get their own legislation passed, Mr. Speaker, which is a little unusual.

Mr. Speaker, this is, I believe one of my colleagues said early on, this is a pretty light session when you look at the legislation that's being brought forward. I think there's 47, 48 Bills, 48 if you include Bill 80 that is currently sitting on the docket.

A couple of those Bills have been passed and have received Royal Assent already. Eighteen Bills have been passed and are awaiting Royal Assent. Two Bills are in committee waiting to be dealt with, which we could have been doing today, Mr. Speaker. And 19 more Bills are before the House in adjourned debate. And, Mr. Speaker, eight of those Bills have been tabled in the last two sitting days. So five today, which we don't see until they're tabled in the House, but yet we're expected to just shoo them along — sight unseen, no scrutiny, no talking to

stakeholders, no having discussions with people that might be impacted by those Bills. Mr. Speaker, they just figure we're going to rubber-stamp them and move them along. Well that's not the job of oppositions.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, most governments don't need to change rules or amend the sitting hours to get their agenda done. You plan ahead. You make sure your legislation is tabled early enough so that you have plenty of time for scrutiny and . . . to do the job that needs to be done here in this legislature.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think this government is really afraid to answer to the people of Saskatchewan as we see more and more scrutiny on the budget documents. We see the deficit that they're running up. We see the debt that is increasing in the province of Saskatchewan. And what they're trying to do is just get us out of this legislature as quickly as possible so that there's less scrutiny on what they're doing day to day. And I think they're just embarrassed by their track record.

Mr. Speaker, they don't want to answer to it. They don't want the close scrutiny. And that's disappointing. Because if you feel something is worth doing, well as a government member you need to be able to stand up to constituents and to people in this province and you need to be able to defend what you're doing . . . or not defend but to explain it. You need to be able to explain it because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, even if people don't agree with you, they need to understand why you're putting in place a piece of legislation and why you're making the changes. I believe that that responsibility comes with the job we have as elected representatives.

So, Mr. Speaker, this extended hours motion just proves that the Premier and this government can't manage the most basic of government functions, and that's passing Bills through this legislature.

But I think it shouldn't be a surprise to too many people because we know that the Premier has a consistent track record of mismanagement and failure. I mean we've talked today. There's been a couple of members' statements in the House about the Country Music Hall of Fame, how it went into receivership when the Premier was the manager of that. And his other business, the Last Stand Adventure Company, I believe the Premier's term was it wound down.

So we can fight over the wording, whatever we like, but either way the Premier has two failed businesses, and other than that he seems to have spent his life in politics, either working for the Grant Devine government — and we all know his record there and have seen his signature on the various memos requesting free alcohol being brought over from the liquor stores. But we also know that he worked in Ottawa for Brian Mulroney's government. So he's really made his living off of public life, Mr. Speaker, or the public sector for sure. So his track record isn't quite as shining as some would like to believe or to portray.

But, Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing . . . And I said whatever happened in his private life that's fine, but the fact is that track record is being brought into the public finances of the province of Saskatchewan. And when we see that they have gone from a \$2.3 billion surplus in the bank, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and

they've spent that and we are now sitting with over a \$1 billion deficit, a drained rainy day fund — even though it hasn't been raining, Mr. Speaker, the fund's been drained — and over \$1 billion in two years has been stripped out of the Crown corporations.

So it's a problem, Mr. Speaker, and we can see why the Premier does not want to be accountable, does not want to be transparent, and wants to be out of the legislature as quickly as possible. And, Mr. Speaker, packing the work and the time into extended absolutely ridiculous days from 8 a.m. in the morning till midnight I guess is one way to do it. But it really does avoid accountability and transparency.

So, Mr. Speaker, one of the problems that I have with this, well I drive from Moose Jaw every day. I live in Moose Jaw and I commute back and forth to Regina daily. So it will mean a change to my schedule but I can handle that. Mr. Speaker, what it does cause problems with is I don't think there's anyone on this side of the legislature in opposition, all of my colleagues, we have meetings set up with constituents, whether it's about some of the financial implications of this government's budget and the multiple cuts that they have made right across the province.

We're just beginning to find out a lot of the detail to do with that as the government departments negotiate contracts with some of the CBOs [community-based organization]. We're seeing the effects and the cutbacks that are rolling out. It's happening in numerous places and I'm sure there is more to come and I'm sure that the government just wants us busy here so we can't have these meetings, can't talk to constituents and people in the communities and hear where they're being impacted by this budget.

It definitely . . . I think the Premier is looking for any trick he can find to be less accountable and transparent to the people of Saskatchewan. And if that restricts us having meetings, I guess so be it. That's the way he's decided he wants to do this. He's used some . . .

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

**Mr. Hart:** — With leave to introduce guests.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member of Last Mountain-Touchwood has asked leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the member who had the floor for yielding the floor to give me this opportunity to introduce guests in the Speaker's gallery. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have the parents of one of the legislative interns, Elise Lonie. Her parents are Glen and Donna. I hope I've got the names right. I'm not sure who the young fellows are that are sitting beside them, but I'm guessing

they could be some brothers.

They come from . . . The Lonies live in Strasbourg. Pastor Glen is the pastor of the Strasbourg Alliance Church. They have been living in Strasbourg since — the Internet tells me — since 1993. Great citizens of the community of Strasbourg. The Alliance Church has a lot of good things happening and I know it's because of the leadership of Pastor Lonie and his family, and so I would ask all members of the legislature to join with me in welcoming them here to their legislature.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — With leave to respond to the introduction, I guess, or add to the introduction.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to add, on behalf of the official opposition, our voices of welcome to the Lonies.

Elise is doing a great job. We're glad to get her on this side of the House now. Certainly it's an interesting program in terms of that turn and turnabout and that perspective it engenders, but one thing that is for certain is the calibre of the legislative interns. And certainly Elise is, you know, representative of the sharp, hard-working young people that have been through the legislative internship program through these years.

So it's good to see the Lonies here in their gallery, and I'd ask all members to join with us in welcoming them also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

## GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

### Hours of Sitting (continued)

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to say I believe that the Premier is looking for any kind of a trick that he can to be less accountable and transparent to the people of Saskatchewan. And I mean he's used some pretty intricate financial tricks in his budget to conceal some of the true debt and deficit. He's hid program cuts by shuffling money around between departments, and now he's trying to avoid public scrutiny through question period by refusing just to use what a normal process of extending session by a couple days or five days if there's concern they can't get their act in gear here and get their legislation passed. But they want to do it by extending our daily sitting hours into the wee hours of the night.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think the Premier and the government are just concerned that more and more issues are going to be brought out in the public, and they're trying to dodge that scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that this motion infringes upon every member's important responsibilities that we have to represent our constituents. As I was saying previously, Mr. Deputy Speaker, all of us, we have an events calendar. It's set out for well beyond the month, probably into two months, and you will find any number of events that are scheduled in and many of us who have responded to say we will be attending. And we have all set up meetings that we needed to have in the areas of our critic responsibilities and other areas of interest to us. So, Mr. Speaker, all of this is set aside.

Now I know the members opposite said, well it's a 365-day job, which it is, Mr. Speaker, because we never take off our hats as MLAs no matter where we are. Whether we're out with family or out taking the dog for a walk, we're still an MLA, and many people will stop and talk to us. That's wonderful. It's great to have constituents stop and talk, but there's also a certain amount of work where we need scheduled time to meet people that have busy lives, and all of that is going to be set aside.

I phoned my office today and I said, well be prepared to change the whole schedule. We'll see what the schedule looks like tomorrow. We'll go day by day because the government won't give us a schedule of what they want to deal with when. They're too afraid of that. They figure it's easier, I guess, to keep us all on our toes, or they figure that that's the way a government should operate, just spring it on you the next day. So we'll look at the schedule day by day, and if there's meetings that I have to cancel, then I guess they'll have to be rescheduled for sometime. When that sometime is, we'll just have to wait and see how the schedule goes.

But, Mr. Speaker, I truly feel this whole process, this motion, the extension of hours, the way it's been done and the way the hours are extended is purely for the Premier and this government to avoid any type of transparency and accountability. And people are concerned with the initiatives that this government has brought forward, the lack of consultations, and the lack of transparency, accountability, and scrutiny that's been allowed. And, Mr. Speaker, it will come back to haunt them quickly. That we know for sure, Mr. Speaker. And for sure I will be voting against the motion.

[18:15]

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join in the debate, but first of all join my colleague and the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood and welcome the Lonies from Strasbourg here.

What's happening — for their purpose and for many other purposes, different people that may be watching to see the proceedings tonight as opposed to the Montreal/Capitals game — is the fact that what's happening here is the legislative



agenda that the Sask Party had in place, they realize for the second year in a row they didn't have enough time to put through all their Bills. And now they have to extend the hours. And we're saying that instead of extending the hours per day, why don't you extend the sitting for an extra four or five days at the end of session? Because typically a session ends sometimes on the week of May 20th. Now what happens here, for the Lonies' purpose, is that we're saying that you should extend the sitting days. And those guys over there don't want to do that, so they're extending the hours.

So this reminds me of a story, this reminds me of a story at the . . . And I'll share the story with you, Mr. Speaker. My grandson and my granddaughter and I went to visit a neighbouring farm. And when we got to that farm, Mr. Speaker, there was these white, fluffy things bouncing around in this little penned-up area. And my granddaughter said to me, Papa, what are those things? And I said to them, those are a bunch of chickens. I said, those are a bunch of chickens, is what I'd said, Mr. Speaker. And then my grandson said to me, well why are they clapping like seals? They can clap like seals, my boy, I said, but they're still a bunch of chickens. That's basically what I told my grandkids.

And then when you look at that, Mr. Speaker, even if they clap like seals, that still remains the fact that they are a bunch of chickens. So no matter what happens, my boy and my girl — it's a story about my visit to the farm — you should never try and act like them. You should face the challenge like anybody else. And I still can't understand, Mr. Speaker, why they can't fathom somebody that looks like a chicken but claps like a seal.

Now, Mr. Speaker, all we're asking for in the opposition is an extra four or five days to extend the session, as opposed to extending the hours. And this Sask Party can't do it. They won't do it, Mr. Speaker. And the question you ask is, why? Why won't they do it? The reason why they won't do it is because the two years that they've had as a government, they put us \$1 billion in the hole, year one, and another billion in year two. So that's \$2 billion they put us in debt. In the first year they again wanted to extend the sitting hours because they couldn't manage a legislative agenda, and now we're at that again the second year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any faith in their financial management whatsoever. None whatsoever. And I thought, maybe for the record, the member from Cannington would have enough experience in the Assembly to know how to manage a House. And, Mr. Speaker, two years running, and they still haven't got it right.

So, Mr. Speaker, my point to the people and to all the people listening, that's what this debate is about. We're asking for extension of days, and they won't do it. And now we're asking them to manage the finances right, they won't do it. We're asking them to manage the Legislative Assembly right, well they don't how to do it, Mr. Speaker. And that's what the debate is about tonight.

And I say to the people of Athabasca and the people of all of Saskatchewan, this is exactly what we warned you about. When you have a bunch of people that don't know exactly where they're from, they have no experience, how in the world could

you expect them to manage Saskatchewan? And, Mr. Speaker, they don't how to do it, Mr. Speaker. They don't know how to do it, and this motion is further evidence of that. It's further evidence of that, Mr. Speaker.

So I say to the people of Saskatchewan, you never say whoa in a mudhole. And that's why these guys, that's why these guys are saying, well let's extend the hours because we're stuck here again. Well they said whoa in a mudhole, Mr. Speaker. And once again the official opposition are challenging that the member from Cannington, who's supposed to be this great wizard of the Assembly process, well, Mr. Speaker, we've finally realized that this guy does not know what he's doing. And all the people behind him and around him, they're going to continue following him right off that cliff.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I told a lot of folks back home, I never had confidence in them from day one. And I still don't have confidence to this day, and the reason being, quite frankly, quite simply — and this motion is exact evidence of that — is they don't know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. They don't have a clue.

Now I say to people out there, well do you want extension of hours? We heard all the compelling arguments, and I say in my caucus, you're darn right we do. I want this extension of hours because it gives us more time to explain to the people what's wrong with them, Mr. Speaker. And the wizardry of the member from Cannington . . . He doesn't realize that the opposition, from my perspective, should want this because where else do you get 400 minutes of time, free time to tell the world what's wrong with them?

And they call that a strategy, Mr. Speaker? They call that a strategy? Well, no way. It doesn't work for them. And if their members want to sit here from 8 a.m. till midnight while we have the opportunity to explain what's wrong with them, guess what? We'll take it. We'll take it, Mr. Speaker. And that's exactly what's wrong with that particular party and why they shouldn't be government in 2011 because (a) they don't know what they're doing, but worse, we can't continue to afford them, Mr. Speaker.

Now I would point out to my colleagues, the people that sit on this side of the Assembly, we want this extension of hours. We want to be able to knock them around, explain to people exactly what is wrong with their Premier, their leader, right down to each member, Mr. Speaker. And as I look at their history, the two years that they've had, you know, first of all they've prevented the Tories from running in the last election so the Tories wouldn't split the vote. Well we'll see them in court over that one.

Now they're trying to . . . fudging the books. Well that might work. Let's take out the rainy day fund. Let's kill off the Crowns. Let's take the money from there and we'll try to confuse the people. And now they're trying to mess around with the Chief Electoral Officer. Like why would they do that again to interfere with the selection of the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Speaker? Because they want to circumvent a fair election process by appointing somebody of their own liking, Mr. Speaker.

And the final point I would make is they want to stifle the debate from the opposition. They want to stifle the debate from the opposition through silly motions of this sort, silly motions of this sort. Well, Mr. Speaker, it isn't going to work. It isn't going to work because every minute that we have the opportunity to speak from this Assembly, we're going to speak. And we're going to give a big thanks to the member from Cannington because he's afforded us this 400 minutes of time to tell people exactly what is wrong with the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker.

We will take every minute of this opportunity to tell the people of how they put this province in a deficit, Mr. Speaker, of how they've destroyed our Crowns, of how they have tried to prevent the Conservatives from running and yet half of them are conservatives. I just can't figure them out, Mr. Speaker. So I try and make sense of it all. How could they be this bad and still be in denial? How could they be this bad and still be in denial? And I've finally come up to the conclusion is they know not what they do, Mr. Speaker.

And again I go back in my earlier point, the member from Cannington putting this motion forward, and he thinks we're not going to take advantage of the opportunity. Well I thank him for this opportunity and the 400 minutes of time that we have to tell the world and the people of Saskatchewan just how terrible they are, Mr. Speaker. That's our role, and we're going to take every bit of opportunity.

Now I look at their lay of the land from that opposition or from that government and I say, well no wonder they're confused. No wonder they're confused, because on the Premier's left are the Liberals. Well in the political spectrum, I thought they were on the right. Then I look at the Premier's right, and there's Liberals over there. And then behind them there's Conservatives. And then on the far back of him there's Reformers. And so after a while I say, well no wonder they're confused. They don't know who they are, what they are, and they don't know how to do the job.

So what they do, Mr. Speaker, is they try and push their agenda. And they just simply can't figure out (a) how to run a province; and (b), they can't even figure out how to run the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And I say to them that this opportunity for us to say these words and many other words, we thank you, the member for Cannington, for the opportunity to not only talk about this at 9 o'clock in the morning, but at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and at 10 o'clock at night. We thank you. It gives us a great opportunity. And if you think for one minute that we're not going to take advantage of it, you're dead wrong. We're going to take advantage of that.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'll point out to many, many people out there, all that was afforded to us was 2 hours and 15 minutes of debate on 40 Bills — 2 hours and 15 minutes, a rough estimate — and that's all we could afford. That's all they were trying to afford the opposition to debate the Bills that they presented here, Mr. Speaker.

And to the people of Saskatchewan, rules were set in place where the opposition has adequate time to dissect the information, to consult with people — which they never did — and to certainly challenge the government on the issues of some

of the Bills they're bringing forward. And the same way they went to war with labour with Bill 80, they're now trying to stifle this Assembly. And I say to them, shame on them, but thank you for the opportunity because we will make the most of it, Mr. Speaker.

Now as I pointed out, the two Bills that were passed and received Royal Assent in the fall session were the cellphone Bill, which talked about proper use of cellphones, and the 911 amendment Bill. Those two Bills are pretty basic Bills. They were needed and necessary, and the opposition supported that.

Now where we want to have some real debate and some real discussion is on Bill 80, and those are where we want to have the debate. But instead of having Bill 80 as a single place that we should debate, they are throwing everything in here. And, Mr. Speaker, that lends argument to my point that they don't know what they're doing.

Now what happens is we start at 8 o'clock in the morning. We'll be here at 8 o'clock in the morning. It ends at 12 at night. We'll be here at 12 at night. Now, Mr. Speaker, what this does in essence, it stifles the debate. It stifles the debate for many, many people in Saskatchewan that might want to participate and learn about how these Bills are going to impact their life. But these guys don't care.

And secondly, it's as you travel, travel throughout the province — and I do this on a regular basis — a lot of people want to see what's going on in the Assembly. They may not think people have an interest, but people have the interest. They have the interest in knowing what's going on, what Bills are being passed, where they're at. There's a lot of people that have a remarkable interest in what happens with the Assembly. They have now stifled those people as well.

And I go back to my point, what did the opposition want? They wanted four or five extra days of question period. Twenty-five minutes a day makes what? A hundred minutes. A hundred minutes of debate at question period more and this thing would be settled. But, Mr. Speaker, they chose not to. They chose not to. Why? Because like all those little, white, fluffy animals in that pen, that's what it reminds me of to this day, Mr. Speaker. And those white, fluffy animals are clapping like a bunch of seals because that's what they are told to do. That's what they are trained to do.

And then all of a sudden, they confuse the people. But we in opposition are not confused. We know exactly what they can't do. They know what exactly what they don't want to do. And at the end of the day, they're massively confused because they don't know whether they're Liberals. They don't know whether they're Conservatives. They don't know whether they're Reformers. They don't know what they are. So if they don't know what they're doing, they don't know what they are, and they haven't had any success, they can't run to a national leader because, well, who is their national leader?

So, Mr. Speaker, that leads me to point out to people they are leaderless. They're rudderless, and they've had no success whatsoever in managing the finances of this province, of managing the economy of this province, and now to add insult to injury, of managing the legislative agenda of this province.

And I say to all the backbenchers over there, shame on you for not speaking up because the member from Cannington doesn't know the rules all that well, Mr. Speaker. He's making them look terrible, and the opportunity we have for 400 minutes of debate to point that out, we're going to point it out. And we're going to point it out in this Assembly. And what's worse, Mr. Speaker, if you look at what the people of Saskatchewan are saying, they're going to say the same thing. What's going on there? Why are they sitting so late now? And our response is going to be, because they couldn't manage the legislative agenda on their part.

[18:30]

So again you go down the list of things that they have been trying to do: can't manage finances, can't manage the economy, can't manage their legislative agenda. They don't know who they are or what they represent. They're not certain what direction they're going. They just spin, spin, spin. And what happens at the end of the day? At the end of the day, the people of Saskatchewan are going to say, well I think we've had enough of these guys. I think we've had enough of these guys.

And I want to point out to the people as well, my colleague here earlier in the day pointed out that Grant Devine, when he was the premier, well they put the province millions of dollars in the hole over a period of time. Well these guys would make even the former Premier Grant Devine blush when they're putting the province \$1 billion in the hole each year that they've been in office so far. And we're still counting, Mr. Speaker.

So I'll point out again that, as a result of the incompetence of this government, people in Saskatchewan are now given the latest slap in the face when it comes to the legislative agenda. They are now being forced to work within a very tight time frame, under very long hours, so the incompetence of these guys doesn't show up at the end of the day. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan know this. When they insult the people of Saskatchewan's intelligence by saying, oh we're going to blame the NDP for this one, I say to them that the people of Saskatchewan are a lot brighter than that, and they know exactly what is going on.

When the session is forced to go into overtime, when they're looking at extended hours, that's a failure on the House Leader's part to negotiate proper passage of their Bills and proper, timely debate on some of the opposition's role when it comes to those Bills. And quite frankly that's another level of incompetence being suffered by the people of Saskatchewan for the inability of the Sask Party government and its members to do things properly, Mr. Speaker.

So again I would point out to the people of Saskatchewan, they're extending the hours from 8 to 12. We accept that time. We'll work within that time frame. And not one of us will blink, Mr. Speaker. We'll take every opportunity to criticize this government. And I said it at the front; I'm going to say it again. We welcome the time. We thank the member from Cannington for giving us this great opportunity. He thinks it's his historical manoeuvre. Well it's not. We said, let's take it. If they're going to give it to us, let's take it and tell the people of Saskatchewan just how terrible they are. And we can tell them in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening, and late at

night. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm telling my colleagues, let's do it.

So not only two years, \$2 billion in debt; two years, two extension of hours, a motion to extend the hours, to me that simply spells one thing: incompetence. Incompetence on their part. And I say at the outset, they don't have any business experience as shown by the Premier's business experience. They don't have any financial ability to manage this province as shown by the Minister of Energy and mines, the member from Kindersley. And yet all this flock of chickens are following these two leaders.

And, Mr. Speaker, I say to them, why don't you allow us the extra four or five days? What are you afraid of? Give us the extra four or five sitting days, and we'll make sure that your Bills are going through, and let's rock and roll. Let's rock and roll. But, Mr. Speaker, they won't do it. They will not do it. The 20th of May is the drop-dead date because, Mr. Speaker, they don't want any more questions from this opposition because we have them on the run, Mr. Speaker. We have them on the run, and they're afraid to come in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Everywhere across the province, the unions, the teachers, the Aboriginal people, the many farmers that are out there, the city folks are saying, well we tried these guys and they just failed miserably. Given the opportunity, they turn their backs on us, and there's going to be a price to pay, Mr. Speaker.

So again I'll summarize to the people of Saskatchewan that are listening. Once again, incompetence by the Sask Party. And where else in the world do you give your opposition in politics 400 minutes to say what's wrong with you? Well those guys just did. And again for the fourth time I'll tell the member from Cannington, thanks, you're now back on my Christmas list for that one.

And, Mr. Speaker, not only have they miserably wrecked the financial fortunes of Saskatchewan, they have destroyed the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. They are trying to manoeuvre their party to another election victory by trying to stop the Conservatives from running. And now the latest insult, they can't run the House, Mr. Speaker. They can't run the House. So it's time to get rid of them, Mr. Speaker, and I'll be voting against their motion every single day in every hour of the extension that I have . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise in this debate following in the wake of the member from Athabasca. Certainly the guy gave a heck of a speech, but we'll see what we can do to live up to that. I guess, yes, it's a tough act to follow. Tough act to follow for sure. But I want to say right off the top, Mr. Speaker, that we're in this debate right now. It's a pleasure to rise, as ever, in terms of participating in the proceedings of this legislature.

But it's certainly no pleasure to participate in this debate because this debate that we're in right now, Mr. Speaker, is symbolic, it's emblematic of what's wrong with this government. They can't manage their budget, so they try to fudge it through the books. And they try to strip the Crowns of

equity and they try to, you know, get it past the people, but at the end of the year it's still \$1 billion in the hole. This budget that we're in right now, we think the same thing's going to happen with that, but it's likely going to be on the expenditure side.

So there you have two budgets in a row where they can't manage their affairs. But of course it's not them that pays the price, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's the people of the province that pay the price. And it's like that with their legislative agenda as well in that they can't manage their affairs. So who pays the price for that? You know, they may think this is about sticking it to the opposition somehow, but the opposition has a role in this Assembly to hold the measures and the actions of the government up to scrutiny, be it on the legislative side or on the budgetary side.

And in terms of what's happened in this past budget in particular, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with each day that passes by, there are new things that come to light that of course they glossed over in the main budget speech, that they glossed over in terms of the fancy speeches that the writers in their caucus office had them get up and deliver like the hybrids that my colleague from Athabasca was talking about, those hybrid chicken seals.

So in terms of each day that goes by and the new things that we find out about what this government is doing, and then having an opportunity to raise that in this Assembly, as is proper in a parliamentary democracy, of course it makes sense that those members opposite would want to deny that opportunity. Because it's becoming very clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that when they get into a jam, it's always somebody else's fault. And it's always somebody else that pays the price.

So in terms of not wanting to have an extra week of question periods, I can see how that goes, Mr. Speaker, because they're a bunch of . . . It's an exercise in running and hiding. They'd rather do things, you know, in the midnight hour or first thing in the morning. And they'd rather try to jam the media that works very hard to get the story out, but they're of course overstretched as it is. They want to manipulate the cycle of this legislature so that they can get as much through in a given day as possible.

And as the member from Athabasca said, we'll be there kicking and fighting every step of the way, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because on the basic point of whether or not this is good for democracy or not, it's not. It's not good for democracy. The structure of this House, the rules that were set up to govern the proceedings of committee, they were set up to govern the passage of a budget through this House, to govern the passage of legislation through this House. They were set up for a reason, and they're set up over time, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But again this is where we see these members opposite making history. You know we're heading up for our second billion-dollar deficit in a row, you know, two billion-dollar deficits in a year. The one last year was the second worst in the history of this province, and we'll see where we wind up with this one, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But in terms of imposing closure on this Assembly, in terms of

curtailing, limiting, cutting off the debate, the scrutiny, the accountability that this Chamber should render for the people that send us to this Chamber, in terms of a government that brings in closure, they're setting a record in that regard too, Mr. Speaker. They're making history in that regard. And I think the people, come the time with the election, they're going to take a full measure of that, and they're going to tell them what they think of that.

And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is part of a parcel that goes through things like the way that that caucus over there got their fingers into the process around the Chief Electoral Officer. And they can make the different arguments, but when somebody like John Whyte — who's a renowned constitutional scholar, one of the brightest minds that has worked in this province in public policy, has worked in this government in the province in terms of working with some of the brightest young minds at the law school at the University of Saskatchewan — when somebody like John Whyte feels compelled to come out and say, this is bad for democracy, what these people are doing with the Chief Electoral Officer, you have to wonder what the members opposite think of that.

Do they just sort of laugh that off because the only thing that matters is that they have their way, and the traditions and the practices of parliamentary democracy be . . . you know, to heck with them? Do the members opposite look at something like the letter that John Whyte wrote in *The StarPhoenix* and the *Leader-Post*, do they look on that with pride? You'd hope not, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But what happens is that in terms of the effect of that letter, here we are — another anti-democratic measure by the government opposite.

You look at the way that they have been progressing through court in terms of what's happened with the Tory metro fund, the PC [Progressive Conservative] metro fund, and the games that they've played to try and keep the PCs off the ballot. And I know that there are some members over there that have some long-standing vendettas with individuals in the Progressive Conservative Party. But of course they fight this game through the courts to try and deny the Progressive Conservatives access to that money.

And do you know what, Mr. Speaker? They tried to have themselves severed from that lawsuit, but there they stand. And that is going to proceed. And it's going to take its time, but the truth will out in that circumstance, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And again whenever you've got a government that is messing around with the basic rules of engagement, with the basic machinery of parliamentary democracy — such as who can field candidates, such as the Chief Electoral Officer — whenever you have a government doing things like that, it's not surprising that we're here today debating the second closure motion within, you know, within a year.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder, you know, come the November 7, 2000 election will be right around Remembrance Day, and different of my colleagues have talked about the price that has been paid over the years by different of our forebears to secure and to defend democracy in this country. And in terms of fair play and open and honest and accountable elections, you'd think that would be fundamental to the runnings of a parliamentary democracy, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But with their

actions, they show that they're into something very different, Mr. Speaker.

But it is part of a parcel with the way that they run their budgets and the way that they run their legislative agenda, where it's never anybody's fault but somebody else. Never can they take responsibility for their actions, Mr. Speaker. Never do they want to have the extra scrutiny entailed in an extra five days of question period. No, that's not what they want. They want to stack it up so that we go from 8 in the morning till 12 at night.

And again, Mr. Speaker, we'll be here. We'll be here for that every step of the way. But I think the people see through that and they see through that increasingly, that they were promised something very different by the member from Swift Current who came out in the last election and said hope trumps fear. Hope trumps fear, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well I'm afraid that what we've seen from these members opposite is something much more on the fearful side than anything to do with hope.

And the fearful side has to do with the way that they jammed the budget through, the way that they don't bring everything up to the surface in terms of what's happening with the budget, and the way that things are coming forward day after day because of course they make the mistakes, the people pay the price, and then of course we as the opposition hear about it.

And in terms of having an opportunity to bring those issues forward in this Chamber through question period, every day new issues come forward because they've been, they've been trying to sneak it under the shelf, sneak it under the counter. And the problem is of course they want to curtail the question period so that they can deny that accountability to the people. Well it's no big surprise in that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Again in this budget, you know, what did we see? We saw the central vehicle authorities being taken away from the CBOs, you know, again a relatively small measure in the scheme of a \$10 billion budget but something that affects mightily the ability of CBOs to do their business.

And you have to wonder, Mr. Deputy Speaker. CBOs of course, when these people first came into government, they had a big CBO consultation exercise. They had a big summit. And you have to wonder, well how is it that they had all this sort of feedback and connection with the CBOs and then they go sneaking around come budget time doing things like this? Things that are very hurtful to the way that these very valuable community-based organizations get the job done for people in the community, be it, you know, kids going to Aboriginal Head Start or to KidsFirst or to daycare or to, you know, the things that family services used them for or the different sort of youth-focused CBOs — all organizations that operate on a very tight budget to begin with, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[18:45]

But of course now they've got to put more water in the soup and to see how they're going to keep their doors open another day, thanks to that government over there — that government that didn't have the guts to bring it out in terms of the minister talking about the measures coming forward in the budget. We see it come forward in things like the Dutch elm cuts and the

West Nile program — again cuts that are, you know, maybe in the sense of the media equation of a budget that are penny smart but, in terms of the preventative aspect of them, are pound foolish, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And in terms of West Nile, if you look at a program that has been so successful and then you use that as grounds to cut it, you know, you wonder what the logic process is over there, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Is it that up is down and down is up and everything's sideways over there, Mr. Deputy Speaker? So West Nile's a big success? You better cut it.

We see them stalling on the delivery of funding for CBOs. We hear this from different parts of the community where they're starting to wonder if it's a tactic where, by holding off the provision of funding for CBOs . . . is this some kind of a tactic geared at starving them out? Again these are organizations that do great work on the front lines in a lot of difficult circumstances. But is it because they're trying to starve those CBOs out and they've got some kind of an agenda around those that are friends and those that are not because that's something we've seen in other sectors with this government as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We see it with SCN where again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of being penny smart and pound foolish, this is exactly what happens there in terms of the trigger effect of the broadcasting licence, in terms of the fact that you've got people coming forward today from the board saying we weren't consulted; we're the board that you'd appointed and you didn't consult us even.

And that's another hallmark of this government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's another reason why they want to run and hide from question period. And I understand that. But the people will have their say. They can play their games in here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it's the hallmark of a government that's on its way out. It's not a hallmark of a government that's proud of its actions. It's not the hallmark of a government that wants to make the case to the people of Saskatchewan. It's not the hallmark of a government that believes in hope trumping fear. It's the hallmark of a government that runs and hides and tries to sneak things past and tries to manipulate the process so they can jam things through.

And they can do that for so long, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but there's a price that gets paid in the meantime for that by the people. But there's a price that's going to get paid by them at the polls, you can bet for sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, come the day of reckoning at the election, at the ballot box.

You look at what's happened. There are the big things that have taken place in terms of the reneging on the promise for property tax relief, for the revenue sharing with the municipalities, and the way that we're going to be paying increased taxes for that in the days and weeks ahead in municipalities, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And certainly others have talked about that at greater length.

But you also see things like the elimination of the Ukrainian language consultant out of the Department of Education. You know, something that's been a success for decades now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that gets eliminated by this government in

haste to pay for the mistakes they've made in terms of not being able to run last year's budget. And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this isn't something that they sang from the mountaintops. It's not something they had big news out in the rotunda for it to announce and, you know, bring in the third party validators and have a grand old time. Of course, this is something that they tried to slink in through the process, to lose it in the vast \$10 billion of expenditure that is a budget.

But of course the community catches up and we hear about it. We hear about it from the people to whom this program's mattered greatly over the years, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And we wonder how it is that these members opposite would want to curtail question period. Well it's because they want to avoid questions like that.

You look at what's happened with labour, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and again, in terms of the way that these people do not consult or they feel they've got some kind of a divine right to do whatever they want to do. If you're a working person in this province, if you're organized labour, it's very clear from those members opposite that they want nothing so ever to do with you. And it's funny, you know, we sort of understood their animus towards other parts of organized labour, but even in the building trades, where there are a lot of those building trades members voted for people over there in that last election, and they came forward with Bill 80. And to pay the very few, they've very much angered the many. And there's going to be a day of reckoning come for that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But in terms of the building trades, they are having their say on Bill 80. And the members opposite can play their games, but that fight will go on. Or you look at what's happening in the health care workers' bargaining and the way that that government opposite has bargained in patent bad faith in terms of those collective agreements. And again they will try to jam those health care workers that are on the front lines doing a very important job, but they can jam them all they like. They can try to manipulate the process, but the truth will out, and those people will have their say come the election day as well.

You can look at the tripartite co-operation that we've tried to engender with the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission. And it's taking business and labour and government working together to try and build something around labour force development, around labour market development in this province. And of course that's obviously too much co-operation for those members opposite, so they tear it up.

You look at what's happening out in First Nations and Métis country. You know in the fall, of course, we had the declaration of the Year of the Métis. And I'm sure we'll see different other members out there come back to Batoche, and they'll talk about what great, what great friends of the Métis they are. And meanwhile, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we hear from the MNS [Métis Nation of Saskatchewan] that they've laid off all but a half dozen of their staff because they can't get funding secured from the different levels of government.

And we hear from the 111 deals that were signed for Aboriginal employment development and what a difference that made in the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And instead of building on that momentum and bolstering that momentum, what do the

members opposite do? They tear it up.

And the thing we can't figure on this side of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is it a function of a minister over there who doesn't know his file, doesn't understand what his officials are briefing him on? Is it just some sort of blind malevolence on the part the members opposite because you would think that Aboriginal employment development would be a huge priority for this province, should be a huge priority for this province.

But again when it comes time to back up their actions with words or back up their words with actions, this is what they do — they cut the program in the budget. They cut the First Nations and Métis business development fund. And today we heard from people that were saying, you know, we just need those economic development funds to get out there to take advantage of the great opportunities that are here in the province. But what do we get from them? We get a cut, and we get a program where they of course have yet to roll out the details.

We talk about the environmental protocol. You know the members opposite like to talk about 16 years. Well here's 16 years for you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is a program that went from 1994 till budget day this year, budget day this year. And how did that program come to an end? It was a phone call from the deputy minister to Vice-chief Whitefish, the FSIN, saying your program is cut, \$282,000 are gone, and the five staff that were in place to help develop capacity, to help FSIN backstop 74 First Nations throughout this province that are party to the FSIN in terms of the work that they do, that's not important. It doesn't merit a face-to-face meeting. It merits a phone call on budget day saying, you know, your program is done.

And these are members opposite that like to lecture, that have liked to lecture in the past about consultation and how you do it right and do it not. And we certainly weren't perfect on that score, Mr. Speaker, but I'll take our record on consultation over theirs any day of the week.

Or you look at what happened with the taxation of tobacco. Again you know, this is something where you think . . . you know, the members opposite, they must want to make work for lawyers because instead of sitting down and consulting face to face, working through the FSIN protocol, what do they do? The Premier announces it at the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce luncheon. You know he doesn't have the guts to come into an FSIN meeting or to have the decency to sit down face to face. He announces it to the chamber. So it's pretty clear what kind of politics are being played there, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I don't know. You look at so many of the measures of this government; it's clear that they can't manage a budget. They can't manage a legislative process. They can't manage the basic decency to have meaningful relationships with the different stakeholders groups across the province. So it's very clear why they want to run and hide from question period, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I'll be voting for the motion, or voting against the motion . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the second time in two years to speak to a motion to change the rules of the Legislative Assembly in respect to hours, rules that the Saskatchewan Party, when in opposition, embraced and endorsed — more than endorsed, embraced, Mr. Speaker.

And I rise for the second time in two years to speak after a motion of closure because the members opposite in the government do not want to hear the opposition of the day speak to their resolution to change rules that they embraced and endorsed. And the only significant difference of any sort between the circumstances today and the circumstances two years ago were that the members of the government have grown even less patient with hearing from the opposition in respect to our right to speak for the people of Saskatchewan on legislation which we know, other than the minister's second reading speech, no member opposite has any interest in speaking to and as far as we can tell over here, no member seems to have any interest in understanding or reading, Mr. Speaker.

And so it falls to us, it falls to us to speak to the legislation in debate — the sound of one hand clapping, Mr. Speaker. But the government, which doesn't want to speak to its own legislation, doesn't really want to speak at length to why they want to shut down debate, why they want to change the rules of the House, Mr. Speaker, is also impatient with any Member of the Legislative Assembly speaking to legislation or any member speaking to this resolution at any length beyond 20 minutes. And I know my colleague from The Battlefords had only begun to scratch the surface of the role that the opposition plays in this legislature and the reasons why a second motion in two short years to change the rules of this House on the part of the government was inappropriate to say the least, Mr. Speaker.

I want to address . . . Because the Government Deputy House Leader — I think I have that right — the member for Meadow Lake, Minister for Municipal Affairs was kind enough, I'll put it that way, to quote from the last time I rose two years ago to speak to a motion to change the rules of the House. And I guess it was my short remarks of about three hours that caused . . . the immediate cause of the closure motion two years ago, Mr. Speaker. And the Deputy House Leader either intentionally I think or unintentionally perhaps did not get the point of the remarks that he quoted from, my remarks that he quoted from, Mr. Speaker.

He seems like an intelligent person, Mr. Speaker, and I don't say that just because he's a lawyer. They don't necessarily go together but in his case they appear to, Mr. Speaker. So I don't believe he unintentionally misunderstood what I was saying two years ago. But he found the quote, out of context, useful for his argument that the rules of the House should be changed once again to limit the hours or to extend the hours of debate but to maintain the minimum limit on the number of days, Mr. Speaker, that we are here doing the people's business.

And what he said, to paraphrase his quotation of me — so to paraphrase myself — is that of course the majority in the Legislative Assembly, the party that has the confidence of this Assembly, has the right to pass through its legislative agenda,

no matter how ambitious that is, Mr. Speaker. And a very ambitious agenda takes a little bit longer because the opposition have a duty to scrutinize these Bills, to discuss them with the public, to discuss them with interested stakeholders in particular.

[19:00]

Some members opposite who served in opposition for a number of years will remember that duty, spoke to it, spoke to it at length when there was a government, the NDP government that lived within these rules, Mr. Speaker — didn't change them every two years as the Sask Party government is doing. But of course a government has a right, given sufficient time, to move through even an ambitious legislative agenda, subject to — as I said and as the Deputy House Leader quoted me as saying — subject to the opposition's right to hold the government to account.

And under our rules — which were rules of consensus, Mr. Speaker; they were agreed to by the Saskatchewan Party and the New Democratic Party, embraced enthusiastically by the Saskatchewan Party in opposition — under those rules, there was a proportionate amount of time in a day divided between the government's legislative agenda and discussion of that agenda and the opposition's ability to hold the government to account within this Assembly.

And under the rules, it is extremely generous for the government, by one perspective in any case, Mr. Speaker. We sit here, under the rules, Monday, 1:30 to 10:30 with a two-hour break for supper. Tuesday the same. Wednesday, 1:30 to 5. Thursday, 10 to 1. Hours and hours here, Mr. Speaker, and almost all of it on the government's business. A little bit of time for petitions; there's an hour allowed. Never used up that time. This opposition hasn't. They did not when they were in opposition, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-five minutes a day for question period, Mr. Speaker.

So here we have, within the rules, hours to look at, discuss, debate the legislation put forward by the government, and a limit on how long that debate can go on, Mr. Speaker. As everybody in this Assembly knows, 20 hours and that is the extent of the debate on the Bills. So the majority can always pass its legislative agenda given enough days here in the Chamber.

And the days that have been set, Mr. Speaker, this last fall, this spring, are the minimum, Mr. Speaker. If those aren't enough hours in those days to pass the legislative agenda of the government, and they may not be, Mr. Speaker — because how the government has managed its time and because of the government's agenda and it's ambitious, if not in quality, Mr. Speaker, it's ambitious perhaps in quantity in the number of Bills, but because of the way the government has managed the agenda — if that's not enough days, Mr. Speaker, the rules provide for simply adding more days.

Each one of those days, Mr. Speaker — and they could be on a Monday, a number of hours long, you know, almost eight, Mr. Speaker — means adding one question period of 25 minutes. And that's what this is all about, Mr. Speaker. The government doesn't want one more question period than the absolute minimum.

The Minister of Health doesn't want to answer one more question on health care than he absolutely has to, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Justice doesn't want to try to get up and explain how a police investigation excuses the government of any concern about any conflicts of interest by members who have sat in that government caucus, any more times than he has to, Mr. Speaker.

I don't think the Minister of Finance wants really hard questions on how this budget can be taken seriously in light of the pressures that the government has to admit exist in respect to salaries on health care workers, salaries of teachers — if this is not an average year for fires; if abandoning the West Nile virus preventive strategy is not saving a penny and then losing a pound, Mr. Speaker. I don't think they want any more questions about the budgeting question period than they are going to have with the minimum number of days, Mr. Speaker.

And the Government House Leader has said as much. He has said, he's told the media that the Saskatchewan Party government doesn't want to add another week to the sitting even though that would take care of the entire legislative agenda without requiring a change in the rules of the House — rules that they supported and embraced — without requiring a motion of closure to shut down the opposition. That week would probably do it, Mr. Speaker. But one more week would be four more question periods, and that's what is of vital importance to the government here, is they not have four more question periods, Mr. Speaker.

And that's what I meant, clearly said two years ago when this government did exactly the same thing, that yes, they have a right to pass their agenda, and there's a way to do that within the rules, Mr. Speaker. And it's by accepting the other right that exists here in this Assembly, and that's the right of this opposition to question and to hold to account, Mr. Speaker. It is that balance that is unacceptable to this government. It's that balance is unacceptable to the government.

What the government wants to do is add more hours to the days so that the 20 hours that are required on a Bill can be completed and fulfilled without adding a single question to a member of the Executive Council, Mr. Speaker. And that's what this is all about. It's as simple as that. It's not as if the opposition has impeded unduly the government legislative agenda. It may not be moving as quickly as the government would wish, Mr. Speaker, but it is unfair to suggest that the opposition has not allowed the government to pass Bills.

The member from The Battlefords spoke at length about the hours and in some cases the minutes, the minutes of debate that had taken place on a Bill — mere minutes in some cases — provoking the members of the government to change the rules of the Legislative Assembly perhaps in anticipation that their agenda was too ambitious for the minimum number of days. Which I would encourage the government, one of these years instead of changing the rules, to recognize that it is a minimum number of days, and that they can sustain a few questions from the opposition, Mr. Speaker, because that is why we are here — to ask the questions that they don't want to speak to.

Mr. Speaker, if that wasn't the case, we wouldn't have to sit at

all. The government could do everything by regulation. They could make speeches and ministerial announcements. But in our tradition we recognize the value of an opposition to raise those questions the government doesn't want raised, Mr. Speaker. And surely four more question periods or eight more question periods would only serve the public at the discomfort of some of the front bench opposite, Mr. Speaker, no doubt. But I think they could take it, Mr. Speaker. I really think they could.

And I think this is too easy, Mr. Speaker. And government shouldn't be easy in a democracy. And I think the members opposite, particularly those who have sat in opposition, would have agreed with that at one point, Mr. Speaker. But now they want it to be easy. And they want it to be too easy, Mr. Speaker.

And I won't use — I haven't heard the entire debate; maybe the word was used — I won't use the word dictatorship. I think it's a little strong, Mr. Speaker. But the motive, the motive behind this, that government should be easy for the government, is the motive behind dictatorship, Mr. Speaker. And within the rules of this House, Mr. Speaker — and that includes the rules on how to change the rules when you don't like them — within the rules of the House, Mr. Speaker, this government with this motion, the second time in two years, is getting as close as they possibly can. At least I hope as close as they possibly can, Mr. Speaker, because this type of behaviour is disturbing enough.

And as I said, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we are, as an opposition, holding up unduly the legislative agenda. This government has introduced 39 Bills at this session — their choice, Mr. Speaker. Does every one of these Bills have to be passed? If they do, Mr. Speaker, then there are remedies to that because you can extend the number of days.

If every one of these Bills is so vital — now maybe some are not so vital, Mr. Speaker; I won't pick out any but we may have spent some time on some Bills that maybe could have waited for another day — but in any case, 39 Bills this session, not including eight Bills that were introduced just last week or just this week. And this does not include Bill 80 which was carried over from a previous session, Mr. Speaker, but about concerning which there is no more debate. It's had its 20 hours. So that doesn't . . . it really isn't that relevant.

Two Bills were passed and received Royal Assent in the fall session and the opposition saw the value in moving forward on these Bills quickly. One had to do with hand-held devices, cellphones and similar devices in vehicles when they're being used by the driver, and that that practice should be discouraged by law, and the Assembly agreed and that moved forward quickly. And a 911 amendment Bill which moved ahead quickly for the same reasons.

Eighteen other Bills have been passed now, Mr. Speaker. Eighteen Bills have been passed, almost half of the 39. And when you add the two, 20, over half of the Bills have been passed and 18 Bills await Royal Assent. Two of the Bills, of course, the cellphone Bill and the 911 amendment Bill have received Royal Assent. Two Bills are still in committee: Bill 80, but, Mr. Speaker, that's not taking up any time in the Chamber or is it going to be taking up very much time in committee; and Bill 119 which has to do with ticket sales and the scalping of tickets, Mr. Speaker. In committee, Mr. Speaker, but again



those two Bills aren't going to take up any time in the Legislative Assembly at all.

So my rough math, Mr. Speaker, is that there are less than 20 Bills before this House in adjourned debate, and eight new Bills have been introduced this week that haven't received second reading, Mr. Speaker. The members of the opposition are not holding up Bills that the minister has not given a second reading speech on because we can't have spoken, have not had the opportunity to speak on those Bills at all. Those Bills have received zero minutes of time on behalf of the official opposition. We can't be holding up those Bills.

So because there are less than 20 Bills still in adjourned debate, four weeks before the sitting's scheduled to come to an end, the government for the second time is changing the rules of the House, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that they can pass those Bills in that period of time and not, and not have a cabinet minister have to answer an additional question that he would rather not have asked in this Legislative Chamber.

That is why, that is why we have this motion. That is why it is becoming a practice of this government to use its majority to change the rules of the House, Mr. Speaker. Once you would've thought, well a new government — last time in 2008 — new government, ambitious agenda, didn't plan the agenda very well. Didn't allow enough days to pass those Bills. Kind of got jammed up, Mr. Speaker — and perhaps you could blame the opposition — jammed up by a sophisticated opposition, Mr. Speaker.

[19:15]

That was a good excuse, perhaps last time, not unacceptable one. But this, Mr. Speaker, there's no excuse for this. They've been around the block a couple of times now, Mr. Speaker. They know better. They know how it's done. They know what the trade-offs are. This time we just see a government that will use its majority to impose its will on this Legislative Assembly and on the people of Saskatchewan. We've seen it with the Chief Electoral Officer. We've seen with refusal to answer written questions, and we've seen it in this action here again, for the second time in what is now course of practice for this government.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure I join my colleagues to refer to some of the comments that they have and talk about the motion for closure. And I mean if you look at extending the hours and the whole process, the process that they want to do, and I think it goes back to the duty to consult, to talk to people in a meaningful way. And I think the people are starting to see a message, and it's unfortunate for the people of our province.

It was a trusting . . . They put a lot of trust into the members opposite that they would do the right things. And I think people every day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are turning around. I've had some people say, you know, I supported them; I did this. Some even bought memberships, and they've said, I've destroyed my membership; I will not support them again. I put the trust.

And I said, don't worry about it. Don't worry about it. You trusted them. You can always give them a message later on. They turned their back on you, so you have the opportunity to turn your back on them — walk away, no hard feelings. And I think people are starting to think about it. They truly did support and thought there would be a change. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that it's coming very clear to the people out there . . . And maybe they can't see it, and that's fine. That's up to them. They can sit where they want and this just goes one step further to showing exactly what the people are unhappy with.

You can't take a group of individuals that are supposed to work in a positive way for people in our province, and you want to make sure that your view, your message . . . And I mean I've heard different things today being said, whether you call it bullying, you could call it every . . . Somebody just wanting to just have their way. Spoiled, whatever. I mean you hear different things. I mean my colleagues have expressed it very well and are calling it.

And I think people out there are truly starting to get upset. They're tired. There's no consultation. There's insultation, but no consultation. Let me be very clear on that. And people are tired of it. They are just tired. They're not being heard by a government that's supposed to be there for the people. It's very frustrating for a lot of people, and I mean we're hearing it. I don't know what the members opposite are hearing out there, but I don't know. Like it's bizarre, but maybe they don't want to see it. I don't know.

But they have their leader, the Premier. He's responsible for all this. The finances, the financial mess lays on his shoulders. He is the leader. You look at decisions that he's made and under his leadership, the government. They're supposed to be doing positive things for the people of our province.

And you can spin — and I know, I've watched them — and they spin things the way they want. They ought to go to Sears and buy a Kenmore, the new spinner machine. They go six different ways. It's amazing to watch. I watched a commercial. That's about what they should be doing.

But you know, you think about at the end of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's the people of our province that suffer. It's not about the politicians. We've got a job to do. We'll be here. We'll sit here and, like the member from Athabasca said very clearly, he doesn't mind.

They want 400 minutes of negative and giving a chance to show their true record. We'll show their record, what they're about, what they're doing, what they're not doing. And they made a lot of promises. It's going to be interesting to see, Mr. Speaker. And I mean, all I can say on this point is I think the people in 2011, November the 7th, will send the message.

And they can sit there and, you know, they laugh and they think it's funny when we bring up issues. I don't find some of the stuff that we're bringing up funny. I have no . . . It's frustrating for people back home. It's all over the province that are having issues, whether it's the cost of rent, utilities, all the different things that are impacting people — medicine, health care,

roads, jobs. It's not all the spin that they've got that everybody's happy in the province.

And, you know, you have to be honest. I have to believe in the system, that even the members opposite got elected because they wanted to do something good for their communities and their constituencies. They've got to get up and speak up, say something. Represent the people, fight for them — whether it's health care, doctor shortages — speak up. You don't have to accept everything that a few people say. Speak up for the people that elected you. But if you won't, I reassure those people, we will. We'll be visiting in the outreach in the rural areas, in the urban centres in the members opposite. We'll visit there. We'll find out. We're hearing stuff. It's not all positive as they think.

So you know, this motion just shows you. We're going to extend the hours. And they want to give an opportunity, I guess, to get the business done. Well, you know, you look at . . . and a lot of my colleagues have expressed it very well with the number of Bills that have gone through the process. We've debated them. We've moved them to committee and they'll end up being law. And some have passed. And I have to be honest — some of those Bills are protecting people. They are out there. They're a tool that the police enforcement are using, and they work. That's the positive side of it. It worked. There are some things where we agree. We have to work.

But to see the constant bullying; it's going to be their way. You don't like it, well here's what we're going to do to you. I don't think the people back home appreciate. I don't think anyone does. There's a lot of work gets done here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, lots of work. People are asked to put in extra hours. Well when we make those decisions, I sure hope we understand who all we're impacting. It's not just saying, oh well let's just do it. We're going to push the chest out, and we're going to show who's in charge. Well you know, that isn't going to cut it and it isn't going to work.

And it's unfortunate. The Saskatchewan people are going to suffer for it. And people can say their different opinions. There's two sides to every story I guess. And that's right. But I know I'm glad I'm on this side, not trying to go back home and explain the mess that the government's doing. Be very clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And the members want to say that's fine. Thank you. I'm glad I'm on this side. You can make all the comments you want. That's good. I'm glad, very glad. You can all sit there and say that. It wouldn't bother me, thank you very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, there's so much work that has to be done, and we've been working with them. I've watched some of the process and some of the debate. And like I said, some things that have gone to committee. They're law. So the system does work. There's a way to work together. The people expect that. We're not holding things up, we're working with them. We've proven that. Things have moved forward the way it's supposed to work.

So to come out with information that you want to extend the hours rather than extend the days, that makes sense. If you need more time, that makes sense. Let's do that. Some of my colleagues expressed that very well. It's important. There's work to get done the government wants. Well let's extend the

days.

But that gives us an opportunity also to talk about what's going on. Question period, sharing more of the concerns with community members. People are concerned out there. They're looking at their finances. They're looking at their rent, their utilities, their health care, their roads, their housing. There are a lot of things going on. Addictions, mental health, having a job, getting called back to go to work — there's a lot of things happening.

And this government is responsible for it. I think the people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will send the message — and members opposite can make all the noise they want — but at the end of the day, the people will speak. And I hope the people truly send the message, we trusted you; we gave you a chance. We did. Now they're going to send you a message. And take it for granted, and I've heard some of the members opposite. They make their comments, oh yes, whatever is going to happen, as if the people want . . . Just don't be surprised. Don't take the people of our province for granted. You know, and I see that side of it. And sometimes, you know what? That's fine.

But I know people are very concerned, and the issues that are affecting them and their families, they don't find it funny when it's tough when you have to make decisions. What are you going to do? What bills are you going to pay? The rent, what groceries, clothing — there's a lot of things affecting family people.

Whether it's health care, you see at some of the stuff, the consultation that was not done. Very clearly to the chiropractors, you look at the cuts that have been made there. You look at some of the other cuts that have been made; very clearly this government doesn't want to consult. It just delivers the message and says, this is what we're doing and that's it. There's no duty to consult — sharing, talking to stakeholders, and making sure people understand, and making a good, informed decision — that's what really is troubling.

A lot of people out there, there is no . . . They don't go out and talk to the communities. They just make their decisions based on whatever they want. They want to ram down what they want and if you don't like it, well look out.

And look out if you are an employee and you work for a ministry and you bring issues forward or concerns. Well watch what they do. They'll show they're going to make an example of people. We're going to show it. That to me goes to show exactly what people are feeling. And I think the people are going to make a stand, and they're going to send this government a message.

You can't take on fights with everybody. And you go out and you fight with every group and you turn your back on every group. It's going to come back, and you'll pay a price for it. But no, you know, for now they're the government, and they'll do what they want. And that's how they see it, and you can see that.

But I have to believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the members opposite, some of the backbenchers will come forward and start saying their mind, hey, we have to do better for the people of

our province. We can't let two or three people make all the decisions. There has to be a process to share. A process to say, here are the issues; here are the concerns. These are facts. They're not just made up. So you know when you look at a process that we're going to go through, sure we're going to be here for long hours. We'll do it. We'll gladly do it. It's not going to hurt us. We get paid to be here.

But you know, I've listened to some of my colleagues and some of the concerns that they have. And let's be honest. Some of them have been here 24 years and some less, and they've got good points to make. There's some things going on here that, you know, truly in two years if you look at this, a motion like this has been within two years. You know, it might be two years or just over two years, but the point is this is a tool that's supposed to be used, I think, when times are really troubling and the business is not going on. I don't know all the details to it, but from what I'm hearing you would think . . . But I'm hearing it and I've seen it. There's co-operation and Bills are getting on.

And some of these Bills have very little time in debate. They're supposed to be having an opportunity to debate them. And there's the time. And sometimes, you know, you ask some good questions, and the people want you to ask those. And they say, you have an obligation as official opposition to ask the questions; here's what we want you to ask. And the government has an obligation to answer those questions, to make sure that legislation that's going to affect the people of our province, that the members opposite that are in the official opposition have the ability and can ask those questions of the government and hold them accountable.

Because the government has to be held accountable by the official opposition for the people. It's important. And you know, I think, like a process, members opposite were there at one time. And I think one of my members said he's been here a while — he was in opposition; he was part of the government; now he's in opposition again. And he talks about a process.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to see some of the aggressive move that this one is — and I think it is aggressive — and is it warranted? I think at the end of the day the people are going to make it very clear, like what are you talking about? You have an opportunity to debate and 20 hours debate on a Bill. And I'll be honest. I don't think . . . Yes, there's time where you want to make sure that all the concerns and the people are consulted and they feel comfortable with legislation that's going to be passed by this House. Well people have to feel confident that that process has happened. We have an obligation to make sure that process has happened. Very clear. An obligation.

[19:30]

And I'll use this as an example again. I'll go back to this. It's a trust. That trust thing is unbelievable out there. People put trust in the government. They put trust in opposition to ask the tough questions, to not be bullied, to make sure that the questions that need to be asked are asked. That the government is held accountable when they mismanage the way this government and the Sask Party government has mismanaged the finances. The people want them held accountable. They had a savings account. They had a surplus of money; it's gone, very little left.

People are asking, what's going on?

Look at their own budget documents. They're showing projections of the deficit going up to 2014, if you look at it. Page 62 I believe is the page.

If you see all what the people need to know, that information needs to get out. And there's a process. The official opposition has a job to do, and we'll make sure the people understand. And when you extend the days, those questions will get out and we'll hold the government accountable. But of course the government doesn't want to be held accountable; they want to get out of here. They don't want to extend more days so that you could show exactly what they're up to. No, no, no, no. You know, you could start to see some things happening. They don't want to be in here. They want to get out of here. So we're going to run from 8 in the morning till 12 at midnight, 16-hour days. And for what? They'll have to answer that. I know I'll share my views of it. And it will get done.

And those members can yell all they want, you know, and may not like it, but tough, tough, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, you ask for it; you get it.

And I hope the people truly send a message to them. They're asking for the people's opinion, I hope. And, you know, you take some of the areas of the . . . And I guess the duty to consult. And I guess, like I said earlier, it's not insult, but they don't get it. They don't understand. They think it's the same thing. Well we did that. Well on some of our community members, you've done quite a job of insulting them.

So I mean, Mr. Speaker, you know, it's very frustrating to watch some of the leadership out there, and some of the community members are very frustrated. They don't feel like they're getting consulted. Like this Bill, like everything else that they try to ram down. They go out and say, oh yes we did. Who do they talk to? Themselves? How many of even the official opposition backbenchers got in on the conversation? I don't think too often they get in on it.

So I look at the end of the day and I wonder if the official opposition backbenchers don't get an opportunity, and I don't know for sure they don't, but the way it sounds they don't, because some of their communities are being impacted and nobody's speaking up for their community. You know, so that goes to show you a trust thing again. And I think at the end of the day the people will send a message saying, we supported you, we trusted you, you would speak on our behalf, and when things would impact our constituency you'd be fighting and arguing at the table.

Well we've seen what's going on. And you could see it very clear by some of the communities that are impacted by having a Sask Party member representing them. They're not getting . . . They're very frustrated to see some of them coming forward, community members that feel like their government's supposed to protect them; that representative that represents them in this House is supposed to bring their message forward. To see the frustration and, I guess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, hope.

And I tell people that. There's hope. Hang on to the hope. Things will change. And there is hope out there that things will

change, that the government will start doing what it's supposed to do on behalf of the people it represents. Not just a few people making decisions that . . . They don't even consult with anyone. They don't talk to anyone. They just make a decision after the fact and say, well if you don't like it, live with it. That is unacceptable.

People should not have to feel that and to feel threatened. Mr. Deputy Speaker, people should not feel threatened to be able to voice their concern to a government when someone is unhappy with the way they're being treated or how a department treats them or how the government is treating them. They shouldn't have to feel threatened or scared or nervous. And I'm telling you, some of the people I've talked to, they don't want to come forward. They're nervous. But some of them are starting to say they don't care any more. I don't care. If I lose my job, I lose my job. Things are happening that somebody needs to hear about. Decisions are made. We don't know how and why. That's all going to come out. It will come out.

And, you know, when you go on the attack and you go after the people that are willing to bring their concerns forward, instead of trying to work with those concerns, you go after the individuals that are bringing the information . . . And we've seen what's gone on here in the last while and it's pretty bad. It's appalling that anyone, whether they work for a government ministry or a government agency or work in the province, would have to feel the threat and worried about their job, for their families, and if they come forward with information that might be an area of concern, that has to be addressed.

So we've seen the pattern of this government. It's a trust thing. It's the mismanagement of the finances. The list goes on and on. It just doesn't end, you know? It doesn't end. You're seeing all the different things happening. The duty to consult and accommodate, the PST [provincial sales tax], the revenue, the so-called sharing, well the promises made . . . How many promises have been made to the people that that Sask Party government and Brad Wall and his leadership have not kept? That's appalling.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I would remind the member to use that member's constituency and not his name.

**Mr. Vermette:** — The Premier, under his leadership and his government, to go ahead and do some of the things that they have done, the promises made, and they've turned their back on the people. You know, the Premier and the Sask Party government. And you see what they've done, the problems that they've made and the . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member's time has expired. I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak in support of democracy and in opposition to tyranny. Now members opposite might not like the word; they might think it's harsh. But in this case it fits and I'm going to detail a chronology of failure put forward by this government.

They'll bully, they'll mismanage, and you can't trust them. That's the theme of this speech. And it's true. It's true on a

number of occasions. Now speaking specifically about bullying, it starts at the top. It starts at the very top when you've got a Premier in the province of Saskatchewan who's such a bully that he bullies the Progressive Conservatives out of their lunch money. He took their lunch money, Mr. Speaker. Now it just happened to be \$3 million.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Point of order.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The member just gets to his feet and he starts using derogatory language towards a member of the House. Mr. Speaker, he starts to claim that the Premier is a bully and that he's bullying, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you rule that member out of order, that he withdraw those remarks and apologize unequivocally.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, to respond to the point of order.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what the member was doing was referring to actions and behaviours, Mr. Speaker. And those actions and behaviours demonstrate a characteristic that he said was bullying, Mr. Speaker. During debate, Mr. Speaker, we have the ability to debate characteristics and behaviours of individuals. And, Mr. Speaker, the particular method in which the member was using to illustrate was an illustration of a set of behaviours and how those behaviours are characteristically the same as somebody that's a bully, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that if you listen carefully, read the transcripts carefully and look very carefully at them, Mr. Speaker, you'll see that he's referring to a set of characteristics or behaviours.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I listened to the two arguments. I find that the member was talking about a member. He can use the terms possibly against the government but not a member, so I would ask that the member would withdraw their remarks and apologize.

I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

**Mr. Furber:** — I withdraw the remark and apologize.

Now the government led by the Premier of this province act like bullies. They do it all the time. They do it as a government. They do it as individuals. And, Mr. Speaker, it's shameful; shouldn't have to put up with it. And the people of the province of Saskatchewan deserve better. They deserve better than that.

Now we have a Minister Responsible for Education in the

province of Saskatchewan who, when hard-working, well-intentioned people come to protest some of the policies of this government including the inequitable support for Catholic schools in this province, they come and they want the opposition to ask questions on their behalf, and they sit in the galleries of this legislature, and the Deputy Premier, the Minister Responsible for Education, tries to intimidate them. He sits there in his chair and glares at them. He doesn't want them here. He doesn't want them . . . He doesn't want us to ask questions on their behalf. And it's shameful.

Now that's not the only case where he's been caught bullying people in Saskatchewan. He has also done it when it comes to educational assistants. What happens? He leads a piece of research in his department that leads him to believe they should cut educational assistants all over the province. And it gets leaked out. The plan comes out, and what does he do? He phones around the province and bullies them. He phones people in Saskatchewan and bullies them because they don't agree.

And neither do I, Mr. Speaker. I don't agree either. And there are a lot of educational assistants in Prince Albert that don't agree either. A number of teachers in Prince Albert, I would say 99.9 per cent of them, don't agree with this government and they sure don't agree with being bullied. So there you go. There you go, Mr. Speaker.

Now that they don't like it, they should stop doing it. If they don't like it, they should stop doing it.

You know who else they try to bully? They try to bully the opposition. On a daily basis, they try to bully the opposition. They introduce this motion today to try to bully the opposition.

You know why? They don't like scrutiny. They don't want us asking questions. When they made all sorts of cuts last fall and we asked to ask questions in committee of who's being cut, what programs are being cut, what services will no longer be offered to Saskatchewan citizens, what did they do? They bully it. They bullied us and they bullied the people of Saskatchewan by extension.

Now when else did they do it? They did it with the Chief Electoral Officer. They have absolutely no intention of agreeing to a recommendation by the Board of Internal Economy who put forward a candidate that wins a competition of the job. He wins the competition fair and square. And what do these . . . well they took it to their Premier. And he didn't like him. He didn't like him for whatever reason. Perhaps it had to do with investigations. Who knows? What do they do? They propose a change in the middle of question period and try to bully the opposition into accepting that change — absolutely, absolutely shameful.

Now I mentioned that I would speak about how they bully people, how they can't manage, and how you can't trust them. Now certainly the people of Saskatchewan have been made well aware — well aware at this point — about how they can't manage. They can't manage a two-house paper route. They can't manage budgets.

Mr. Speaker, we've had record revenue in Saskatchewan over the last couple of years, record revenue. But you know what

else we've had? Record deficits, record deficits. And how do you get two at the same time? Virtually impossible but I'll tell you how — Sask Party math, Sask Party math. And it proves how absolutely terrible they are at managing the province of Saskatchewan, managing the finances of the province of Saskatchewan, and managing programs on behalf of the people. They can't manage anything.

They can't manage health care, can't manage health care. The most important file in the province within that Department of Finance and they can't manage it. They make a promise before the election that they would hire more doctors. Well, Mr. Speaker, the doctor vacancies are up 50 per cent in rural Saskatchewan. Now how is that managing health care in Saskatchewan? It's not working. It's not working.

You know what else they can't manage in health care? Wait times. They can't manage wait times. In fact when I mentioned it, on the day of the budget the Premier made remarks that he had to apologize for because he doesn't like the fact that they can't manage health care. And he doesn't like the fact that in his own constituency, in his own constituency wait times have nearly doubled, very close to doubled in his constituency. And I'm sure he gets lobbied. I'm sure he gets questions asked of him. The number of people waiting for surgery in the Premier's own riding has gone up by 90 per cent. That's close to double. I'll explain it as clearly as I can because they are not very good with numbers, Mr. Speaker. They're not very good with numbers.

[19:45]

And in case they hadn't heard, I'll explain the situation in the health region that encompasses the city of Prince Albert, the P.A. [Prince Albert] Parkland Health Region because, as I had referenced on that day of the budget, the surgical wait times in the P.A. Parkland Health Region have also nearly doubled. They have gone up by nearly 90 per cent and so that is nearly doubling as well. And so the Premier lashes out. He lashes out and he has to apologize on budget day. First time in anybody's recollection, certainly in 105 years of this legislature, the first time anybody could ever remember that the Premier would have to apologize for remarks he makes in the legislature on budget day — hard to image, hard to imagine.

You know what else they can't manage? They can't manage the forestry industry. They can't manage. They make promises before the election about how they are going to work with northern communities, how they are going to work with parkland communities, how they're . . . a vote, quote: "A vote for Darryl is a vote for the mill open and people working." He took that ad out in the newspaper. And what happened? They didn't have a plan. He says a vote is a vote for the mill open and people working. So you would think that it's incumbent upon you to have a plan. Sure you can rip up the existing plan and insult a multinational company. You can do that. They're used to insulting companies in forestry.

But you should ought to have your own plan. If you're going to rip up somebody else's plan and you make a promise, you should ought to have your own plan. And it's quite clear after the Enterprise sector team has met twice and provided — I don't know — maybe one recommendation . . . I'd be hard

pressed to imagine which one because it hasn't come to the floor of this legislature. Two and half years, they haven't done a thing for forestry except close down the industry all over the province. They presided over that.

All they had to do to help forestry in Saskatchewan, all they had to do was divide an FMA [forest management agreement] properly. That's it. It wouldn't cost them a cent, wouldn't cost them a cent. Just divide it so that somebody who would actually involve themselves in the industry in Saskatchewan by making a huge capital purchase . . . The minister responsible insults the company, insults the president, and then won't give him an allocation of wood. So that's how they managed the forestry industry.

And here we get to, again, the very reason, the very reason we're debating this motion today, the very reason they've had two failed budgets — they can't budget to save their lives — is because it starts at the top, Mr. Speaker, it starts at the top.

And why do I say that? Why do I say that? Because the Premier received the golden parachute when he left here, when he was a staffer here in 1991, after the election was over, after the Progressive Conservatives lost. He got a golden parachute because he worked here, got \$150,000 for a guitar museum in Swift Current, in his hometown.

And you know, I've been to a few dances at the old pub there in Swift Current. They've got a pub there that has live music very often, and people in Swift Current love country music. They love it, two-stepping all over the place, Mr. Speaker. But you know what happened? You know what happened? It closed down. The guitar museum closed down because the Premier can't sell country music in Swift Current. It's unbelievable, Mr. Speaker. And so if you can't sell country music in Swift Current, you probably can't manage the finances of the province of Saskatchewan either.

And you know what he went on to do after that, Mr. Speaker? He went and opened up a Last Stand Adventure Company, which would have the Premier of the province leading people on a cow trail, riding a horse, and offering some sort of adventure for people in rural Saskatchewan. And that failed too.

Now we've had quite a debate this week about whether or not it was a bankruptcy, whether it wound down, whether it went broke, whether it's busted, whether it went belly up. We've had that debate here. And you know what I'm hearing? It doesn't matter to people. It doesn't matter to people. It's insolvent; that's all people know. It no longer exists. And it no longer exists because he's proven, he's proven with the budgeting process in the province of Saskatchewan, he's proven with the guitar museum — where he can't sell country music to Saskatchewan people — and he's proven with The Last Stand Adventure Company that there's nothing he can manage.

And he's got a shelf life of about two years at anything he does, and things start to tank. That was true with the guitar museum, although it happened a little quicker than that, true at The Last Stand Adventure Company, and true with the finances of the province of Saskatchewan. We left him a \$2.3 billion, \$2.3 billion and ran a \$1 billion deficit two years later, two short years later. That's all his shelf life is. And the people of

Saskatchewan have got that figured out.

Now trust. It's important, I think, in this line of work, that the people you work on behalf of trust you. And I would argue, and so do a growing majority of people in Saskatchewan, that you can't trust these guys. You can't trust the Premier. And why is that? Why is that, Mr. Speaker? Because they took out billboards. The Premier took out billboards and put his face on them and put the Saskatchewan Party logo on the bottom. And you know what those billboards say, Mr. Speaker? They say that there's a debt reduction of 40 per cent in the province of Saskatchewan. That's what they say.

And this proves my point, Mr. Speaker. This absolutely proves my point. It proves my point that these guys agree because it comes from the top. It comes from the top, and these guys are all followers of the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan who would take out a billboard that says there's been 40 per cent debt reduction, when their own budget document proves otherwise. I don't know if they haven't stayed up long enough to get to page 62 in their own document, but it says that the debt of the province of Saskatchewan grows by over \$4 billion over the next four years.

Now a little honesty in advertising would be helpful, Mr. Speaker. There's a reason why the people of Saskatchewan don't trust them. They don't trust them because they'll sit in here and applaud an advertisement that's absolutely false, absolutely false. And they all applaud it. They all applaud it. Now that's because there's leadership from the top. That's because of the leadership from the top. The Premier is absolutely disingenuous.

Now why else can't you trust them, Mr. Speaker? Because before the last election, the Health minister was asked specifically, are you going to bring in essential services legislation in health care? And you know what he said? He said no, I don't see that we would need that in health care. And you know what he did within a month of taking office? They introduced the legislation, Bill 5, one of the first pieces of legislation introduced by this government. And so why, if you're a health care worker in the province of Saskatchewan, would ever trust these guys? Why would you trust them because you know it's not true. You know the first thing that they say before the election is that they won't do it, and the first thing they do after they're elected is carry through with it.

Now why else can't you trust them, Mr. Speaker? Why else can't you trust them? This is a very interesting tale I'm about to unfurl. I have a friend who's a chiropractor, lives outside of Prince Albert, has a practice in a small town outside of Prince Albert. She was a Sask Party supporter. She went to the Premier's golf tournament in Waskesiu, and she asked him specifically, Mr. Premier, are you going to de-insure chiropractic care in Saskatchewan? And you know what he told her? You know what he told her, Mr. Speaker? He said no. He said we respect chiropractors. It's the future of health care in Saskatchewan, and we're not going to do it. We're not going to do it.

And what happened, Mr. Speaker, what happened and why can't you trust these guys? Because they've got a top-down approach of being disingenuous. Why can't you trust them? Because at the Premier's own golf tournament, at his own golf

tournament, he would tell a chiropractor that they're not going to be de-insured and within a few months they're de-insured. So why would anybody, why would anybody in Saskatchewan trust them at their word? It's impossible to know how you could trust this government, trust the Sask Party government with anything they say when at the very top they're disingenuous — the very top.

Now I've spoken of chiropractors, and another reason why you can't trust this government is because chiropractors and the Sask Party negotiated a deal. They negotiated a deal to offer services in the province of Saskatchewan. And you know what happened? After they negotiated the deal and signed on the dotted line, the Saskatchewan Party government ripped up the deal. They ripped it up. So if you can operate in good faith as most business people do, you can operate in good faith and the Saskatchewan Party government will rip up your agreement because they have a change of heart or the Premier wants to go back on his word at his own golf tournament.

You know why else you can't trust, another reason why you can't trust them, Mr. Speaker? You know why else? Because they have a Finance minister who says that there'll be \$1.9 billion worth of potash revenues for the Government of Saskatchewan in his previous budget. That's what he said — 1.9 billion. And you know why you can't trust him? Because the person who's responsible for Energy and Resources in the province of Saskatchewan says no, he's wrong. He's absolutely wrong. There's going to be 3 billion. There's going to be \$3 billion worth of potash revenue for the province of Saskatchewan. And he says it right on the floor of the Assembly.

Now I've heard then in committee the other night, he said that you can't find where he said it. I was 20 feet away from him when he said it. He said it right here in this Assembly. It's in *Hansard*. So why do you think you can't trust him. Because he's off by not 3 billion, not 3 billion, because we didn't have any income. He's off by 3.204 billion because we had to pay potash companies to take potash out of the province of Saskatchewan, the only place in the world where you have to pay companies to take resources out of your jurisdiction.

And so that's another reason why you can't trust this government, why you can't trust this government.

Now specifically to the motion before us this evening, quite clearly you can't trust them on the rules. Because I think the House Leader himself for the government took a trip to Australia to learn the rules there, the ones that we ended up implementing here for the committee structure. He flew all the way to Australia to learn the rules when he was in opposition, and he got back. And he should understand the rules because he helped write them. And what does he do? They agree to the rules when they're in opposition, but they don't suit them when they're in government because they don't want the scrutiny of the Legislative Assembly. They don't want the scrutiny of the opposition. They don't want the scrutiny of the people.

But they're going to face the wrath of the people, Mr. Speaker. They're going to face them. They're going to face them at the polls. They're going to face them in the next election. In November of 2011, they're going to be very sorry that they

decided to bully Saskatchewan people, that they decided to bully the opposition in Saskatchewan, that they thought it was okay to bully people — educational assistants, school boards, Catholic school board leaders. They're going to be awfully sorry that they thought they should bully everybody in Saskatchewan because they don't know what they're doing because they can't manage the budget in the province of Saskatchewan. It's embarrassing. It's sad. But that's their tale, Mr. Speaker, and it's unfortunate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Member's time has expired. Recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's more than just bullying going on within the legislature here. This basically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is about Bills that this government has introduced, and this is about the inability, the inability of this government to do the work of government. And in order, in order to get through that, they are bullying and are showing a disrespect for the very democracy that is, that is within this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in total this government introduced 39 Bills, and that's not including the eight they introduced over the last week. This also does not include Bill 80 — and I will be getting back to that — which carried over from the previous. And again, that again is something which they told all their friends that they would pass. And they didn't pass it and somehow blamed us last fall for not passing that Bill. And so now they are on the ropes on this one because now everybody is watching them to pass Bill 80 in this session.

[20:00]

But I think they're feeling the heat on Bill 80 — and again I'll come back to this — because everybody knows that Bill 80 is bad. You go anywhere throughout . . . in terms of the city of Saskatoon, and there are Bill 80 signs everywhere. People understand that Bill 80 is bad, and I know that the Minister of Labour understands that too. But he is not doing what is good for the people of Saskatchewan; he's doing what is good for his friends. That's what he's doing.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was getting on. Now two Bills have been passed with Royal Assent in the fall session and that's Bill 116, the cellphone Bill, and Bill 99, 911 amendment. Eighteen Bills have been passed and are now waiting Royal Assent. As I mentioned before, Bill 80 is in committee, and Bill 119, the ticket sales and scalping. So that leaves 19 Bills before the House with adjourned debate. Eight new Bills have been introduced within the last week and have not received second reading.

But I would tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that what this is about. I've been around, the last few days, around the city and my constituency. I was to an anniversary, a Catholic women's conference, and just in the constituency office and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, words like hypocrisy, trust, and unbelievable are being spoken out amongst the people now. That was hypocrisy, trust, and unbelievable as referring to by the good people of Saskatoon about what is happening, not only in this legislature, but what is happening with the Sask Party government, a government that they elected. But on many occasions now, Mr.

Deputy Speaker, we're saying that these people are saying, no more. No more; I'm not voting for you ever again. Never voting for you again.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, being one to want to know, I want to ask people, why are you saying that? And of course that's when they start off about that, and that's where, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the words of hypocrisy, trust, and unbelievable come in. Hypocrisy, trust, and unbelievable. They come in because when I ask people for more definite reasons why they're not, those are the words that come in.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but what has been the telling characteristic and it makes . . . It does not surprise me that we are tonight where we are at, debating the very democracy, and us having to fight back and push back because the opposition is not being allowed to do its work. That is what this is all about, the opposition not being allowed to do its work and not being here acting on behalf of the people of this province.

And even though people at times do not understand all the intricacies of this legislature, they are now becoming aware and asking the questions. And they are seeing what is happening here, and that's why they talk about trust and they talk about hypocrisy. And they say this is unbelievable what is going on here because even they understand the rules.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, people for the most part want us to do our work. They don't necessarily want to know all the rules of this legislature and how it works, but they would like to see it functioning. And they have questions when they come here, and they are coming, as we have noticed, on a regular basis and sitting in the Assembly here and watching us do our work.

But as I was talking about the telling characteristic of this government. And we saw it from the early days, but now it's becoming entrenched, and that is lack of consultation. There is no consultation. And this, when you refuse, it is easy to make that connection. And I guess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it took me a bit of time, but when you understand lack of consultation, that that drives at the very heart of democracy. And so it is no surprise then that when they fail to do the work that they would like in governing, that they have to use other tactics to get it through, and to silence debate on those things, to say that you do not have the right to have those hours, or we can't manage it so that you can have the right with those hours, we will just ram things down. And that's lack of consultation.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people just returning to Bill 80 who received a phone call and were told, here's what's going to happen, after having the Premier's own picture in their magazine, where no doubt he was saying this. We've heard many times here, telling people on essential services for example that you would not have essential services, bringing it in, one of the first Acts after that government was elected. And so on Bill 80 there's a phone call and people are called in, and saying, here's what is going to happen. When questions like that are posed to elected members on that side, to that government, and they say, there's no need for that.

But that is what this is all about. This is all about the lack of consultation. And they don't understand what that means to consult. They don't understand democracy. So is it any wonder

that we are in the kind of situation we are right at this minute here, right at this minute in this debate, arguing? Because that is what we are arguing about — we're arguing, we're discussing, we're debating democracy because that is lacking. That is sorely lacking right now.

And that's why the people in Saskatoon are talking about trust and they're talking about hypocrisy. And they're saying that this is unbelievable what is happening, people all around, because they read daily in the newspapers, they read daily about this government and what they have done with the money that was left them — \$2.3 billion gone down the drain. Gone down the drain, almost as if you can see that water just taking the province of Saskatchewan. And it's all going down the drain, leaving this province without that.

So everybody was their friends when they found this money laying around and they were spending. Everybody was their friends. But when it came to the tough time to have to govern, we have the problems that the Minister of Health has gotten himself into. On a daily basis, he has to stand up and say, well we're not doing that anymore. We've got another new plan. And his favourite one is that he wants things done after the next election. That might be a bit of a problem. That might be a bit of a problem when people say that we don't trust you. That might not be a bit of problem.

And they say, how about hypocrisy? Hypocrisy is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is when you say one thing and you do another. Now there's other words for that, but people are seeing that as hypocritical. Hypocritical. That you could say to their face, months in some cases, months in some days, one thing and then go and do another. So these folks are going to have a lot to answer for.

Now in terms, in terms of that, we see all around the world different things happening. We see under the labour legislation, which I am a bit more familiar with here in Canada, where the Supreme Court has struck down a number of cases. We still see this government marching against the flow, against the tide, Mr. Deputy Speaker, instead of showing some leadership.

And what is it, what is it that I'm saying that they should show leadership about? To consult, and democracy. Democracy in the workplaces. And they are failing, and they're failing miserably. And they're failing because even the International Labour Organization is saying they failed. They failed on the basic thing of consultation. They failed to discuss this with people, and that is because there's no respect over there for democracy. There's no respect. They talk about, they talk about freedom of choice and democracy, but they're simply words.

So you have the president of the largest country, one of the most powerful countries in the world, having legislation where he does truly democratize the workplace, and here our definition of democracy is something that draws the attention of the ILO. Now I didn't hear the ILO writing a letter or making a decision to Barack Obama in the United States. He didn't do that there, but he did to our Minister of Labour and he did to this Premier and he did to this government. Because they have lost the faith of people, and now they're being recognized around . . . So they're getting the international recognition, but that's the kind of international recognition that they are gaining.



So in terms of consultation, it is non-existent, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But these are only things that they seem to . . . because there is a total disrespect for unions. And as such, they somehow want to separate the unions from the working people of this province, and it doesn't work because people see that. They're in unions and they believe in those unions because they voted democratically to get into those unions. And now they want to split this up and play to a small group, play to a small group of people that when they can say, oh well, they criticize us, the unions. That somehow makes them the union bosses or something. We all know that old game, but people see through that.

And they're playing the same old game and thinking that, oh we've got a lot of support. But they don't because people are seeing through them now. And they're talking about the hypocrisy of that, and now they're asking questions. And now they're even asking questions about, how do you run an occupational health and safety department when, in fact, you say you want to go to war with unions? And we're talking about life and death issues here, and they feel that this government has no respect for them when it comes to that.

An abysmal record on occupational — while I'm on that — an abysmal record on occupational health and safety that shows that more people are getting killed at work every year. And they are talking about Mission: Zero. Now how does that square to people who say, who hear, we're going to war with labour? We're going to war with the working families. When they get up, and I can't imagine what . . . Perhaps around the breakfast tables or the supper tables, that Dad, are you in a union? Mom, are you in the union? Yes. What does that mean when the Premier's going to war with unions? What does that mean?

And then to have people feel comfortable, whether that be the workers in the Department of Labour or whether that be people in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, wanting to know, how do we feel confidence in this? How is it that our lives are being protected when that is the premise that they start on? We're going to war. Now that in my . . . We go to war with Afghanistan. We go to war with the Taliban. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how does that square with going to war with the people of this province?

And those are the words that they use, and then they expect that people won't say hypocrisy, talk about hypocrisy, trust, and unbelievable.

Now there are many things, there are many things that they have . . . where the trust factor comes in — many things. The educational assistant cuts. The educational assistant cuts are a trial balloon that's floated, but there are education districts that have implemented that and are going . . . because they're confused what is being meant by that.

And what about the health care bargaining concept that the workers in our health care facilities are a team? Where is that? Where is the concept that it's a team when we have over two years or more now where the health care workers, 25,000 — who are incidentally women, about 80 per cent women — are without a contract? And there seems to be no concern regarding that, no concern regarding that and what is happening there.

Now again just a return to the lack of respect around health and safety because there's another two issues in terms of what is telling, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the reaction of that government and how they react to situations. Because when we had an issue around the crane here, there was, where you did get that information? And you know what? The first thing they should have done is they should have said, let's go out there and find out what's going on because the safety's more important. But you know what, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what the first thing they thought about was? How did you know? How did you know what you know? Who told you? There was a question. That was an answer to a question.

And isn't that similar to Corrections where the first reaction was, when we have a sex offender out loose, when the first reaction to that is, is fire somebody. Now I don't . . . I read the newspaper and I listen to the media and I know that that party, in their reaction would have been, had the shoe been on the other foot, had the shoe been on the other foot. And that is hypocrisy. That is what hypocrisy is and that's what people see as hypocrisy.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I haven't even touched about the finances which everybody understands.

And on a daily basis they hear the Dutch elm thing. Now when that Dutch elm issue came up . . . In Saskatoon we're very proud of our trees, very proud of our city. And here it was that somehow . . . And now they're saying that because they gave some money back, that somehow this is solving the problem. People understand that that is a long-term issue, that you have to be vigilant about that continuously. And they're treating it with disrespect. Even when it comes down to the beauty of the city of Saskatoon, they have no respect for that because they have to cut that.

And why do they have to make these cuts? Why do they have to make these cuts? Because I think, as my friend said, they couldn't run a two-house paper route. That's what's happening here.

They can't run a two-house paper route because they can't run the finance of the province. When they find all the money and they are spending and they're heroes because they've got all this money that people had to put together, then they're great. They've got a lot of friends. But a lot of people now, Mr. Deputy Speaker — and they know this, they know this because they're hearing it, they're hearing it themselves; they're not heroes any more — what people are talking about is hypocrisy, trust, and it's unbelievable what they've done.

Where did all the money go? Where did all the money go? Where are all these things that they're talking about? They're nowhere to be seen.

And now what they're talking about, they're talking about and asking questions about a couple of businesses that went bankrupt, a couple of businesses that went bankrupt and that the Premier was involved. That's the kind of things they're talking about. And they're also talking about some tabs, attention — that say, attention, Brad Wall. And they're liquor tabs, and could you go pick up some alcohol.

Those are the kinds of things people are starting to talk about because they're thinking, maybe we made a mistake. Maybe we should have found out about this because, you know, there was a lot of other leaders that came to this legislature without some of those kind of backgrounds.

And then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the things that is unbelievable is that we all, that we all of us here believe in the vote. We believe in the vote. And the officer that's in charge of that is the Chief Electoral Officer. And that person is an important person in the province of Saskatchewan. And even with that, even with that they've got that all messed up, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They've got that all messed up and they're jumping around just like a bunch of frogs on that one. Just like a bunch of frogs on that one, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[20:15]

They can't even get the appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer right because the member from Saskatoon Southeast makes a decision in the committee, and then the Premier says it's not on and out goes an agreement from the Board of Internal Economy. And that's what this is all about.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the summary on all of this is they don't like consultations. They don't like questions, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd say they don't like opposition because they just blow over any opposition and say, we have to pass these Bills and we don't care if there's debate on them. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would say they don't like democracy because of what we're seeing here. What we're seeing here day after day is the lack of democracy, is what is happening here on any of these issues.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was saying earlier, in going around with my constituents, going around the city, being at the anniversary, where there's a cross-section of people at the anniversary, and they were talking. And they were coming up to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they were talking about this government. And within that discussion they were talking about hypocrisy. They were talking about trust, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and . . . unbelievable of the things that this government is trying to do and that they're trying to get away with. But people are seeing through that.

And they're talking about the finances draining as if draining in a sink, and just in a nice, swirling pool with the finances going down — all down — and the debt rising. And they ask about that billboard, that famous billboard: we're reducing debt. And they say, how long? Is that true? Is that billboard true? And there it was everywhere — everywhere — this billboard in the city of Saskatoon, messing up the skyline. There it was everywhere you went. Sometimes two, one on either side of the street. Enormous amounts of money being spent on a billboard that said, debt reduced.

Well debt is going up. Debt is going up. The member who spoke previously before me said on page 62 . . . If that government had got to that point they would understand. And now people are saying, well what was that billboard all about? Can we trust this government when they put up a billboard and spend the amount of money on the advertising that they did,

both on television and radio and on billboards? They told us the debt was going down.

What is happening? Why is the Dutch elm disease getting cut or the program getting cut in the city of Saskatoon? Very simply. And I stand and I look at them and I say, well you'll have to ask the government that. Go ask the members from Saskatoon what is happening. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they've lost trust. They think this is hypocritical. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to me they say it's unbelievable.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally when I begin a speech, Mr. Speaker, I say that it's a pleasure to enter into the debate on the issue being discussed. In this situation, Mr. Speaker, I can't share that feeling with the Assembly and with members of the public. It's always an honour, Mr. Speaker, it's always a privilege to be able to stand in this Assembly and speak on behalf of our constituents and the people that we represent. It's always an honour to engage in democratic debate where you have two opinions, where you have two opposing opinions that are presented in the Assembly and are discussed. That's the nature of our adversarial system. It's a system that's served our province and served other countries and jurisdictions around the Commonwealth very well for many years, Mr. Speaker.

But the system does not work well, Mr. Speaker, when the majority runs roughshod over democracy and does not take into consideration the role and the rules set out, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the minority in any legislative setting is able to do its job properly, effectively, and allow them to properly represent the people in our constituencies and the greater province as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, just when I think I've seen the perfect example of Sask Party government incompetence, just when I think I've seen the perfect example of the Sask Party government getting it wrong, they always outdo themselves. They're always willing, Mr. Speaker, to take incompetence to a greater level. They're always willing, Mr. Speaker, to take their inability to manage anything properly to another level. Mr. Speaker, it's as though they've taken a sports analogy that they should always — like an average interview from a hockey player — give 110 per cent, something like that.

They've applied this philosophy, Mr. Speaker, to messing up, because time and time again, whenever they're given the chance to do what's right, they do the opposite. Whenever given the chance to manage things properly, they do the opposite. Whenever given the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to demonstrate that they are worthy, that they are deserving of the trust of the people of Saskatchewan, they do the opposite. Time and time again that is the track record of this Sask Party government a bit over two years into their four-year term.

Mr. Speaker, in my initial comments I made a few references to democracy and the parliamentary system. As all members of the Assembly will know, the rules that have developed in Saskatchewan have developed over time, rules that have been put in place, Mr. Speaker, so that both the government and the

opposition from the get-go, from the start of a legislative session, are able to understand what the rules are and plan accordingly — understand what the rules are and plan accordingly. But sadly the track record from the Sask Party government is being aware of the rules and not planning accordingly.

We've seen this, Mr. Speaker, this horrible track record on a number of fronts. And I'll get into some of those examples shortly, Mr. Speaker. But I think in my opinion, what we're seeing today with this motion of closure and a motion to extend the hours of sitting outside of what were the agreed upon hours simply because members opposite are unable to manage their own legislative agenda, simply because members opposite are afraid and reluctant to have proper scrutiny of their actions in this Assembly, we've seen a number . . . To me it speaks to larger problems that this government has with democracy, with transparency, with the rule of law.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of key examples that clearly illustrate the poor track record that this government has in doing the wrong thing, the poor track record that this government has in, instead of living up to the trust that has been placed in them by the Saskatchewan people, they are doing the complete opposite.

The first example I would like to use, Mr. Speaker, is around the actions we've seen by the Sask Party government with respect to the selection of the Chief Electoral Officer. Within a democratic system, if there's one position, if there's one position that is vital to have a transparent and honest, clear, open, and accountable democratic process, it's the Chief Electoral Officer. Mr. Speaker, this is the individual who sets the rules. This is the individual who enforces the rules. This is the individual, Mr. Speaker, who ensures that funny business is not going on by any candidate, by any campaign during a general election or during a by-election. The role and responsibility of this person is central to the democratic process.

Well what we've seen from members opposite, Mr. Speaker, we saw a process to appoint a new Chief Electoral Officer. And the way this is normally done, Mr. Speaker, there was a representative from government, there was a representative from the opposition, and as well as the Speaker was involved in this decision. So, Mr. Speaker, individuals from both sides of the House as well as the Speaker whose primary goal ought to be the defence of democracy and ensuring that the rights of all members of the Legislative Assembly are respected and are held in the utmost level of importance.

Mr. Speaker, after there was a recommendation from both sides . . . This includes the Justice minister, Mr. Speaker, an individual who sits at the cabinet table, an individual who ought to have a level of clout, ought to have a level of trust placed in him by the Premier, Mr. Speaker. We saw a recommendation come forward that was fully supported by the Justice minister. And what happened to this recommendation, Mr. Speaker? Well certain members of the Sask Party caucus weren't happy with what their Justice minister did. That's right, Mr. Speaker. Certain member of that caucus opposite weren't happy with the recommendation, the process that was put into place to ensure that we had the best Chief Electoral Officer possible, to ensure that the democratic process in this province was respected.

Now why, Mr. Speaker, members of that caucus, including the Premier, would hang the Justice minister out to dry, why they would deputize him and say, you have the role in this process to meet up with the opposition, to deal with the Speaker and choose the Chief Electoral Officer, why they would go from that position, Mr. Speaker, to one of kiboshing the recommendation that was made by their own Justice minister, a member that sits at the cabinet table, a member that is part of the caucus, why they would hang the Justice minister out to dry like that raises a number of questions. It raises questions that there clearly must have been a discussion around the caucus table where certain members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, did not like the recommendation, did not like the individual chosen.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as earlier debate in this legislature would indicate, the recommendations and their appraisals of the person that was put forward were top-notch. It was a clear position that this individual is quality and is up to the job and has been doing a good job. So why, Mr. Speaker, members opposite would turn their backs on that process, leave the Justice minister, as I said, hang him out to dry, raises a number of questions that I think all people in Saskatchewan should ask some serious questions of their local MLAs, if they're a Sask Party MLA, asking why they did not support a position that would ensure democracy remains transparent, open, and accountable here in the province.

Another example, Mr. Speaker, just as there are rules in place to choose the Chief Electoral Officer, there are rules in place for how legislation, how committees, how the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan is supposed to operate, rules agreed to by both sides. So we've seen the ignoring of the rules with respect to how this Assembly operates. We've seen the ignoring of the rules with respect to how the democratic process is supposed to operate in the selection of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Another area, Mr. Speaker, where we've seen the ignoring of the rules is with the PC trust scandal. Mr. Speaker, we've seen an incident here that is now before the courts where members opposite are involved in a court case because once upon a time there was a trust fund — a sizeable trust fund, a trust fund that has a considerable amount of money in it, Mr. Speaker — and members opposite have decided, it is alleged in documents, that control of that trust fund has been taken over by the Sask Party. And the other side would contest, Mr. Speaker, that the control of that trust fund ought to rest with the PC Party of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the bigger story about the divisions between the Sask Party and the PC Party of the province, that's a longer speech, and that's a bigger debate, and all people in Saskatchewan know the history of how that split came about and how, Mr. Speaker, many people took off one ball cap and simply put on another ball cap. But it's all the same people for the most part with a few new team members thrown in there, picked up as free agents, but for the most part, Mr. Speaker, same individuals fighting over one pool of money.

But what would this trust fund allow? In the same way, Mr. Speaker, that a Chief Electoral Officer allows for an open and transparent and an accountable and an honest democratic process through elections, Mr. Speaker, access to funds that

political parties use is an important part of politics as well in terms of funding campaigns, ensuring that campaigns are well resourced and that political parties that are present can run a campaign as they want to. So to see members opposite tied up in a court case, Mr. Speaker, alleging that they improperly took the money from the PC Party, freezing it or using it for their own aims and their own purposes as the Saskatchewan Party, that's another troubling aspect for how democracy here in Saskatchewan is operating.

So a clear track record is emerging. There is an ignoring of the process for the rules of this Assembly, the democratic rules of this Assembly agreed to by all members. There's an ignoring of the rules around the selection process for the Chief Electoral Officer, an individual that ensures that our democracy stays honest, stays transparent, stays open, an individual that ensures that individual members are held to account for how they conduct themselves, how they conduct themselves during an election. And, Mr. Speaker, we've seen members opposite tied up in a court case alleging that members of the Saskatchewan Party improperly seized control of assets of another political party, thereby hurting the individuals in the PC Party of Saskatchewan from competing in an open and transparent, democratic process.

[20:30]

So members opposite, when it comes to actions that speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker, there's plenty of evidence to suggest the members opposite will talk about democracy, will talk about openness, will talk about transparency, will talk about the need for proper scrutiny, but when push comes to shove, whether it's through their actions in ignoring the rules of this Assembly, whether it's their actions in ignoring the agreed-upon process for the selection of the Chief Electoral Officer, whether it's their actions in allegedly taking money from the PC Party of Saskatchewan that doesn't belong to them in order to serve their own political purposes, Mr. Speaker, we see a clear track record emerging of a group of individuals opposite who do not respect democracy, who do not respect open and transparent government.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when these issues are brought forward to members opposite, you would think given the clear track record, given the members' opposite stated commitment to the democratic process, to transparency, to openness, and to accountability, you think, Mr. Speaker, when confronted with how they are ignoring and not respecting the rules of a democracy, one would think that there'd be a degree of contrition. One would think there would be a degree of embarrassment. One would think there would be a degree of listening to the people of Saskatchewan, listening to them when they say we want you to respect the democratic process.

But what is their response, Mr. Speaker? Meh — they shrug their shoulders — meh. And for Hansard I would spell meh as m-e-h. They don't care. They just shrug their shoulders. We're the government. We're the majority. If you don't like it, tough. That's the way we roll. If you don't like it, we don't care. This is what the members opposite say. If you don't like the fact that we can't follow rules, we don't care, says the Sask Party. If you don't like the fact that we have completely ignored the process for the selection of the Chief Electoral Officer, what do they

say? Meh, we don't care, says the Sask Party. We're the majority. That's what they say.

When you say to them, why would you take money, allegedly, that is not yours? Why would you take that from one political party for your own political purposes? What is their response? Meh, we're the majority. We can do what we want. In the same way that we're the majority in this Assembly and we can just push forward and put through any rules that we want, if we're the majority of a trust fund, whether or not those members belong on that trust fund, meh. What does it matter? What do you care? That's the response we get from the Sask Party government.

It's not a response, Mr. Speaker, that addresses the real concerns the Saskatchewan people have about the democratic process and about what we all, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, signed up to do, and that's to represent the people of Saskatchewan with openness, transparency, and honesty. It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, when time and time again . . . I've given a few examples on how members opposite don't have respect for the democratic principles of this Assembly and for many of the processes that are in place.

It's also interesting when the members opposite have the option to support a motion, a motion calling for the release of the security files that were kept on Tommy Douglas, what is their response? Once again, meh, maybe we'll support it; maybe we won't. What does it matter? We're the majority. We don't care. Mr. Speaker, time and time again their response is one of not caring, not listening to the people of Saskatchewan.

And I would say, Mr. Speaker, it's never too late for members opposite to start doing the right thing. It's never too late for members opposite to begin a process of admitting that they were wrong, admitting that they have gone astray, admitting that they do not respect the rules of democracy. And, Mr. Speaker, I think there's perhaps no better way for members opposite to start back on that path of democracy, start back on demonstrating some clear actions, than would be to support the Tommy Douglas motion because, Mr. Speaker, we'd be hard-pressed to find another legislator here in the province, Mr. Speaker, than Mr. Douglas, who stood up for the principles of democracy, who stood up for the principles of fair and open debate, and who stood up for the rights of the minority. That's another speech. Perhaps I'll have an opportunity to speak to that, Mr. Speaker, at a later date. But I would urge members, it's never too late to do the right thing.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we have, as I have illustrated this evening through a number of examples, we have a clear record of how members opposite have a reluctance to follow the rules. They have a natural inclination, Mr. Speaker, to demonstrate that they just simply don't care. Time and time again, when confronted with how they're breaking the rules — whether it has to do with the Chief Electoral Officer, whether it has to do with the hours of this Assembly — all they do, Mr. Speaker, is shrug their shoulders. Meh, what are you going to do? We're the majority. Tough. Tough luck, we're the majority. We can do what we like, and if you have a problem with it, that's your problem, not ours. That's what Sask Party members opposite say.

So I ask myself, what are these individuals trying to hide? Why

the arrogance? Why this approach of simply using their majority to disrespect the democratic process? Well, Mr. Speaker, in the two and a half years that they've been here, as I said at the beginning, it's amazing time and time again how there is so many examples of how individuals on the opposite side completely mess up. When given the chance to do the right thing, they do the wrong thing.

We saw this, Mr. Speaker, with the huge shift of going from having a surplus in this province to running huge deficits. We saw in a short period, a short period of how the Sask Party members opposite, through their own inability to manage, their own inability to make wise decisions have taken us from a situation of huge surplus to huge deficit. And many other speakers on this side have spoken to that point.

More recently, Mr. Speaker, in this recent budget we've seen a huge amount of financial trickery from members opposite, just as members opposite are willing to ignore the democratic rules, just as members opposite are more than willing to use their majority to shrug their shoulders and say tough luck, people of Saskatchewan, we don't care. We have the majority. We see them using that same majority to inflict some very ugly financial trickery on the people of Saskatchewan.

We see them, Mr. Speaker, midstream in a budget process, midstream in a term, I should say, of a number of budgets, changing the accounting practices, changing the way that things are done. And, Mr. Speaker, just as their actions on the Chief Electoral Officer, just as their actions on the rules of this Assembly with respect to hours, just as their actions demonstrate, they're trying to hide something — that they're not able to manage. In the same way, the financial trickery we've seen on the accounting front also demonstrates an unwillingness to be open and transparent in the most fundamental and vital ways for the people of Saskatchewan.

Now we talk about the hours, Mr. Speaker, that conceivably we'll be sitting here. And it wasn't long ago, Mr. Speaker, that they introduced another motion of closure extending the hours because of their inability to manage the House. Mr. Speaker, speaking for myself and I know speaking for my colleagues, I'm not afraid of the hours. The hours are fine, Mr. Speaker. I know members opposite will be able to use these hours to watch a good number of *Home Alone* movies. I know members opposite will be able to use these hours to watch, to read a good number of Harlequin romance novels, perhaps the odd Nancy Drew mystery.

Mr. Speaker, from this side of the House we're prepared to work. We're prepared to do the hours. We're happy to do the hours because it's what the people of Saskatchewan demand. The people of Saskatchewan demand that their government is committed to democracy. Their government is committed to open, clear and transparent government. And that's what the opposition is standing up for time and time again, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Member's time has elapsed. Recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to weigh in on debate here today. In fact I should say, it's a pleasure is sort of the improper word, Mr. Speaker, because

we're weighing in on a debate that shouldn't be occurring in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, at a time that it shouldn't be occurring, Mr. Speaker.

We should be focusing our attention right now as it relates to mismanagement in health care, mismanagement of our finances, mismanagement of cost of living and subsequent knocks to quality of life within our province under the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. But we are here today debating and discussing a motion, a motion unfortunately that challenges the very democratic system within our Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

We're dealing with a government, the Sask Party, that is undemocratic on so many fronts, Mr. Speaker. And it's disappointing to people across the province to realize that they have elected a Premier and a government that aren't willing to uphold democracy within Saskatchewan. They're disorganized, Mr. Speaker. They can't manage. We see incompetence in file after file after file. We see a government that's not willing to consult on any matter, Mr. Speaker, on any matter. This government and this Premier, the Sask Party, thinks they know best on every file, Mr. Speaker. And it's to the huge detriment of Saskatchewan people because we're large believers and huge believers that the answers as it relates to the needs and solutions and challenges and opportunities are understood best by those that are experts, by those for whom they affect. And we have a government here that's not willing to consult on any front, Mr. Speaker.

Further to that, we have a government that's shutting down transparency, that's shutting down accountability to people for whom they're elected, Mr. Speaker. And this is a sad day in Saskatchewan's legislature. We have a Premier and the Sask Party who are hiding, hiding from facing Saskatchewan people, organizations, institutions, taxpayers on important questions, Mr. Speaker, important questions that matter to them, and we see unilateral, undemocratic moves by this Premier and the Sask Party government, an attempt to thwart and prevent those very questions from being asked in this Assembly.

And people from across this province have question after question after question that they want raised of this government. We hear it every day. Today we heard it down in Swift Current, Mr. Speaker. We hear it down in Weyburn. We hear it, I suspect we'll hear it in Canora this week. We hear it in Estevan. We hear it across this province in every corner, Mr. Speaker. And what we know is that there's a government that won't answer to the public. They hide, Mr. Speaker, from providing the opportunities that the public is deserved, that organizations, Mr. Speaker, deserve and that institutions that have long served Saskatchewan people incredibly well. And we have a government who hides from it, Mr. Speaker.

And here they go, Mr. Speaker, that they . . . just the second time in two years, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party has put forward changes to the sitting times of this Assembly. And, Mr. Speaker, the only reason that these changes have been put forward — in this case asking the Assembly to sit from 8 a. m. to midnight — is for their own political purpose, Mr. Speaker. It has to do directly with the mismanagement of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, and their lack of ability to get things right. Specifically we see that in health care. We see that in finances. We see that in the quality of life, in our Crown corporations,

Mr. Speaker, in our economy, Mr. Speaker. But we see it here specifically that they can't even manage the legislation that they put on the table, Mr. Speaker.

And the interesting thing, Mr. Speaker . . . And I hear the Deputy Premier shouting from his seat. The Deputy Premier shouts from his seat, Mr. Speaker, but what I would challenge the Deputy Premier of the Sask Party to do, is to be able to uphold democracy, not be afraid of answering to his constituents. Because we have many phone calls, Mr. Speaker, many questions that come directly out of the Deputy Premier's constituency, right out of Canora, Mr. Speaker. And these are questions that the people of Canora are deserved answers to, Mr. Speaker. And we have a Deputy Premier who would rather shout from his seat, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I would advise the member to address the motion that is on the floor rather than involving other members of the legislature in his debate. I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — And, Mr. Speaker, what I know is that the individuals, the constituents, and the organizations in Canora, Mr. Speaker, have answers, have questions and they need answers, Mr. Speaker, from that Deputy Premier, from their MLA. And that MLA, that Deputy Premier who shouts from his chair, Mr. Speaker, won't stand up, won't stand up to answer those questions in question period, Mr. Speaker.

And here we see a government that is so afraid and embarrassed of their own mismanagement, so afraid of their own answers that they might provide to the people, that they thwart any opportunity for Saskatchewan people, organizations, institutions, and taxpayers to ask the questions that they deserve rightful answers to, Mr. Speaker. And that's a shame, a shameful state of democracy within Saskatchewan.

[20:45]

What I know is this, Mr. Speaker, is that when a government puts forward good legislation, good budgets, and good policy, they're very willing, very willing to debate, to allow scrutiny, and to in fact shine a spotlight on that legislation, those budgets, and that policy. But this government has the exact opposite because this government doesn't put forward good legislation. They put forward legislation that's ill derived, that's harmful to Saskatchewan people, institutions, and businesses, and it's created in a vacuum with no consultation with those people for whom it affects and for those people that know Saskatchewan's needs best, Mr. Speaker.

We see a government that put forward a budget that is anything but a good or positive budget, Mr. Speaker. We see the financial mismanagement of this Sask Party Premier and this Sask Party government being highlighted across Canada for its historic and unprecedented mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. We see a Finance minister who was directed by the Premier, the Sask Party Premier, to put a revenue estimate forward for potash that was almost \$2 billion, Mr. Speaker. And the reality is we're paying back potash companies to the tune of \$200 million. That's a \$2.2 billion miss, Mr. Speaker. That's completely unacceptable to Saskatchewan people and it's detrimental to the very opportunity that lies before the people of

our province, Mr. Speaker.

And we don't see good policy, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that's willing to put forward policies and legislation that in fact puts us in contravention of the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, of the United Nations. We see a government, the Sask Party, that's willing to be in contravention of established conventions put forward by the United Nations. And the fact that this Attorney General and this Sask Party Premier aren't compelled to make the changes needed to bring Saskatchewan into compliance with the United Nations conventions and into the modern Saskatchewan that we should be, is a huge shame to Saskatchewan people.

So we see a government that advances changes unilaterally that only serve their own political interest. It allows them to hide from the many, many, many groups and delegations that are coming in to ask questions of this government. And there are many, Mr. Speaker, in every corner of this province.

And we see a Sask Party Premier who moves question period, Mr. Speaker, into the wee hours of 8 a.m., Mr. Speaker, so that people coming in from North Battleford and from — and I hear some heckling over there — from Martensville, many individuals that want to come down from Martensville, Mr. Speaker, to question period. And it makes it quite difficult to be making that trip in to ask those questions of their MLA who's shutting down . . . providing them the kind of answers that they deserve, Mr. Speaker, and that's a shame.

And they do this under the auspice, Mr. Speaker, that's not correct. It's not correct. They say that the New Democrats are stalling the legislation, Mr. Speaker. Nothing could be further from the truth. New Democrats are providing scrutiny and consultation with stakeholders for whom legislation affects. Consultation, I should say, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party and the Sask Party Premier haven't done. They've abandoned that from day one, Mr. Speaker. And what we see is mismanagement in file after file.

And just as example, of course we've had much progress as it relates to Bills. At this point in time 18 Bills have been passed, are awaiting Royal Assent, Mr. Speaker. We have other Bills that are in committee, some that are being discussed here. And this is what Saskatchewan people expect of their government, is to be able to debate and discuss those pieces of legislation and not to unilaterally change rules that are only in the Sask Party Premier's best interest to sneak through legislation at midnight, Mr. Speaker, or to hide from Saskatchewan people with the answers that are important to them.

It's really telling, Mr. Speaker, when the Government House Leader comes out . . . He was forthright on this front, and the media asked him, well why won't you just follow the agreed upon rules that were put forward, the rules that you helped create and agreed where you simply extend some sitting days at the end of sitting if you haven't got your legislation through? And the reason that the Government House Leader put forward, and I'm glad he was forthright on this, is that he doesn't want those question periods, Mr. Speaker.

But just think about what that Government House Leader is saying. And of course we know these aren't really the words of

the Government House Leader; these are the words of the Premier. So just think about what the Premier, the Sask Party Premier, is saying, that he will not take the questions of the public. He will not take the questions of organizations and institutions who make Saskatchewan rich and strong. And he'll hide from them, Mr. Speaker.

And that's all we have for a Premier, Mr. Speaker — a Sask Party Premier who hides, ducks, and weaves from being accountable, from being transparent, and from standing up and answering the questions that Saskatchewan people and organizations have for that Premier, Mr. Speaker. And they're tough questions. They're tough questions, but they're the ones that need to be asked.

And when you look at the unprecedented financial mismanagement of our finances, Mr. Speaker, I can understand why it's embarrassing for the Premier to stand up from his seat and to explain how did they get it so wrong. Where did all the money go, Mr. Speaker, is the question Saskatchewan people are asking. And the Premier certainly can't provide adequate answers to this. But this is where we need to be provided the time to do the proper scrutiny and to ask the questions that Saskatchewan people are desired. Instead the government chooses spin and rhetoric at every turn that they have, at every opportunity. And it's our role as opposition New Democrats at this point in time, opposition for a while longer anyways, Mr. Speaker, to provide the kind of diligence and consultation that the Sask Party doesn't engage in, Mr. Speaker. This is what Saskatchewan people expect as well and it's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

And when we talk about the fact that there is an agreement actually in place, we're wondering, well why are we here, Mr. Speaker? The Sask Party says, well there's legislation that they need to advance. And of course there was rules already established to do that, Mr. Speaker. Simply what you do if you need more hours of debate, there would be some days tacked on to the end of session, Mr. Speaker. Those were agreed upon conventions and rules between the Sask Party and the New Democrats, Mr. Speaker. mutually agreed upon rules, Mr. Speaker.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, and I hear members opposite . . . What we know is that we can't take this government at their word. You can't take the Sask Party at their word and, Mr. Speaker, we've realized even more and more that you can't even take this government at contractual obligations. Even when their pen hits paper, Mr. Speaker, you can't trust this government. Because they can spend lots of time formulating agreements with groups such as municipalities, Mr. Speaker, with great fanfare and political benefit for the government of the day to come out with all sorts of balloons and fanfare, Mr. Speaker. But then they have no problem with ripping up that agreement, Mr. Speaker.

So you can't trust them when they make a promise, you can't trust them when they give you their word, and you can't even trust them when they put pen to paper and make a contractual obligation. And the examples of this are many. You could look at the spending program that was put forward by the Sask Party in the last budget or in the campaign, Mr. Speaker, where it says this year, in this budget year, they'd be spending basically \$9

billion. Well we know, Mr. Speaker, they've broken that promise and they've done so by almost an entire \$1 billion. Overspending, overspending their campaign promise of spending, their spending program put forward to the voters, of spending \$9 billion this year. And they're spending one whole billion dollars more, Mr. Speaker. Broken promise.

And then of course we talk about \$1 billion deficits, and of course we can see directly where the difference is. And it's the difference between what was promised and what was actually delivered by this irresponsible government that can't get its math right on this front, Mr. Speaker.

We see broken agreements with many, many groups. We see it in health care and I think of one specific group being the chiropractors, Mr. Speaker, who bargained in good faith, put forward a press release with this government, ratified a contract, only to have it ripped up, Mr. Speaker. Ripped up once again, Mr. Speaker, by this government. So we see a government that can't be trusted, not with their promises, not with their word, certainly not with contractual obligations, Mr. Speaker. And you certainly can't trust them with democracy, Mr. Speaker.

We see action after action, Mr. Speaker, that is undemocratic in this province and we see it, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to actual, I guess, intervention in fixing, potential fixing of elections, Mr. Speaker. And these are big allegations that exist out there.

But here we have the Sask Party government who is alleged to have taken \$3 million of money that isn't theirs, Mr. Speaker, \$3 million from the Progressive Conservatives of Saskatchewan. They take it and they're holding on to it. The reason, Mr. Speaker? It's alleged the reason they're holding that money is so that the PCs can't run a full election. So that the Sask Party's intervening and in fact fixing elections, Mr. Speaker, taking money that's not theirs, Mr. Speaker, and that's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

We see a Premier who politically intervenes, Mr. Speaker, in our democratic process as it relates to our Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Speaker, an individual who protects our very democratic institution. We have our Attorney General, Mr. Speaker, who agrees through a process — Board of Internal Economy — puts forward the candidate, brings him forward with great recommendation. We have a Premier who intervenes. And here at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, we have no direction from the Sask Party as to their willingness to reinstate democracy to that process, Mr. Speaker.

So we see a government at all turns that is willing to override democracy. We see a government right here that, based out of political self-interest, based out of fear of facing the public on important questions, of simply out of self-preservation, we see a government put forward a motion that wants to prevent groups from coming in and asking the questions of their MLAs and of the Premier. And we have a Premier, the Sask Party Premier who's hiding from the very people who elected him, Mr. Speaker. That's a shameful day in Saskatchewan's political scene, Mr. Speaker.

We have a government that on so many fronts simply can't manage. It's a chronology of failures on this front, Mr. Speaker, and we see it in finances, Mr. Speaker. We see it in health care,

Mr. Speaker. We see it specifically in health care as it relates to the rural doctor shortage that is getting so much worse, Mr. Speaker, under the Sask Party. We see vacancies, Mr. Speaker, that have actually grown by 50 per cent under this Sask Party government.

We have individuals and families and seniors across Saskatchewan who expect their government to do better. They expect the Premier and the Sask Party to deliver on the promises that they've provided, but they haven't. They've done the opposite. Circumstances have gotten worse and communities across the province are looking for doctors and are in need of that service. And it again comes down to broken trust, Mr. Speaker. Broken promise after broken promise, ripped up agreement after ripped up agreement. And here we have a time where Saskatchewan people can't trust the Saskatchewan Party government, and that's a problem, Mr. Speaker.

We see it in surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker, where I know in the Premier's own riding, Mr. Speaker, in his own riding we see surgical wait times that have increased by 90 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And we know individual after individual and families that are strained, waiting for their family member or for themselves to have surgery provided to them. And under the Sask Party and this Premier and the member from Swift Current, circumstances have become much worse for Saskatchewan people.

And then we see the broken promise after broken promise as it relates to cost of living. Now the problem on this front, Mr. Speaker, is much of it is a direct result of their financial mismanagement. Much of it, Mr. Speaker, is a direct result of misplaced priorities. But where it's taken out of, Mr. Speaker, where Saskatchewan people pay for this kind of mismanagement is through their quality of life, Mr. Speaker.

And I know my constituents, Mr. Speaker, are hugely concerned about the rising cost of living under this Sask Party government, particularly when that rising cost of living is a direct result of the irresponsible mismanagement of the Sask Party Premier and government, Mr. Speaker. We shouldn't have expected anything different, Mr. Speaker, from this Premier. But the opposition New Democrats are going to hold the Sask Party accountable on this front, and we're going to urge this government to take the questions that Saskatchewan people are asking.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This evening we are given a chance to talk about the ability to manage the affairs of the province by the present government. And it reminds me of a relatively standard line that I use when I talk to people going across the province. And this line is — and it doesn't matter whether it's health care or highways or education or anywhere else — what I tell people is, as long as the Sask Party government sticks with the plans that the NDP government had laid out for the next 10 years, things go fairly well. It's when they freelance that we get into trouble.

And so where do they freelance? Well they freelance on labour

legislation where there is no issue around construction labour relations. They freelance and decide, we're going to disrupt this in a fashion that's going to effectively eliminate years and years of good work being done in the labour area.

[21:00]

When you get into health care, they've been following a lot of the plans that are there. They've been going ahead with some things, but they're falling down on some of the resource areas for health care. And we're seeing the problems that arise on a daily basis.

When it comes to highways, they've been working fairly well with the 10-year plan. They've enhanced it and they've moved up some things. And that's good. So we don't necessarily hear a lot of issues in that area.

But, Mr. Speaker, one area where they could have used some very good advice, and they don't seem to have followed it, is in how to manage this House and how to bring forward legislation and how to accomplish things in this legislature. And that's what we're talking about tonight, is the whole fact that for whatever reason the Premier . . . And I assume that must be where all this originates because we have a very heavily dominated, executive-controlled government, executive control of this legislature. And what we have is bungling. We have bungling of what the agenda is.

Now when you look at what kinds of things have been able to be accomplished in this session from the Throne Speech last fall, it's pretty sad to recognize that in the fall session there were two Bills that passed and received Royal Assent. One was the cell phone Bill and the other was the 911 amendment Bill.

And, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that you learn, or you should learn or you should have learned, in managing this legislature is that this is a place where the opposition gets to challenge the agenda of the government. It's a place where the opposition has a role of asking hard questions. It's a place where the opposition has the role of challenging on a daily basis, whether it's in question period or in committee or in the speeches that are given in this place.

And, Mr. Speaker, one of the roles of a good government is to set out a clear agenda of where they want to go. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the fundamental problem that we have in Saskatchewan right now. That problem is that the Saskatchewan government and this Saskatchewan Premier have no idea where they want to go. So we sit here on this side of the House and we ask questions. And we get a surprising answer one day in some area that we think, well that must, you know, we thought that area was okay, but oh no there's some big problems there. Or we ask a question in another area. All of a sudden we're surprised with some kind of ill-thought response that creates a problem somewhere else. So, Mr. Speaker, I personally think, and I have come to this conclusion after observing the members opposite, the Premier, the House Leader and others who are working here, is they don't have a clue where they're going.

Now I'd like to remind people about the speech that I gave when they presented their first budget in the spring of 2008. And, Mr. Speaker, the image that I presented in that particular



speech was exactly what we see now. The image there was of a bus going down the hill, where there was no driver and nobody at the steering wheel, and the thing was going all over the place. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly why we're in this jam right now, is that the House Leader and the Premier have not set out very clearly what they want to do. They have not set out an agenda that allows for the opposition to respond and ask questions, and they have not let the people of Saskatchewan in on their plan.

Now for a while there we thought that they had a plan, and therefore we were just having to scrape away the layers or dig through the dirt and find out what the plan was. Now unfortunately we've gotten a little further in there, and it seems to be all mush. There doesn't seem to be a goal or a plan other than in 2007 we're going to get elected and be the Government of Saskatchewan. Oh, we're here; now what do we do? And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's the fundamental issue that we see across this province.

What we know is that when these people came into government, they had in excess of \$2 billion in the bank. They had increased revenues on an annual basis that would allow them to do many positive things for the people of Saskatchewan. After two years and a little more, we see the government having spent all of that money in the bank. They've spent the surplus revenues that they've had each year. And we ask, well where did the money go?

And, Mr. Speaker, that's a common question we get in the coffee shops — whether it's in Regina or it's out in Porcupine Plain or it's Melfort or wherever — people are saying, well I thought there was a lot of money here. Where did it all go? And, Mr. Speaker, we are asking some pretty hard questions. What's the response of the members opposite, but especially of the Premier of this province? It's to say, we don't want to answer those questions. We want to set up a closure of debate in the legislature. We want to push through with an agenda which doesn't seem to have any rhyme or reason. And we want to ignore the wishes, not only of the opposition, but of the people in Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, people have big questions about this Premier and his ability to manage anything. They have big questions about the team that he's got working with him and the inability that they have shown over the last two years in managing this government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's quite interesting to make some comparisons back to the '80s. What I know from going back and looking at some of the histories of those, of the nine years of the Devine administration was that the types of speeches and the types of questions we, the types of speeches we're giving now and the types of questions we're asking right now in year 2 are the same as the kind of questions that were asked in year 5 and 6 and 7 of the Devine administration.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence of the mismanagement of this government is that they have been able to get to a place of great difficulty in two years where it took those, the administration in the '80s, five or six years. And, Mr. Speaker, that's what the people of Saskatchewan are wondering about. That's what the people are asking. They're saying how did we get here? How

did this happen?

Now, Mr. Speaker, when you end up hiring somebody who's not up to the job, part of your task is to confront yourself and say why did we hire that person. Why did we bring them into this place to run the legislature? And, Mr. Speaker, we're at that point now, where everybody across the province is asking how did we get this whole group of people in government in Saskatchewan?

They said, oh yes there is a boom. This is the comments in the 2007 election. Oh yes, there is a boom, but we are so much better at managing a boom than the NDP government. Well, Mr. Speaker, words are cheap. What the public is expecting is actions, concrete actions about how to do positive things which will improve our society here in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker that's the area where this government has fallen down.

So, what's the response? They start out the session last fall, they don't really know how many Bills they're going to bring in or not — in fact we just got a list of a few of them last week — and so because they don't have a clue, they can't manage the time that's there over quite a number of months. So it's like starting to build a house and you haven't figured out how many two-by-fours you need, how many two-by-sixes, how many sheets of plywood, anything else. You don't have all that. So you're starting to build and all of a sudden you've got a hole. You've got a place where you don't have things that are needed to complete the task.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've been in the situation, since last fall for sure but certainly since we came back now this spring, where the Premier and his team don't seem to know where we're going. And that's why we're here tonight, where we're being asked to work from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on an agenda where they won't even tell us what the agenda will be because they don't understand how a legislature works.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is not the kind of job that you can learn on the fly. This is not the kind of job that the public expects you to do just by freelancing it. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the public's going to tolerate it after November of next year because basically people have learned more than enough already about how difficult it is for these people to actually lay out a plan and set out where we're going to go.

Now I know that governments of all stripes in legislatures across Canada; in state senates, state houses across the United States; in other legislatures in Australia, England, other places that have similar legislatures to what we have here, they all know that when you're in government the legislature is a very important place for the opposition to register their concerns about what you're doing. But it's also a place where they expect that you as government will lay out the plans.

And, Mr. Speaker, if there's any reason why we're in this kind of jam we're in right now, it's because the Premier and the House Leader and those people do not have a clue what that plan is. Or if they have a clue, they don't know how to communicate it. But I think more fundamentally the issue is there is no plan, and there hasn't been one since the election took place.

And, Mr. Speaker, what we here in this particular place and what we in Saskatchewan pride ourselves on, is being practical and being solution-oriented. And we're people who like to solve problems and benefit all the community. To do that we all know that it takes hard work but it takes planning, and it takes clear planning. And, Mr. Speaker, what we have tonight is a perfect example of somebody who is in the midst of a task. They don't know what the task is. They haven't made a plan so therefore they don't know where they are in completing that task, and so we're now stuck with people that are trying to figure out what to do.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I went down to the Globe Theatre and I encourage everybody to go and see Henrik Ibsen's play, *A Doll's House*. One of the things that comes when you're sitting there listening, you think, you know what this play is about. It's about debt and mismanagement. And when you actually listen and think about what it's also about, it's about integrity.

And, Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that I'd like to point out: I'm a lawyer; my colleague from Saskatoon is a lawyer. There's a couple of lawyers on the other side of the House and we have a code of professional conduct which was updated in 2006. And I just want to read a few of the quotes from this particular text because I think it applies not just to the lawyers here but to all of us. First chapter, no. 1, is "Integrity." "The lawyer must discharge with integrity all duties owed to clients, the court or tribunal or other members of the profession and the public."

Integrity is the fundamental quality of any person who seeks to practise as a member of the legal profession. If the client is in any doubt about the lawyer's trustworthiness, the essential element in the lawyer-client relationship will be missing. If personal integrity is lacking, the lawyer's usefulness to the client and reputation within the profession will be destroyed regardless of how competent the lawyer may be.

Then there's rule no. X. That was rule no. 1. Rule no. X is called, "The lawyer in public office."

The lawyer who holds public office should, in the discharge of official duties, adhere to standards of conduct as high as those that these rules require of a lawyer engaged in the practice of law.

#### Guiding Principles

1. The Rule applies to the lawyer who is elected or appointed to legislative or administrative office at any level of government, regardless of whether the lawyer attained such office because of professional qualifications. Because such a lawyer is in the public eye, the legal profession can more readily be brought into disrepute by failure on the lawyer's part to observe its professional standards of conduct.

#### Conflicts of Interest

2. The lawyer who holds public office must not allow personal or other interests to conflict with the proper discharge of official duties. The lawyer holding part-time public office must not accept any private legal business where duty to the client will or may conflict with official duties. If some unforeseen conflict arises, the lawyer

should terminate the professional relationship, explaining to the client that official duties must prevail. The lawyer who holds a full-time public office will not be faced with this sort of conflict, but must nevertheless guard against allowing the lawyer's independent judgement in the discharge of official duties to be influenced by the lawyer's own interest, or by the interests of persons closely related to or associated with the lawyer, or of former or prospective clients, or of former or prospective partners or associates.

[21:15]

And then you go on and there's a clause which relates to avoiding questionable conduct. And it says, "The lawyer should observe the rules of professional conduct set out in the Code in the spirit as well as in the letter." And basically then it goes on to say:

#### Guiding Principles

1. Public confidence in the administration of justice and the legal profession may be eroded by irresponsible conduct on the part of the individual lawyer. For that reason, even the appearance of impropriety should be avoided.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the reason that I read some of these clauses out of this particular *Code of Professional Conduct* is that it does relate to how all of us work and respond. Because in many ways we are hired by the public, all of us, to do the task that has been set out for us. And it's my point, Mr. Speaker, that we have a Premier and we have the people that he has working with him who have not fulfilled their responsibilities to the public in properly setting out a plan for what we should be doing in this province, nor have they properly managed this legislature and provided the information that's required to have this matter go forward.

So what is their response? Their response is to shut down debate. Their response is to override the rules. Their response is to do things which are not appropriate in a situation where you respect the public and you respect the ability of the opposition on behalf of the public to ask the fundamental questions about what's going on in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, we will use all of the time and ability that we have to continue to ask those questions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a simple way of dealing with the mismanagement of time by the government would be to extend the days of the legislature. What we know is that they're not very interested in that because they don't like the hard questions that come in question period each day.

Mr. Speaker, I think if they had a plan, if they knew what they were doing, all those questions wouldn't be that hard. But what makes their day so difficult is they don't have a plan, they don't know where they're going, and the public doesn't know where they're going. Mr. Speaker, I think that it's a sad day when we have things mismanaged so badly.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I enter

into this debate on the closure motion regarding extended hours with a heavy heart and great enthusiasm all at the same time. A heavy heart because this is another bully tactic by this government that we're seeing on a continual basis, but with great enthusiasm because it gives me the opportunity once more to lay out the reasons for why this opposition is going to scrutinize this government in every way, shape, and form to its fullest degree, Mr. Speaker, even if they use these bully tactics against the opposition, Mr. Speaker.

Now this closure motion is . . . This is happening now for the second time in two years. It's the second time that the Sask Party government has put forward changes to the sitting time of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and I find that very interesting in that in the time period that both the Sask Party government, who was then the opposition, and the current opposition, which is the NDP, when they agreed to the hours and the sitting rules of the House and such, Mr. Speaker, they did so with great research and scrutiny at the time that those rules were agreed to.

And I find it very interesting, Mr. Speaker, that in the two and a half years that the Sask Party has come to sit as the Government of Saskatchewan that they are so disorganized and are so mismanaged that they can't get it together to figure out how they're going to get their legislation passed in the time that they want to see it passed, Mr. Speaker. So I find it very interesting that this is the second time, the second time in two years that the Sask Party government has to resort to bully tactics which are just absolutely deplorable anywhere in society, and especially, quite frankly, in the legislature of Saskatchewan, because the legislature of Saskatchewan is where democracy, the ultimate form of democracy is supposed to take place, Mr. Speaker.

This is when the loyal opposition that was elected by the people of this province is supposed to be able to hold the government accountable and make sure that they are fully scrutinized in what they're doing to ensure that what they're doing is in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And the fact that the Sask Party government doesn't want to be open and accountable and transparent is extremely problematic, not just for the opposition, Mr. Speaker, but for the people of Saskatchewan who elected them to the role of government. And they are extremely disappointed with what they have gotten from the Sask Party government in that role, Mr. Speaker. Now the reason they're doing this, as I said, is because the Sask Party government seems to be absolutely incompetent when it comes to managing their own legislative agenda. We see this as recently as last week. We see three Bills introduced last week. We see another five Bills introduced today, Mr. Speaker. Is that a coincidence that we see five Bills introduced today, just a few short weeks away from the end of the session, when they had since the beginning of March to do so? Or better yet, they had last fall to introduce these Bills, Mr. Speaker.

What happened? We saw five new Bills introduced today, which in itself is interesting, because we received a letter from the government last week asking us to sign off on all pieces of legislation to the end of session. And that included these five Bills that we hadn't even seen yet. So they wanted us to sign off carte blanche away the rights of Saskatchewan people to ensure that whatever legislation is being brought forward is legislation

that's in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan, legislation that's fully scrutinized, legislation that the opposition has the opportunity to consult with the stakeholders on. They wanted us to sign away those rights to make sure that they could get their legislation passed by the end of session without the opposition doing its due diligence and its work to ensure that democracy is being fully practised in the province, Mr. Speaker.

So what we have now is a motion, or they're going to call it a motion. I'm going to call it a bully tactic. I'm going to call it a form of — oh, I don't know — dictatorship, where there is a rule breaking, where there is simply, we want this to happen by the government regardless of whether the due diligence has been done, regardless of whether the voices of Saskatchewan people have been heard. They simply want to ram through the legislation at whatever cost, Mr. Speaker, because they don't care, Mr. Speaker. They don't care how that legislation affects people. They don't care how that legislation affects other entities like, for instance, business or the environment or the labour environment in the province or the students that are going to the universities in this province or the students that are attending our elementary schools in this province. They don't care.

And we have good examples of that, Mr. Speaker. We have Regina Catholic school students in the city of Regina that are underfunded \$275 per student in comparison to the public school students in Regina, Mr. Speaker — \$275 per student. In my daughter's school alone, that amounts to 382 students at \$275 a head. I don't think they'd have to worry about cutting teaching assistant positions or other programs or worrying about how they're going to stretch their dollars if they could see that extra funding, Mr. Speaker.

It was brought to the Sask Party's attention, it was brought to the attention of the Minister of Education, and what did the Sask Party and the Minister of Education say? Oh well, oh well, we know there's a funding discrepancy. But is the Sask Party government going to change it? Are they going to do anything about that, Mr. Speaker? No, not at all. Why? Because obviously they don't care. It's that simple, Mr. Speaker.

So again we get back to the issue of the judgment and the trust of a Premier and the lack thereof, Mr. Speaker. There is poor judgment by the Premier in the decisions that have been made so far and unfortunately that leads to a lack of trust, Mr. Speaker.

And we can look at a few different issues. Where is the judgment of the Premier and the Sask Party government when it comes to impeding another political party from participating in the democracy of this province, Mr. Speaker? Where is that Premier? Why isn't he speaking to that, Mr. Speaker? Why isn't he speaking to the fact that his name is implicated in the withholding of those funds, Mr. Speaker? Why is that?

Why is this Premier and that Sask Party government changing the rules of accounting in this budget, Mr. Speaker? Why is that? We're seeing the fact that they're going to be suffering another deficit. We see the fact that they are overspending compared to the amount of money that's coming into this province. We're seeing the fact that there is underfunding in

critical areas such as, for instance, education and health, Mr. Speaker. And why is it that, when all that's going on, they're changing the rules of accounting? To be able to hide what's going on, Mr. Speaker.

The issue of open and openness and transparency and accountability is absolutely out the window with the Sask Party government, and it's extremely disconcerting, Mr. Speaker, extremely disconcerting. And why is that? Because this is the *modus operandi* of a Tory government, Mr. Speaker. That's what it is. That's what it is.

And if we look at *The Globe and Mail*, Mr. Speaker, from as recently as April 14 . . . and I found this very interesting, Mr. Speaker. *The Globe and Mail* wrote an article about access to information, Mr. Speaker, and the title of it is: "Delays, denials and deadlock: Ottawa's trouble with disclosure." It says the "Information watchdog fears citizens' right to information from government is on the brink of being 'totally obliterated.'" Those are the words on the front page of *The Globe and Mail* about the Harper Tories and their lack of accountability and their lack of transparency. And what we're seeing, Mr. Speaker, is we've got the same, if not worse, situation happening in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at that article, Mr. Speaker, what do we see? We see that a few agencies are getting a D, Mr. Speaker. Now a D leaves room for hope because, well, they haven't quite, you know, flunked out yet. But then we see another four agencies have an F, Mr. Speaker. They have an F. So if you look at report cards, you know a D is not good, but an F, you're flunking out. It's really bad. But as if that weren't bad enough, Mr. Speaker, as if that weren't bad enough, we have an agency with the federal government that is under red alert, Mr. Speaker. They're calling it red alert because it's off the charts. It's worse than an F. And quite frankly, if we had to grade the Sask Party government, it would be a red alert for the Sask Party government.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's look at why the Sask Party government doesn't want to sit the extra days that are going, that are potentially going to be needed to pass the legislation that they didn't take into account appropriately in terms of the timing of the session. They introduced eight pieces of legislation within the last week, Mr. Speaker. That's poor management, and the only people that are to blame for that are the Sask Party government. Not the opposition, not the people of Saskatchewan — it's the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. They're to blame about the fact that they can't manage the schedule of the House, Mr. Speaker.

So, they're saying trust us. They're saying to the opposition and the people of Saskatchewan, just pass our legislation. Trust us. Well here's a problem with the word trust in conjunction with that Premier and the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, this is talking to the characteristics and behaviours of the Sask Party government under the leadership and direction of that Premier, Mr. Speaker. It amounts to bullying tactics, and it amounts to a form of dictatorship, Mr. Speaker. So they say trust us. Well let's look at what people have been able to use as an example of trust so far.

The Premier and his Sask Party cohorts say don't worry; we're not going to bring forward essential services legislation, before the last election. What happened? Within 30 days after the last election, they bring forward essential services legislation. And that flew directly in the face of all the people they told . . . what they felt it was not necessary. The Minister of Health himself said it isn't necessary in this province because we're not seeing disputes and major disputes of an ongoing nature, and so therefore we don't feel it is necessary to bring forward essential services legislation. Within 30 days of being elected, that's exactly what they did. What they're saying to us now and the Saskatchewan people — trust us.

The other thing they're looking at is . . . let's look at the last platform of the Sask Party — climate change. They promised stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. They promised 32 per cent reduction by 2020, and they promised more than that, Mr. Speaker. But you know what they're giving Saskatchewan people? They're giving the Saskatchewan people, not just less; they're giving them nothing so far. Two and a half years in government and Saskatchewan people are seeing nothing on the greenhouse gas reduction front in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So again they say trust us. But what have we got to base that trust on? Absolutely nothing. They say to the chiropractic providers in the province, they say you know what? Trust us. We're not going to delist your service. We're going to negotiate a contract with you, and all's going to be well. They tell a chiropractor from Prince Albert at the Premier's golf tournament, the Premier himself said, trust me, we're not going to delist you. What happens, Mr. Speaker, in the budget? The chiropractor services in this province were delisted. The Premier was disingenuous at best, Mr. Speaker, disingenuous.

So, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Sask Party government, under the leadership and direction of the Premier, is disingenuous. We see the hypocrisy of this Premier and the Sask party government, and we see poor judgment and a complete and absolute lack of trust.

Now that trust, Mr. Speaker, extends far, far, far into the area of trust and respect for the First Nations people and the Métis people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing an absolute disrespect, mistrust, Mr. Speaker, for the First Nations and Métis people. We see that in bringing forward cuts to the budget that were never previously discussed or consulted upon, Mr. Speaker.

We see, for instance, changes to tobacco purchasing rights, Mr. Speaker, which is an inherent right to the First Nations people of the country, Mr. Speaker. So we see that the Sask Party government decides to make changes without any previous consultation. But who does the Premier talk to about those changes just a few days prior to the budget? He talks to the chamber of commerce about that. He muses about that to the chamber of commerce. Did he make any musings about that to the people that it was going to affect, who have inherent treaty rights, Mr. Speaker? No he did not, Mr. Speaker. It was the ultimate lack of respect, ultimate lack of respect.

What happened to, for instance, a round table partnership with

the FSIN and the Ministry of Environment, Mr. Speaker? What happened to that? You know what happened? Let me read you a quote from a letter from Vice-chief Lyle Whitefish to Minister Heppner which was, by the way, cc'd to the Premier. So the Premier is well aware, is well aware of what's contained in this letter. So, Mr. Speaker, here is the quote, and this is from March 30th which was only six days after the budget was delivered:

This is in response to the telephone conversation I had with Elizabeth Quarshie, deputy minister of Environment on March 24th, 2010. On this date, Ms. Quarshie advised me that the Ministry of Environment would be terminating funding to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations under the FSIN-Ministry of Environment partnership agreement.

And continuing on with another quote, "Firstly I must express serious concern that you did not provide due consideration and respect to my office by contacting me personally to discuss this decision prior to such a decision being made." As you can see, Mr. Speaker, again no consultation, no discussion, the ultimate lack of respect, poor judgment by the Premier, poor judgment by the Premier, and therefore a complete lack of trust by people in this province that he is a man of his word, Mr. Speaker.

The letter goes on to state,

My previous experience in working with provincial ministers and ministries has been very different than what has occurred in this situation. I am therefore dismayed with your ministry's actions which brings into question whether First Nations can trust the Ministry of Environment to live up to its commitments.

So you have here, Mr. Speaker, you have it in black and white. The FSIN is now saying that they have difficulty trusting the Minister of Environment, trusting that Premier because there has been no consultation. There hasn't been any dialogue and therefore the trust is broken, Mr. Speaker. The trust is broken.

Further on in this letter it says, "This is illustrated in the unilateral action to terminate a 16-year relationship." Unilateral action, Mr. Speaker. And if you look up the word dictatorship in the dictionary, you'll find the description is unilateral action, Mr. Speaker. So when this Sask Party government and this Premier is referred to as a form of dictatorship, it is bang on the money, Mr. Speaker, bang on.

So, Mr. Speaker, we go on to see there are so many things to talk about, that it's difficult to know where to touch on next, given that I have few precious minutes left.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the due diligence that the opposition is doing to ensure that all the Bills are properly scrutinized, that all the stakeholders that would be affected by those Bills have been reached, have been consulted with, a word that I understand the Sask Party has great difficulty with, that the Premier obviously has great difficulty with given that they don't actually put it into practice . . . But we in the opposition do believe in consultations, Mr. Speaker. And we believe in making sure that those consultations are done in conjunction with any of the Bills that are being forward, to ensure that due diligence is being practised, Mr. Speaker.

So when we look at that, Mr. Speaker, we look at the fact that when they do these types of things in terms of moving this motion to have the unreasonable sitting hours, Mr. Speaker, the working hours are not the issue, Mr. Speaker. Everyone on the opposition caucus works these hours or more anyways, Mr. Speaker. All you have to do is check the front log at the Sergeant-at-Arms' door and see when we sign out, Mr. Speaker. We sign out considerably later than the members of the Sask Party government do, Mr. Speaker. We are here well working into wee hours of the morning to ensure that we are doing the proper scrutiny that needs to be done.

So we don't have a problem with the hours that we're going to be in the legislature. What we have a problem with, Mr. Speaker, is the hours that the Sask Party government and that Premier wants us to sit in this Chamber because it prevents us from doing the due diligence that we are supposed to be doing as the elected members of the opposition in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That's what we have issue with, Mr. Speaker. So as I said, we get back to the whole issue of we have a government and a Premier that are exercising poor judgment and cannot be trusted because of that, Mr. Speaker.

Now we ask questions in the Chamber. We submit written questions. We see questions that are directed to the government and the Premier through letters and emails to ministers. And what are the answers? There are no answers, Mr. Speaker. People receiving responses, we receive responses but we're not receiving answers. There is no accountability, no transparency by this government, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we're saying we may need to see an extension of sitting days. We're not opposed to that, Mr. Speaker, but the extension of hours is an absolute abdication of democracy, Mr. Speaker. That's what it is, Mr. Speaker. It is a dictatorship.

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am somewhat, I guess, ashamed that I have to stand tonight and speak to a motion to amend the rules or change the rules in our Assembly — rules which we all agree to, rules which we all undertook to live by, rules that members of this Assembly should believe in, rules that should govern how we conduct our business.

Mr. Speaker we undertook in this Assembly about four years ago some significant rule changes, and those rules are printed in a book called *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. Mr. Speaker, we undertook to put in place the legislative calendar, a calendar which we all agreed to. Mr. Speaker, if we can't live within the rules that we have created, Mr. Speaker, the rules that we all agreed to, then we should jointly change the rules to make them work. Mr. Speaker, to unilaterally change rules, to unilaterally change rules, Mr. Speaker, says that this House cannot work, that this House will not work, and that we have a government that will use its power. We have a government that will use its power to abuse the minority, that the majority will use its power to abuse the minority, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to quote. I want to quote a few things from the rules, Mr. Speaker, because I think the people of the

province of Saskatchewan have a right to understand what the rules say. Mr. Speaker, “Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly or its rules, sitting days shall be in accordance with the parliamentary calendar of two periods as defined by this rule.” So, Mr. Speaker, according to the rules, we established a parliamentary calendar. We’ve established that parliamentary calendar. It goes on to say, it goes on to say, Mr. Speaker, that:

The ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the [Legislative] Assembly shall be as follows:

Monday: 1:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. (with recess between 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.)

Tuesday: 1:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. (with recess between 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we have defined the rules of when we should sit. We have defined a calendar of days in which we shall sit. Those were defined by joint agreement. They were agreed to by all the members, all 58 members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and then we should live, we should live by those rules. If we agree to a set of rules, Mr. Speaker, in life, we should live by those rules.

Mr. Speaker, what we see today is a government who cannot live by its rules. This government, in two years — each year, each year, Mr. Speaker — has had to extend the hours unilaterally in order, in order, Mr. Speaker, to believe, and I say to believe, they could get their work done, Mr. Speaker.

Because, Mr. Speaker, we saw in 2008 the hours extended. It lasted about three days, if it even lasted three days. And then for 10 days at the end of the session, we were going home early, two or three hours a day because the government couldn’t manage its workload in 2008, Mr. Speaker. And it did the same thing. It passed a motion to extend the hours and then didn’t need the time.

Mr. Speaker, we have consistently, Mr. Speaker, we consistently then and we have consistently now told them that they don’t need to extend the hours to get their work done. Been absolutely consistent in telling them they do not need to extend the hours, Mr. Speaker, that if they’re organized, if they know what they’re doing, and if they work with the opposition, the work will get done in the normal hours, Mr. Speaker. Been absolutely consistent telling them that the work will get done.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, in 2008 they had to extend the hours. In 2010 they have to extend the hours, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the member from Canora can yell from his chair, the member from Canora, the Deputy Premier can yell from his chair but, Mr. Speaker, if he wants to get in the debate, he should get in the debate. He shouldn’t be yelling from his chair when somebody else has the floor because, Mr. Speaker, he shows day after day he doesn’t respect the rules of this Assembly. Now, Mr. Speaker, if he doesn’t respect the rules of the Assembly, there’s no wonder he cannot get an arrangement in order to get their work done, Mr. Speaker. Because he is the deputy leader of the Saskatchewan Party, and he cannot even sit

in his seat, Mr. Speaker, and follow the rules.

[21:45]

But, Mr. Speaker, why are we, why are we in the situation we are, Mr. Speaker? Well I’ll tell you exactly why we’re in this situation. We have a government that can’t manage its financial affairs, Mr. Speaker. We have a government that cannot manage its legislative affairs, Mr. Speaker.

So what do we have, Mr. Government? We have a government that couldn’t manage a two-car parade, or quite frankly a two-household paper route. Even if the two households were side by side, they’d get lost in between, Mr. Speaker. They’d get lost in between the two-house paper route, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, it’s really quite unfortunate that the members of the government who can’t manage their legislative agenda that we have told repeatedly would get done within the normal work time, Mr. Speaker. We have passed Bills as they’ve come forward, Mr. Speaker. We’ve moved a number of Bills through the various stages of hearing, Mr. Speaker — second reading into committee and passed. And there are a number of Bills waiting for Royal Assent, Mr. Speaker.

And if we were today doing Bills rather than wasting our time on this debate, Mr. Speaker, a number of other Bills would have moved forward. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have a government who wants to, a government who wants to exert their authority and try to bully an opposition that won’t be bullied.

Mr. Speaker, me and my, our colleagues, my colleagues on this side of the House are not going to be bullied by a government, we’re not going to be bullied by a government that thinks that they can push around the official opposition. So my colleagues and I, my colleagues and I will stand firm and tell the government, and in particular . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I’d ask the members to allow the member from Regina Dewdney to continue his speech uninterrupted. The member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, the member from Canora-Pelly can yell from his seat all he wants, but my colleagues and I are going to continue to try to get him and others to learn, learn as we hoped they would learn after 2008 when they extended the hours and a mere three days later we ran out of work, Mr. Speaker. And we ran out of work. He can continue to yell, Mr. Speaker, but he should just follow the rules, Mr. Speaker. And if he wants to speak, get up when it is his turn.

Mr. Speaker, if they simply lived by the rules, all the work would get completed by the 20th of May, the last day of the session, Mr. Speaker. So now they’re going to extend the hours, and they’re going to play the bully role, Mr. Speaker, and try to push around the official opposition. Well, Mr. Speaker, we can’t allow that to happen.

In a democracy it’s the role of the opposition to safeguard the

rights of the population, Mr. Speaker, to represent the people and ensure that the government is held accountable for what it's bringing forward, that due diligence is done, and legislation is properly scrutinized and the questions are asked, the questions that need to be asked.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've got, we've got an Environment minister today who's bringing forward Bills, Mr. Speaker, that we go out and talk to the stakeholders in the environmental community, and they're astounded because she's never talked to them. They've never consulted them, Mr. Speaker. And we have significant legislation brought forward by an Environment minister who hasn't consulted with the environmental community, hasn't consulted with stakeholders throughout the province, and she wants us to pass the Bills, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a minute about how much time has been spent on some of these Bills. Those who understand the rules of our Legislative Assembly know, know that 20 hours can be spent on a particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. But I want to point out that we have *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act* there's only been 32 minutes spent on. Mr. Speaker, on the Doukhobor trust Bill, 59 minutes; on *The SaskEnergy Amendment Act*, 31 minutes. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Bills that have barely been touched, that there's been barely any discussion at all about, and the government wants us to unilaterally sign an agreement that we will pass every piece of legislation before we even got to see their budget Bills, before we even got to see their budget Bills, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have *The Financial Administration Act, 2009*. It's got 18 minutes of debate. It's introduced by the minister and a single speaker. We have several other Bills, Mr. Speaker, very, very substantial Bills, Mr. Speaker, with just a very short period of time having been spent on them.

Mr. Speaker, we have *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act* that significantly transforms the forest industry, Mr. Speaker, into the future and there's been an hour and 27 minutes spent on it. The enforcement of money judgments amendment Act, 2009 there's been 24 minutes spent on. Mr. Speaker, *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2009* there's 25 minutes spent on, Mr. Speaker.

These are Bills that the government wants us to pass without having done proper and due diligence. And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, this week we have eight new Bills we haven't yet seen. Eight new Bills that we have not yet seen, Mr. Speaker, introduced this week.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we need to have an understanding of how this House should operate, Mr. Speaker. They come, four weeks left in the session, and they want to deal. They want an ironclad deal that everything's going to pass without even having seen the budget Bill. And then every day they've asked for a deal. They want a deal. They want a deal. They want a deal, Mr. Speaker. Well why don't we just concentrate on getting the work done? Why don't we just concentrate on getting the work done?

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's been individual ministers that have brought forward good, good public policy, good pieces of

legislation late, Mr. Speaker. In the last day, two or three days, they've said to us that they have some amendments to legislation that they'd like brought forward, Mr. Speaker. And we've had some ministers bring forward the reasons why they want them passed, and they provided additional information, Mr. Speaker. And you know why, Mr. Speaker? Because it is good public policy, and because it is good legislation, Mr. Speaker, those Bills will pass.

Mr. Speaker, no opposition wants to hold up important public policy and important legislation to the people of the province. We're not here to hold up legislation. We're here to make sure that the legislation passed is good legislation and that it's in the public interest, Mr. Speaker. And when you want to work with us, you'll get co-operation. When you want to work against us, you won't, Mr. Speaker. That's common sense. It's common sense. If you want to work with us, you'll get co-operation. You want to work against us, you won't get co-operation, Mr. Speaker.

But having said that, every day for the last 10 days or so the media have asked, what's happening? And, Mr. Speaker, it was repeatedly said that the work will get done, repeatedly said that the Bills will pass, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the government deputy leader can once again yell from his seat and show that he hasn't any respect for the rules and show that he doesn't know what should be done in a situation like this and show that co-operation isn't important to him, Mr. Speaker. But to the people of Saskatchewan, they understand that in order for this House to function properly, there needs to be co-operation. There needs to be the ability to work together, Mr. Speaker.

But part of the problem is, Mr. Speaker, is who is in charge over there? When we have the absence of the Premier, Mr. Speaker, it seems that nothing can be done over there. There is nobody in charge. It's obviously a one-person show, Mr. Speaker. And not a very effective show at all because, as I would like to recap, they can't manage the province's finances, they can't manage the province's legislative agenda, Mr. Speaker. And they can't manage a two-car parade, or for that matter a two-house paper route, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate. It's unfortunate that they haven't taken the time to want to work in a co-operative manner with the opposition. Rather than bring in a deal and say, you have to sign it or we're going to extended hours, Mr. Speaker, they could have just continued to work. I asked the Government House Leader just to continue to work and he'll see that things will get done. Just continue to work. Let the work get done. We're here to get the work done. We're all here to work on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we're going to have a situation again where we have about four weeks left and we're going to run out of work. And we're going to be laughing at the government again who can't manage their affairs well enough, Mr. Speaker, not to run out of work before the end. They did that in 2008, Mr. Speaker, and they're going to do it in 2010.

And it's unfortunate that they cannot manage their affairs better and manage the work in a way that both allows members of this

Assembly to work within the rules of the Assembly, but also the negative effects it has on stakeholders and others who . . . Consultations may not be done, be able to be done in a forthright manner and as upfront as they may otherwise have been done, but also how it affects the stakeholders who may want to come and watch question period, Mr. Speaker, may want to be here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that the Premier hasn't shown leadership. When you have this type of problem not once but twice, twice in two years, there's only one person responsible and that's the Premier. The Premier needs to be held accountable for his lack of leadership, his lack of judgment, and lack of ability to move his agenda forward. This isn't about anybody but the Premier. It has to be about the Premier because he's the man in charge. He appoints the House Leader. He appoints his deputy leader. He appoints his cabinet. And, Mr. Speaker, if they can't get it done, then he hasn't done his job.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, the Premier has to be held accountable for changing the rules twice in two years and an inability to manage the province's finances and inability to manage the province's legislative agenda, Mr. Speaker, and, I'd have to say, a lack of concern for the seriousness of the issue of changing the rules, Mr. Speaker, because if he took the seriousness that this change of rules represents, Mr. Speaker, he would have, an hour or two ago, changed his mind, Mr. Speaker. And he would urge his members to agree to the opposition amendment that is a common sense amendment, a common sense amendment, one that makes sense, one that they should be able to agree to, an amendment that says until they feel comfortable, if they're insecure — because we can't deal with their insecurity, Mr. Speaker — but if they're insecure and if the leader can't show, Mr. Speaker, if the leader cannot show them that there is a path forward, Mr. Speaker, then we have made a common sense amendment that would say let's sit from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with an hour off for lunch or an hour and a half off for the lunch period from 12 noon to 1:30, and two hours from 5 to 7 for a supper break, Mr. Speaker, and question period at 1:30 each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, it is a common sense amendment. It gives them a couple additional hours a day. It should make them comfortable, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know how many times we have to tell them that their legislation will go forward, Mr. Speaker. I don't mean to diminish what they're saying and what they put forward, Mr. Speaker, but there's not a whole lot in a lot of their legislation, Mr. Speaker. There is not a whole lot of substance in a lot of this legislation. They're too busy cutting services to the people of the province of Saskatchewan and not spending enough time moving forward with a progressive, a progressive legislative agenda, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, that boils down to leadership. And once again, we call upon the Premier to live by the rules which he agreed to, live by the rules by which his caucus agreed to, Mr. Speaker. Throw out this silly motion. Throw out their silly motion, Mr. Speaker, or at the very least, very least, Mr. Speaker, to agree to the thoughtful, considerate amendment put forward by the official opposition that is trying to deal with

their insecurity and trying to deal with their inability to manage their own affairs, Mr. Speaker.

We're trying to help them, Mr. Speaker. We're trying to help them learn, Mr. Speaker, but that takes leadership from the Premier. We hope he steps up to the plate, tells his members tonight to support the amendment put forward by the official opposition, Mr. Speaker, and do it . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the amendment brought forward by the member from The Battlefords:

That all words in clauses 1 and 2 and clauses 3 and 4 be deleted and be replaced with the following:

1. Notwithstanding Rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be at 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a recess from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Thursday, the Assembly shall sit from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Routine proceedings under rule 14(2) be at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

Is the Assembly ready to hear the question? Are you in agreement with the motion presented?

[22:00]

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the nays have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 22:00 until 22:03.]

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the amendment, please rise.

[Yeas — 20]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Harper	Trew	Higgins
Junor	Atkinson	Nilson
Forbes	Vermette	Broten
Furber	Morin	Yates



Iwanchuk	Taylor	Quennell
Wotherspoon	Chartier	

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the amendment please rise.

[Nays — 27]

Morgan	Krawetz	McMorris
Cheveldayoff	Duncan	Huyghebaert
Heppner	D'Autremont	Harrison
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Hart	Schriemer
Stewart	Allchurch	Weekes
Tell	Wilson	Hickie
Michelson	Ottenbreit	Ross
Chisholm	Kirsch	McMillan

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 20; those opposed, 27.

**The Speaker:** — The amendment is defeated. The motion before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Deputy Government House Leader. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Cannington, the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that I have to rise today to speak on a motion, on a motion, Mr. Speaker . . . [interjections] . . . I'm glad I have an audience on the opposite side, Mr. Speaker, that shares the enthusiasm at this late hour of the evening, Mr. Speaker, and it's unfortunate that we have to move a motion to extend the time that we sit.

Mr. Speaker, that happens because the members opposite have indicated to me, in conversations with the House Leader, that they are not prepared to move forward on any of our environment legislation, Mr. Speaker. The word I had from the Leader of the Opposition . . . not the Leader of the Opposition, the House Leader of the Opposition, who perhaps has not been in conversations with his own leader . . . that I don't know, Mr. Speaker. But that last week they were not prepared to move forward on any of our environmental legislation, Mr. Speaker, and that is indeed shameful.

The fact is, last Thursday the Leader of the Opposition from his seat is hollering to us, bring forward your CO<sub>2</sub> Bill and we'll vote it and pass it right now. Mr. Speaker, that's what he said. So I stood up and move, asked for leave to move to that particular Bill so they could pass it. No. They refused to allow that to go forward. We hear the member . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I recognize the member from Cannington, the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And we hear the member from Regina Walsh Acres continually talk about the fact that CO<sub>2</sub> legislation hasn't passed in this House, Mr. Speaker, in two and a half years that we have been government. But in 16 years that they were government, they did absolutely nothing.

We have a Bill on the order paper, Mr. Speaker, which the opposition is refusing to allow to move ahead. We also have a number of other environment Bills, Mr. Speaker, that they are refusing to allow ahead, Mr. Speaker. And why? Simply to be obstructionist, Mr. Speaker, and, according to the Opposition House Leader, to try and blackmail the government into rehiring an employee that was dismissed by Corrections and Public Safety by the deputy minister in charge there, Mr. Speaker, not . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I would ask members to choose their words wisely and, any words that would be impugning the character of other members, to refrain from using those words. I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite continuously say that the government is attempting to bully them into voting for all of our legislation, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 2007 the public voted the members on this side, on the government side, to allow for them to bring forward legislation to be voted, Mr. Speaker. We're not asking the members of the opposition, Mr. Speaker, to pass our legislation. We're asking them to allow the legislation to come to a vote, Mr. Speaker, and they're refusing to allow that to happen.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've listened very carefully to their vacuous debate, Mr. Speaker, that had very, very flawed logic in it. Every time I talk to the Opposition House Leader, Mr. Speaker, the Opposition House Leader, I get a different response. There is no consistency in the response I get through him. I ask him, what is it that will help to move our legislation forward, Mr. Speaker? And one time it's one thing that he wants, and one time it's another thing. And the third time he doesn't have a request. He just doesn't want our legislation to pass, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have to look at what we have to do to move this forward, Mr. Speaker, to give an opportunity for the people of Saskatchewan to have a vote on our legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And I think back to times in the past when I was sitting on the opposition benches and the Leader of the Official Opposition at the time, Mr. Speaker, was the House leader. And at that point in time, he brought in closure on debate time after time after time, Mr. Speaker. And fact is, I even have a quote from him from 1993, Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Official Opposition was . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I realize a lot of members want end to the debate, but I would ask members to allow the member from Cannington to respond in the same manner that the opposition members had the opportunity to speak while they were speaking to the motion. I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and I'll quote from the Leader of the Official Opposition in 1993 when he was the House leader, and I quote:

I would make the argument, a much more legitimate argument if you're worried about getting the work of the people done, to extend the hours in order to accomplish the will of the government which is duly elected by the people of the province. That's a fundamental principle that should be allowed in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, that was the Leader of the Official Opposition. And now he has a different tune, Mr. Speaker. Well I'd . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — That was before the agreed upon rules of consent.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Oh yes. The member from Regina Walsh Acres says that was then; this is now. You know, we can't be held to our past performances, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member from Walsh Acres has had her time to have a say, but now she wants to take up everybody else's time as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, you know, in listening to the debate from the members opposite, it was very, very repetitive . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The member from Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was very, very repetitive, largely unrelated to the motion. They were simply using up oxygen and putting out CO<sub>2</sub>, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite talk about consultation, Mr. Speaker. They're always saying there was no consultation. And yet, Mr. Speaker, those few times that we have managed to make it into committee, Mr. Speaker, they then praise the consultation that took place.

The Minister for Municipal Affairs, during his estimates I believe it was, debate at the time . . . No it was the Bills on cities, northern municipalities, and the rural municipalities. They were praising the amount of consultation that was done. And yet in the House here, they tell a completely different story, Mr. Speaker, completely different story. It's one story in committee, a completely different story, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to debate.

You know, when you look at the amount of time that we have, Mr. Speaker, to carry on the debates, 40 of the Bills that are and were before this House, Mr. Speaker, were presented last fall. The members opposite have had six months to study these Bills, to talk to the stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, to go around the province and talk to everybody and anybody they wanted to.

Mr. Speaker, there are six Bills, there are six Bills that are budget-related Bills, Mr. Speaker, that can only be presented after the budget debate has been completed, and that's just a week ago, Mr. Speaker.

There were two additional Bills presented by ministers, Mr.

Speaker, that they're in consultation with the members of the opposition as to whether or not those Bills can have passage. Because they're unspecified Bills, Mr. Speaker, it's up to those ministers to negotiate whether or not they can get that through.

So 40 of the Bills, Mr. Speaker, half of which the members opposite are holding up, Mr. Speaker, were presented six months ago. So, Mr. Speaker, if they haven't done their homework that's the fault of the official opposition, not the government's fault.

So, Mr. Speaker, we wish to give the members opposite the maximum amount of time possible for them to carry on debate, for them to carry on consideration in estimates, to carry on the consideration of Bills in committee, Mr. Speaker. To that end we have presented this motion, Mr. Speaker, to extend the clock for every day.

[22:15]

I would like to move an amendment to that motion, Mr. Speaker, that makes it clearer when routine proceedings will take place in the House. So I would move, Mr. Speaker:

That the motion be amended by deleting clauses 1 through 6 and the following be substituted in its place:

1. Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday shall be 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

2. Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Thursday shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.;

3. Notwithstanding rule 14, the order of business considered by the Assembly on Monday, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be as follows:

- (a) Government orders from 8 a.m. to 12 noon;
- (b) Routine proceedings commencing at 1:30 p.m. to be followed by the order of business as specified by rule 14(3) until the adjournment of the sitting;

4. Notwithstanding rule 14, the order of business considered by the Assembly on Thursday shall be as follows:

- (a) Government orders from 8 a.m. to 12 noon;
- (b) Routine proceedings commencing at 1:30 p.m. to be followed by the order of business as specified by rule 14(3) for Thursday, concluding at 4:30 p.m.
- (c) Government orders resuming at 6 p.m. until the adjournment of the sitting;

5. Standing committees shall meet and adjourn at the following times when convened:

- (a) Monday, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be at 8

a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

(b) On Thursdays shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.;

(c) On Friday shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

6. Standing committees may convene and meet at other times in accordance with the regular provisions of the *Rules and Proceedings*;

7. By order, the Assembly and standing committees may adjourn earlier than the adjourned times specified by the sessional order; and further

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the amendment presented to the motion by the member from Cannington. Will the members take it as read?

[Interjections]

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

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

**The Speaker:** — I ask the member to state his point of order.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, the motion before us is substantially different than the motion that was originally before the House. The amendment adds a day — in fact on Friday, Mr. Speaker — that was not mentioned in the previous motion. It has considerable change to it, Mr. Speaker, and therefore the motion should be ruled out of order.

If the intent was, Mr. Speaker, to have this motion before the House, Mr. Speaker, they should have in fact, Mr. Speaker, moved a new motion before the House prior to the debate, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Excuse me. I'd just like the House to give me a second just to ponder the point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader.

Order. I've listened to the point of order and in seeking guidance and looking at *Erskine May*, we note that amendments may be classified into three types, and one is to insert or to add certain words as long as the amendments . . . on page 400, fundamental to the rules are relevant to the question. So I find the point of order not well taken.

The question before the Assembly is the amendment presented by the member from Cannington. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. The motion carries.

Why is the member from Regina Dewdney on his feet?

**Mr. Yates:** — Point of order.

**The Speaker:** — The member may state his point of order.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, we just had you rule that the motion was in order. Would that full motion now not be debatable?

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I clearly heard Mr. Speaker call the question on the amendment, Mr. Speaker. The members of the opposition were hollering and screaming, Mr. Speaker. I'm afraid if they can't listen to what the Speaker has to say — exactly as they're doing now, Mr. Speaker — it's their failure. The question was called. The question was voted. It was voted in the affirmative, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. When the Speaker ruled on the point of order, the Speaker placed the question. The Speaker heard no opposition to the question. The Speaker called for the motion to be voted on and the government members voted . . . Just give me one second. Give me one second.

Order. Given the point of order and the Speaker's response to the point of order . . . I ruled the point of order all out of order. I called the vote. And the only member, based on the motion for closure, that could speak . . . There's only one further member that would be allowed. There's one other member outside of any government members who could speak to the question under the closure motion.

So the question before the Assembly is the amendment presented by the member from Cannington, the Government House Leader, regarding an amendment to the motion presented by the government regarding extended hours. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 22:28 to 22:58.]

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the amendment presented by the Government House Leader. All

those in favour of the amendment, please rise.

**[Yeas — 27]**

Morgan	Krawetz	McMorris
Cheveldayoff	Duncan	Huyghebaert
Heppner	D'Autremont	Harrison
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Hart	Schriemer
Stewart	Allchurch	Weekes
Tell	Wilson	Hickie
Michelson	Ottenbreit	Ross
Chisholm	Kirsch	McMillan

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the amendment, please rise.

[23:00]

**[Nays — 20]**

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Harper	Trew	Higgins
Junor	Atkinson	Nilson
Forbes	Vermette	Broten
Furber	Morin	Yates
Iwanchuk	Taylor	Quennell
Wotherspoon	Chartier	

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 27; those opposed, 20.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The amendment carries. The motion before the Assembly is the motion as amended.

That the rules and procedures for the sitting times of the Assembly and the sitting times for standing committees shall be varied on an interim basis for the remainder of the spring session of the spring period of the third session of the twenty-sixth legislature as follows:

1. Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourned at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

2. Notwithstanding rule 6(1), the ordinary times for the daily meetings and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly on Thursdays shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and

3. Notwithstanding rule 14, the order of business considered by the Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be as follows:

- (a) Government orders from 8 a.m. to 12 noon;
- (b) Routine proceedings commencing at 1:30 p.m. to be followed by the order of business as specified by rule 14(3) until the adjournment of the sitting;

4. Notwithstanding rule 14, the order of business considered by the Assembly on Thursdays shall be as follows:

- (a) Government orders from 8 a.m. to 12 noon;
- (b) Routine proceedings commencing at 1:30 p.m. to be followed by the order of business as specified by rule 14(3) for Thursday, concluding at 4:30 p.m.;
- (c) Government orders resuming at 6 p.m. until the adjournment of the sitting;

5. Standing committees shall meet and adjourn at the following times when convened:

- (a) Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and
- (b) On Thursday shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and
- (c) On Friday shall be at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 midnight, with a recess from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.;

6. Standing committees may convene and meet at other times in accordance with the regular provisions of the *Rules and Procedures*;

7. By order, the Assembly and standing committees may adjourn earlier than the adjournment times specified by the sessional order; and further

That the provisions of this sessional order shall come into effect the sitting day of its adoption and shall expire upon the adjournment of the Assembly on the sitting day preceding the completion day of the third session of the twenty-sixth Legislature.

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.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 23:03 until 23:32.]

**The Speaker:** — Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion put forward by the Deputy Government House

Leader as amended. Would those in favour of the motion as amended, would they please rise.

[Yeas — 27]

Morgan	Krawetz	McMorris
Cheveldayoff	Duncan	Huyghebaert
Heppner	D'Autremont	Harrison
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Hart	Schriemer
Stewart	Allchurch	Weekes
Tell	Wilson	Hickie
Michelson	Ottenbreit	Ross
Chisholm	Kirsch	McMillan

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 20]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Harper	Trew	Higgins
Junor	Atkinson	Nilson
Forbes	Vermette	Brotten
Furber	Morin	Yates
Iwanchuk	Taylor	Quennell
Wotherspoon	Chartier	

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion as amended, 27; those opposed, 20.

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries. The debate in the . . . Order. Debate in the Assembly will continue subject to provision of the motion just passed.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would move the House adjourn.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that motion.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order. Order. Order. I believe we had a motion on the floor that the House do now adjourn. We have to vote on the motion. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to withdraw the . . . Is it the pleasure of the Assembly that the House do now adjourn?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed? Those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it. Standing vote. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 23:36 until 23:46.]

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Government House Leader that this Assembly do now adjourn. Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[YEAS — 27]

Morgan	Krawetz	McMorris
Cheveldayoff	Duncan	Huyghebaert
Heppner		

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order.

D'Autremont	Harrison	Norris
Reiter	Hutchinson	Brkich
Hart	Schriemer	Stewart
Allchurch	Weekes	Tell
Wilson	Hickie	Michelson
Ottenbreit	Ross	Chisholm
Kirsch	McMillan	

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[NAYS — 20]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Harper	Trew	Higgins
Junor	Atkinson	Nilson
Forbes	Vermette	Brotten
Furber	Morin	Yates
Iwanchuk	Taylor	Quennell
Wotherspoon	Chartier	

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 27; those opposed, 20.

**The Speaker:** — The motion carries. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 8 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 23:49.]

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