



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

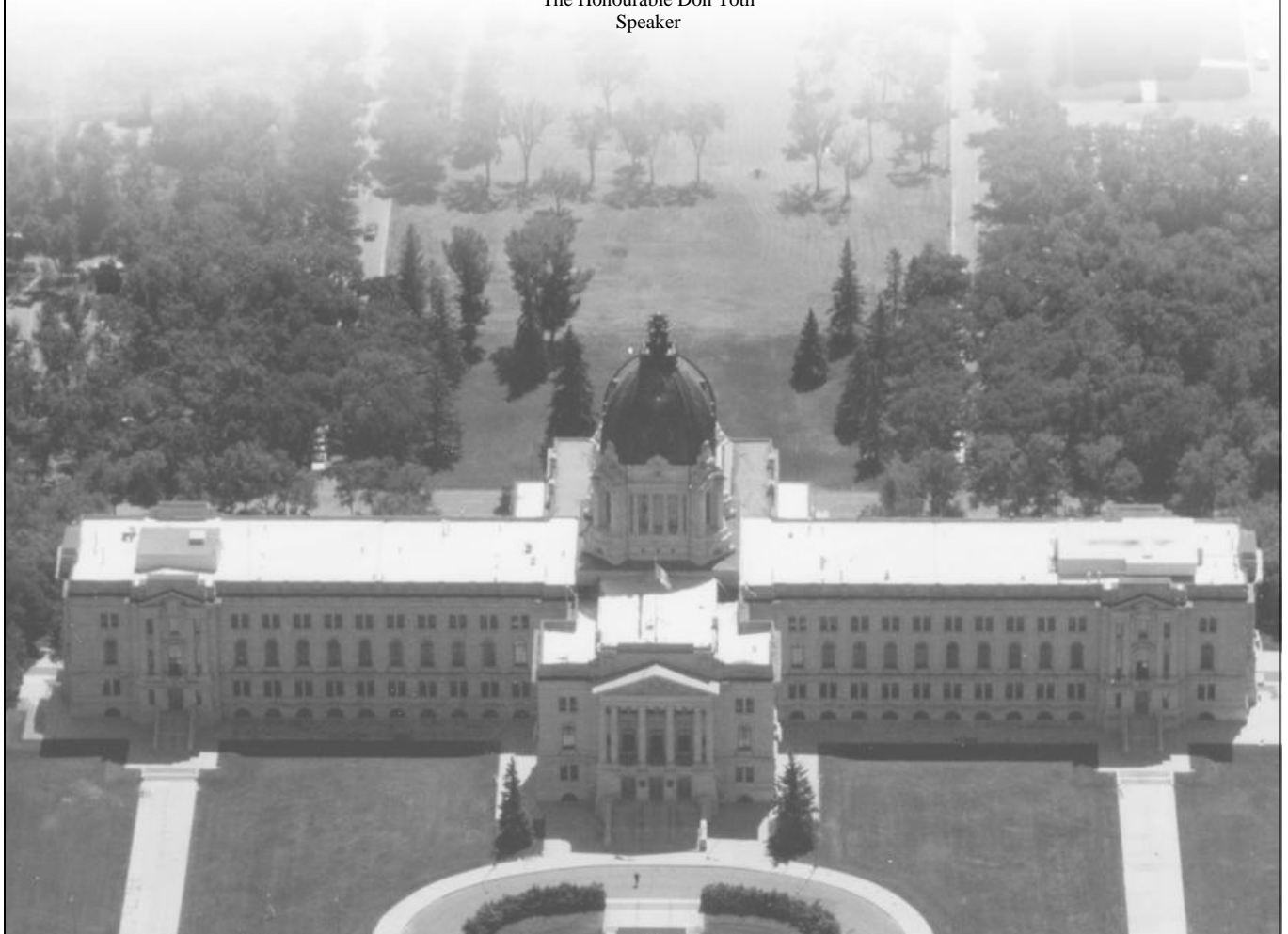
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, 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
Gantfoer, 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 08:00.]

[Prayers]

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That this Assembly do now recess until 1:30 p.m. to enable the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, and the Standing Committee on Human Services to meet.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved, pursuant to . . .

Now we'll do this correctly. Moved by the Government House Leader:

That this Assembly do now recess until 1:30 p.m. to enable the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, and the Standing Committee on Human Services to meet.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This Assembly stands recessed until 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly resumed at 13:30.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — It now being 1:30, the session will resume with routine proceedings, introduction of guests.

I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the House eight visitors that have joined us on the Assembly floor, and they are from the Saskatchewan Abilities Council quality of life recreational program.

Mr. Speaker, joining us is Bruce Nokohoot, Don Blair, Steve Fiisel, Crystal Falardeau, Gary Lunde, Lynne Demeule who is the program coordinator, and John Paul Hickie, staff person.

Mr. Speaker, the group has toured the Assembly. I had the opportunity to have my photo taken with them, and a question-and-answer period over some apple juice. And, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you we had some good quality questions, and I hope the answers was as good as the questions that were proposed. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all the members to offer our guests a very warm welcome.

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to welcome a very fine looking group and a very intelligent group in the east gallery. Ms. Sandy Jost is the teacher and Ms. Jost brings her grade 5 class from the Huda School annually. I'm not sure if this is the sixth, seventh, or eighth such visit, but I know it's a highlight of my year in the Legislative Assembly. With Ms. Jost is Mrs. Dhunna and Mrs. Bernhardt.

I'm looking forward to meeting with this group. We're going to have photos at 2:30 on the staircase. And then right after that there will be the visit where we get to exchange ideas, and hopefully the students can answer some of the questions that I have. Mr. Speaker, I ask all hon. members to join me in welcoming Ms. Jost and the grade 5 Huda School.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce some guests seated in your gallery. These are individuals, Mr. Speaker, who have some concerns about recent cuts at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. And the individuals I would like to introduce are Andrea Norberg, Erika Hodson, Gord Gasper. And I see Brooklyn Elhard there as well, who's no stranger to the Assembly. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming these students to their Assembly. And as the opportunity affords later this afternoon, I look forward to having a chat with them, or as their schedules allow. I'd welcome all members to join me in welcoming these students to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all of the members of the Assembly, somebody that was introduced at length prior to today was an intern with the NDP [New Democratic Party] up to this point and now currently interning with myself, Mr. Craig Fink, in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask all members to welcome him to this Assembly.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to get on record. My colleague from Saskatoon Centre had the pleasure of introducing Mr. Fink when he was first introduced in the House. Certainly the member from Yorkton, he's got a great, smart, hard-working, sharp young person on board in the person of Craig Fink. And anyway, it's good to see Craig in the

gallery.

Obviously I don't sound as eloquent or as intelligent as I once did. That's probably because Craig's gone over to the other side now, and the member from Yorkton will be the main beneficiary of the good work of that individual seated in your gallery. So I'd like to very much join with the welcome from the member from Yorkton for Craig Fink.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, once again it's my pleasure to introduce Heather Malek, a TV and film editor here in Regina who's very pleased that SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] has received a brief stay of execution here on Friday, and is optimistic that things may turn out better for the organization. So with that I'd ask everybody to welcome Heather to her Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise on behalf of the citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the condition of our highways. This particular petition pertains to Highway 310. The petition goes on to state that the highway conditions have deteriorated to the point where it's a safety hazard for the residents who have to travel on that highway each and every day. And the prayer 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.

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Regina and Ituna, 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 petition speaks to the issue that *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* 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 currently has a proposal on the table for repealing the schedule of listing these designated lands, and it's caused a great deal of concern.

Mr. Speaker, this prayer reads:

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 the 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 citizens in Moose Jaw and Regina.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who know that seniors live on fixed incomes and are victims of physical, emotional, and financial abuse. They also believe that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to social and economic security and a right to live free from poverty. And they believe that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to enact a Saskatchewan seniors' Bill of Rights which would provide Saskatchewan seniors with social and economic security and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The signatures, all the signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the town of Climax. I so present.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition that's signed by a number of Saskatchewan citizens that are concerned about the inadequate access to quality, affordable child care. This is particularly problematic for parents who want to access the labour market and further their own education. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to address the shortage of affordable and accessible child care spaces in Saskatchewan by creating new child care spaces immediately.

And this petition is signed by people from Canora, Saltcoats, Churchbridge, and Gerald. I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for Saskatoon. And we know the vacancy rate for housing in Saskatoon is very low. And yet the rent increases seem to be very, very high. 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 call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to more people in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan and that the government also implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to repair and upgrade Highway 123 that goes to the community of Cumberland House. This road right now is in terrible condition, is in serious need of repairs. I've been getting calls and again it's very concerning to the community members. This petition is supported by the leadership and the community members of Cumberland House and Cumberland House First Nations. I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining and repairing this highway.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of Cumberland House and area. I so present.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads, Mr. Speaker:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of financial assistance for the town of Duck Lake water project. The petition is circulated and signed because of the exorbitant amount of money that Duck Lake citizens have to pay for clean, safe drinking water that's causing them hardship. And as the leadership of the community suggests, it's actually driving people from their community. And 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 being 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, the petition is signed by good folks from Muenster, Humboldt, Duck Lake, Hague, and Prince Albert. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present yet another petition with respect to rural water issues, and this is the town of Furdale. Customers are no longer able to treat non-potable water using methods approved by Sask Health, that they have been dealing in good faith with Sask Water for over 30 years, and 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 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 petitioners are signed by the good residents of Furdale. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, the members of the building trades unions have a proud history of craft union certification in Saskatchewan and the existing construction industry labour relations Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment for labour relations. And, Mr. Speaker, we all know that a stable labour relations environment provides for quality work, safe construction sites that benefit all the people of our province. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its ill-conceived Bill 80, *The*

Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009 which dismantles the proud history of the building trades in this province, creates instability in the labour market, and impacts the quality of training required of workers before entering the workforce.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again rise with a petition signed by residents of Saskatchewan concerned about proposed government legislation that would allow marriage commissioners to discriminate against couples, not only on the basis of sexual orientation, but also on the basis of race and religion. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to direct marriage commissioners to uphold the law and the equality rights of all Saskatchewan couples and to withdraw the reference to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal that would allow marriage commissioners to opt out of their legal obligation to provide all couples with civil marriage services.

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

Today the petition is signed by residents of Regina, and I so submit.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again here today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion deficits, and they allude to the two years and billions of dollars of debt growth under the Sask Party. The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

These petitions are signed by concerned citizens of Preeceville, Yorkton, Kamsack, and Regina. I so submit.

[13:45]

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — With leave, Mr. Speaker, to offer an

introduction to a guest.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour has asked for leave for an introduction of guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thanks very much. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly I'd like to introduce Dr. Bob McCulloch. Dr. McCulloch is the CEO [chief executive officer] of SIAST. He does remarkable work right across the province, and we're certainly delighted to have him in his legislature this afternoon. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Dr. McCulloch to his Assembly.

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

Mr. Broten: — With leave to introduce guests, please.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey Place has asked for leave to introduce guests as well. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you to all members. On behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to extend a welcome to Dr. McCulloch and thank him for all the work that he does in our province in the area of advanced education. I ask all members to join me in welcoming him also. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week of May the 2nd to the 8th has officially been proclaimed as North American Occupational Safety and Health Week. Activities are being held across this province to focus on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home, and in the community.

Our government has initiated a number of measures aimed at reducing injuries, Mr. Speaker. As an example, we have launched the online young worker readiness certificate course, which has a strong emphasis on safety. Mr. Speaker, each year there are on average 14 fatalities in the agricultural industry, which is one of the most hazardous industries in our province. These numbers are not acceptable, Mr. Speaker, and that is why our government is working hard to build a culture of safety in the province.

And we are starting to see results through dedicated enforcement of safety regulation and greater public education. Sixty-four per cent of all industries in the province have experienced a lower rate in 2009 than in 2008. In 2009 Saskatchewan recorded 950 fewer work-related time loss injury claims than in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to a day when we realize Mission: Zero, and all workers get home safe at the end of the day — zero fatalities, zero injuries, and zero sufferings, Mr. Speaker. That must be all of our objectives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Homelessness in Saskatchewan

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan has topped another list today, but it's no surprise the members opposite aren't jumping up and down to point out this latest achievement.

A report on homelessness was released today by the Salvation Army, and Saskatchewan is tied with Manitoba for the top spot in the country. Twenty per cent of Saskatchewanians say they've been homeless or at risk of being homeless. That means one out of every five people we pass on the street are in danger of not having a place to sleep at night.

This is just the most recent indicator of a troubling trend in this province. As recently as October 2009, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Regina was \$832 a month. The number of people in Saskatchewan on social assistance has been steadily climbing in the last 16 months. More people, including seniors, are using the food banks than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, the face of poverty is homelessness, and housing and access to affordable and nutritious food are key factors for good health and well-being. It's a sobering reality when many individuals and families are only one paycheque away from being on the streets. Mr. Speaker, today's report is an urgent reminder that it's getting harder for people to get by in this province. They are paying more and getting less, and this government continues to ignore the problem. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Missing Children's Month

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to advise the House that this May has been proclaimed Missing Children's Month in our province. This proclamation reflects our government's concern and support for all missing children and their families, as well as demonstrates this government's commitment to protecting children and youth.

Mr. Speaker, 2010 also marks the 25th anniversary of Child Find Saskatchewan. On May 1st, I had the honour of emceeding their fundraiser. The guest speaker for the evening was the father of the Whitewood area child victim kidnapped by

convicted pedophile Peter Whitmore. Mr. Speaker, this is every parent's worst nightmare.

At the time, everyone in Saskatchewan as well as Canada were riveted to their televisions as Saskatchewan's first Amber Alert and subsequent RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] standoff played out. The guest speaker spoke with raw emotion about his family's ordeal. Mr. Speaker, you could hear a pin drop. While listening, some people held their hands over their mouths and some quietly wept. The message this brave man sent was that we all need to make ourselves aware as well as our precious children.

Mr. Speaker, this government's funding of more police officers has increased the capacity of enforcement for hunting pedophiles as well as assisting community awareness. I encourage all members of this Assembly to wear the green ribbon of hope as a symbol of remembrance and hope for the safe return of all missing children in our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Working People and May Day

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, Saturday was May Day, an opportunity for working people to come together to celebrate their achievements. But unfortunately in this province, it's also a day to list the hurtful outcomes of this Premier's war on working people.

The war started early on in his term. He said essential services legislation wasn't needed in Saskatchewan, but then he rammed through Bills 5 and 6 immediately upon taking office. Now he refuses to address the shortages in the very occupations that he deemed essential, so there will actually be more people working during a strike than during a normal workday. It seems the working people in this province are only deemed essential when they are taking job action and interfering with this Premier's agenda.

The Premier has said there is too much red tape in occupational health and safety regulations, sending a clear message that his government does not see the true importance of OH & S [occupational health and safety] violations. They ignore inspectors' findings and in doing so send a message to the public and private sector that the protection of workers just isn't a priority. And when civil servants put the public safety before their own interests and come forward as a whistle-blower, this Premier's only response is to launch a witch hunt.

Mr. Speaker, on the critical issue like protecting workers' rights in occupational health and safety, the people of Saskatchewan don't need a bully. They need leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Emergency Preparedness Week

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to bring to the attention of the members that this week, May 2nd to 8th, has

been proclaimed Emergency Preparedness Week in Saskatchewan. This is a national event that takes place each year during the first full week of May and is coordinated by Public Safety Canada in close collaboration with the provinces, territories, and partners.

During Emergency Preparedness Week, activities are organized across Canada to raise awareness about the importance of having an emergency kit and a plan. The theme of this week is, 72 hours — Are You Prepared? and it is designed to help teach Canadians of all ages the importance of being prepared for all types of emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, today grade 4 students from Jack MacKenzie visited an emergency operations centre of the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. Since preparation is key, the students learned how to build a basic emergency kit and the importance of having enough supplies in the kit to help their families get through the first 72 hours of an emergency. It is our hope that Emergency Preparedness Week will send the message to the students today, as well as all citizens in this province, that being prepared for the first 72 hours can make a big difference during an emergency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Crown Corporations

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the result of the Sask Party's financial incompetence, but the toll they have taken on our Crown corporations goes beyond all rational measures. And if they continue to have their way, total Crown debt is set to increase to \$7.8 billion by 2014, a jump of 130 per cent above the NDP levels. Total debt will be a staggering \$11.9 billion.

First they stripped all the profits from our Crowns. Now they are putting through legislation to actually increase the borrowing capacity of Crown corporations so they can take on even more debt in the future. And the Minister for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] seems to think that increasing debt will somehow improve the value of our Crown corporations.

The NDP fostered one of the strongest economies in the nation and left behind a huge surplus, and this government has shown us nothing but failure on every count. They are taking us back into the Devine days of financial mismanagement, billion-dollar deficits, and debt hidden under every accounting trick they can find. And once again, Saskatchewan families and businesses will pay the price through backdoor tax increases and rising utility rates at every turn.

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

First Female Commanding Officer of the Snowbirds

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to rise today and commend Canadian Forces 431 Squadron, better known as the Snowbirds demonstration team, for making history. Last Thursday, Lieutenant Colonel Maryse Carmichael

became the first female commanding officer of the Snowbirds.

The Snowbirds are a marvellous Canadian icon serving as Canadian ambassadors. The Snowbirds demonstrate a high level of professionalism, teamwork, excellence, discipline, and dedication inherent in the men and women of the air force and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Colonel Carmichael is well-suited for the role of Snowbird commander. She started out as an air cadet at 13 and joined the military full time six years later. She became a flying instructor and has flown the 434 command support squadron in Greenwood, Nova Scotia. She was posted to 3 Wing Bagotville in Quebec in 2003 as the deputy wing operations officer and moved to 8 Wing Trenton, Ontario in 2007 to fly the CC-130 Hercules.

In 2000, between her time in Ottawa and Bagotville, Lieutenant Colonel Carmichael was selected to fly *Snowbird 3* and later *Snowbird 2* and was the team executive officer. I ask all members to join me, congratulating both the Snowbirds and Lieutenant Colonel Carmichael. Thank you very much.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Personal Health Information

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, on April 12th of this year the Minister of Health was asked in the Assembly if the Privacy Commissioner had been consulted on his decision to open up the personal health informations in the province. Mr. Speaker, the minister said, on page 4704, and I quote: “. . . it's important also to know, Mr. Speaker, that the Privacy Commissioner was consulted formally four different times on this very regulation . . .” In a letter that the commissioner sent to MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] today, the commissioner says that he didn't see the new regulations until April 13th. That's a day after the minister said here in the Assembly he consulted four times, and he only got the new words from the minister a day after.

My question to the minister: how do you explain your words in the Assembly that you had consulted four times with the Privacy Commissioner?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, this regulation that the member opposite talks about, the regulation to allow health regions to enter into an agreement with foundations, is not a new regulation, Mr. Speaker. In fact the former government had drafted a regulation that went in front of the Privacy Commissioner in 2004, also another regulation that went in 2006. And as recent as 2007, just prior to the election, that former government drafted a regulation, I would say, with the intent to put the regulation forward, Mr. Speaker.

To follow through on what our government has done, Mr. Speaker, I did misspeak in one aspect. There has been three formal consultations with the Privacy Commissioner, Mr. Speaker, and many other informal conversations as is quoted, other conversations that have been conducted regarding these

regulations, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the minister is now trying to say, I quote from the letter that was sent to members of the Assembly earlier today. And I quote, the commissioner is saying this: “There is a significant change, however, in the new regulation.” That’s what the commissioner says. For the minister now to try to make it sound like he was referring to the former government consulting is not accurate, and I would say to the minister that this is not the truth. The fact of the matter is we have here documentation, yes, documentation from the commissioner of privacy that says something very different than the minister has just said.

I want to say to the member again: why did he refer to the four consultations as if he and his ministry had done it when he knew full well he had not consulted with the commissioner even once?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, consultation through the ministry have taken place with the Privacy Commissioner on three separate formal occasions, Mr. Speaker, as well as other conversations back and forth. It is very clear, Mr. Speaker, not only in 2004, 2006, 2007, Mr. Speaker, and now with this documentation, that the Privacy Commissioner is very clear on this issue.

He would rather see opt-in, Mr. Speaker, than opt-out. The Privacy Commissioner has been very clear on the regulation, the framework of the regulation that is saying it should be opt-in as opposed to opt-out, Mr. Speaker. We knew the position of the Privacy Commissioner. We’ve had conversations, Mr. Speaker. The regulation that we put forward is much more protective of the privacy of individuals than the regulation that former government had drafted — drafted three different times, Mr. Speaker. The former government drafted regulation for this very thing.

We understood the Privacy Commissioner’s concerns, Mr. Speaker. They’re cited in his report that he released today. And, Mr. Speaker, we stand by the decision that we have made.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well that when he referred on the 12th that he had consulted, he would know, and the minister would know that he was sending the message to the public and to the press and to the people of the province and to the members of the opposition that he had consulted four times on this set of changes.

The fact is that when the previous government consulted, they were advised and they withdrew the proposal. That happens to be the major difference. My question to the minister is this: that in the report that was released today, the Privacy Commissioner also says that the Saskatchewan government runs the risk, and I quote, “of being found to have violated the Charter of Rights

and Freedoms and the privacy interests of Saskatchewan patients”. Does the minister have any idea and has he informed the public that if this information is released, it will be in conflict with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms? Has that been made public?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we see this regulation in other provinces. In Ontario and also Manitoba, this very regulation is in place, Mr. Speaker, that allows health regions and foundations to enter into a contractual agreement so that only the name and address here in Saskatchewan, only the name and address can be moved over into a foundation’s hands, Mr. Speaker.

But I find it interesting because in 2004, the former government talked about a regulation like this. The Privacy Commissioner ruled. In 2006 they thought they’d try it again. They thought they’d try it again and rewrote the regulation. The same judgment was rendered by the Privacy Commissioner that it should be an opt-in as opposed to opt-out. They didn’t stand at that. They didn’t leave it at that. They tried again in 2007, Mr. Speaker. The former government tried again in 2007 and consulted with the Privacy Commissioner. The same decision was rendered under the Privacy Commissioner then as what his statements are today.

He’s been very consistent, Mr. Speaker. We knew that, Mr. Speaker, and that’s why we’re moving ahead with our regulation.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the only thing the minister’s accurate on is that the previous administration rejected the proposal in 2004 and 2007. On that, he’s got it right.

My question to the minister is this. In light of the fact that there was in fact no consultation with the Privacy Commissioner — we now understand that, and there was no consultation with the public — will he now withdraw this ill-advised, ill-advised and wrong plan to release health information to anyone? It’s private, should be kept that way, and will he now withdraw this ill-advised program and plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier that we certainly knew the stance of the Privacy Commissioner. He’s been very consistent on that. Regardless the former government kept bringing new iterations, new iterations to the regulation trying to please the Privacy Commissioner. Mr. Speaker, as recently as June 2007, a draft regulation was drawn . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health. Order. Order. I’d ask the opposition to allow the minister to respond. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it’s interesting. I hear a former minister of Health from that side. The member from

Nutana is saying we brought it forward three times, and it wasn't going to happen. It begs the question, Mr. Speaker. After no the first time and they weren't going to move on it and after no the second time and they weren't going to move on it, they still had a third draft drawn in 2007 because they still thought they were going to move on it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to move on what we have said. I have made the commitment publicly, and I'll make the commitment again publicly. We will review this policy after the first year, Mr. Speaker. And if it needs to be changed, we'll certainly look at it then. But, Mr. Speaker, it has been successful in other provinces such as Ontario, Manitoba, and we'll see how it plays out here in Saskatchewan.

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

New West Partnership Trade Agreement

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, on Friday the Premier broke another campaign promise by signing the New West Partnership Trade Agreement which is simply a renamed version of the TILMA [Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement] deal that he promised the people of Saskatchewan that he would never sign. Can the Premier confirm that this betrayal of his solemn promise is the reason he refused to give the people of Saskatchewan an opportunity to see this sellout deal before he signed it?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to rise in this Assembly and answer questions about the economy of Saskatchewan and about the partnerships and the trade deals. It's especially gratifying to answer questions when you can wake up on Saturday morning in my city . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, it is especially gratifying when you can wake up on a Saturday morning and read a headline in the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* that says, "A western powerhouse," Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we saw headlines like that under the NDP but Saskatchewan was . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I'm prepared to stand here and question period will slowly go by. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is exciting news, and I know that all members of this Assembly want to hear about it. "A western powerhouse," we heard terms like that, but Saskatchewan was on the outside looking in, Mr. Speaker. Not this time. "Saskatchewan joins B.C. and Alberta to form barrier-free trade zone, [and] investment zone." Mr.

Speaker, some \$555 billion of economic activity, 9 million people were happy to be part of it. Saskatchewan residents and Saskatchewan businesses are better because we are part of it.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier can't hide from his broken promise, and he can't get away from this political doublespeak or from the fact that the economy has retracted by 6.3 per cent. He can't say that this trade agreement is nothing like TILMA and then turn around and claim that public hearings held three years ago on TILMA amount to public consultation on this agreement. How ridiculous is that? Will the Premier either admit to another broken promise or commit to meaningful public consultations on this new agreement before its effective date of July 1st?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I have a news flash for the members opposite. Breaking news here from September 12th, 2009, again from the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix*, third page, top of the page, 445-word article and it quotes:

Saskatchewan has signed on to a "Western Economic Partnership" with Alberta and British Columbia designed to break down internal economic barriers between the provinces and increase co-operation in areas such as international marketing . . . likely [to join a] . . . trade mission [going] to Asia.

Further it quotes the Premier as saying in a Friday interview back in September, seven months ago, ". . . Premier Brad Wall acknowledged the pact, [is] to be finalized in the new year . . ." Well, Mr. Speaker, it is the new year and a good year it is.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Saskatchewan have a lot to say and a lot of questions to ask about a trade agreement that gives Alberta and BC [British Columbia] governments and businesses a veto over our laws and regulations, that requires the creation of a new bureaucracy to police the agreement, and that subjects Saskatchewan taxpayers to court challenges and fines of up to \$5 million. Why has the Premier denied the public's right to be heard about this sell-out trade deal?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, the member is right in one little aspect. Saskatchewan people do have a lot to say about this. Saskatchewan First Nations, Saskatchewan Métis, Saskatchewan mayors, SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], Enterprise Saskatchewan, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the chambers of commerce — what are they saying, Mr. Speaker? They want more trade for our province. They want more international

co-operation. They want more innovation, Mr. Speaker, and they want more procurement for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, from what I can hear, there's only 20 individuals in the entire province that are against this deal, and they're sitting right over there, and that's where they're going to sit with an attitude like that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, article 7 of this sell-out trade deal is entitled transparency, and it positively drips with irony for the people of Saskatchewan. It says that, in the future, any time a Saskatchewan government is proposing a new law or regulation, it will be required to provide copies in advance of the proposed law or regulation to Alberta and BC and any out-of-province companies that might be affected. And it will give them an opportunity to be heard before the law or regulation is passed.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier agree that he is guaranteeing out-of-province companies and the governments of Alberta and BC the very transparency and right to consultation that he has just denied the people of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, consultations took place with an all-party committee regarding a trade deal in the province. Members from both sides of the House participated. We heard clearly that there were concerns regarding Crown corporations. There were concerns regarding the municipalities' ability to attract businesses to their local areas, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, those concerns were articulated very well by the Premier of Saskatchewan, and they were listened to by the Premier of British Columbia and Alberta. This agreement strengthens all three provinces going forward. It doesn't have as much to say on the labour side because the Agreement on Internal Trade took place. And we give members opposite some credit for doing some work in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, it's all about the new Saskatchewan, a new Saskatchewan where every business can compete, where residents that can come here to Saskatchewan from wherever they want, set up their business and know that they will be on equal footing with those in Alberta and British Columbia. Mr. Speaker, members opposite don't like it because it's very different than the old Saskatchewan that they oversaw, where they were scared to do things, where they didn't have the confidence of Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, even though the leader has been away . . .

The Speaker: — The minister's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-three programs have been cut at SIAST. Twenty-four staff have been laid off, and nearly 300 student seats have been eliminated. One of the main reasons is that the Sask Party government has been picking winners and losers in the world of post-secondary education. To the minister: why is his government picking winners and losers on SIAST campuses and making short-sighted cuts that will hurt our future?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to provide the people of this province with an update regarding post-secondary education. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we've invested more than \$1.6 billion since coming into office in post-secondary education, Mr. Speaker. I think it's best to start by reading from Dr. David Walls who recently wrote:

SIAST is the primary provider of skills and technical training in Saskatchewan. We are responsible to our stakeholders to provide training that meets labour market demands. As we have responded, enrolment has grown by 16.2 per cent over the past five years, including a 43-per-cent increase in apprenticeship training . . . [over] the last two years alone.

For SIAST to continue to provide quality opportunities, we must do careful analysis of our program array.

[14:15]

We certainly are supportive of what SIAST is undertaking, Mr. Speaker. It's a work in progress. And, Mr. Speaker, we certainly continue to support our students, our faculty members, and our institutions right across the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this isn't a criticism of SIAST. This is a criticism of the Sask Party government that is shortchanging Saskatchewan students. The March 30th *Leader-Post* reported, "In an email sent . . . Friday, McCulloch . . . [said] funding from the province is reduced and SIAST is facing a shortfall of several million dollars in operating and capital resources."

To the minister: will he admit that SIAST is being asked to pay the price for their government's incompetence?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, this government has a solid track record when it comes to investing in post-secondary education.

When we look at over a 5 per cent increase from this budget,

Mr. Speaker, that's among the highest of any provincial investment in post-secondary education as we look across those provinces that have come forward with budgets. When we think about Manitoba coming in at 4.5 per cent, at New Brunswick at 3 per cent, at Quebec at 2.2 per cent, at Newfoundland at 1 per cent, at BC flatlining, and at Alberta with a 6 per cent reduction, we stand with our 5 per cent-plus investment, Mr. Speaker. There's obviously more to do, but we stand with the students, the faculty members, and our institutions, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the applied photography program was axed in the recent cuts on SIAST campuses. This is the only program of its kind in Saskatchewan, and every year the number of applicants has been four times greater than the program's capacity. These students go on to successful jobs in photography, web design, and the film industry. According to an article in the *Moosomin Spectator* this government is "in effect telling young people if they want to study photography, they can leave this province."

To the minister: why is he forcing young people to leave the province in order to follow their career path?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last eight or nine years, what we've seen is that SIAST had had more than 200 programs. It now runs about 160. This constant and continual program review is what makes SIAST programming effective and efficient, especially for students as they're entering the labour market.

Specifically on the point of this specific program, Mr. Speaker, I held a conference call on Friday, and I've had a meeting with President McCulloch this morning. These deliberations continue. There are a range of options that we're willing to . . . ensure that we include the students in these deliberations. We're hearing from industry and other stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. It's not to rule out other initiatives in the future. It is to say that we applaud the institution as it continues to make decisions to ensure that we're moving forward for the people of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the answer sounds a lot like the answers to the tuition management strategy questions — lots of words, no substance, no answers for Saskatchewan students.

Nearly 300 seats eliminated, Mr. Speaker, affecting students in rural, urban, and regional Saskatchewan. One program cut was the early childhood education diploma program in Prince Albert. While child care facilities in Prince Albert and across the province are crying out for qualified workers, the minister cuts the program of Prince Albert, forcing them to relocate in order to get the training that they need. To the minister: why is he forcing Prince Albert students to uproot their lives in order to receive training?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, the member opposite knows well there is another initiative on the P.A. [Prince Albert] campus pertaining to child care training, Mr. Speaker. We certainly know that.

But as far as tuition management, the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, should be aware of their own record. While they were in office, SIAST tuition increased by 263 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's an annual allocation of over 17 per cent. It's a shameful record, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure that not only excellence but also affordability are the watchwords of post-secondary education in contemporary Saskatchewan.

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

Security for Courthouses

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Justice: why is the government cutting security at the Queen's Bench courthouses in Regina and Saskatoon?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to the member opposite and members of the public that we are not eliminating security. We are providing it in a variety of different ways. We had initially had perimeter security that existed with airport-type security. We will now be providing the security sometimes by perimeter security and sometimes by other methods.

We are trying to make efficient use of the resources, Mr. Speaker, and a number of the things that we will do will make it so that we will not have to have the intrusion of the airport-style scanners in use at all times. But we will, where appropriate and where necessary, ensure that we have appropriate security in place at our court centres in all of our major centres, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, November 2008, security at the Regina Queen's Bench court house was temporarily understaffed, and people entered without being screened. That day an incident occurred that might have been serious. Fortunately no one was harmed. At that time, the government assured the public that a backup plan was being put in place to ensure this wouldn't happen again. To the minister: is this the backup plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that we've got safe, secure courthouses in Saskatoon, in Regina, and in fact throughout the province.

But, Mr. Speaker, the reality of it is Saskatchewan has been a province for in excess of 100 years. During that period of time,

the first 100 years, there was no security whatever in our courthouse. It's a sad statement about today's society that we have had to move towards having security in our courthouses.

Mr. Speaker, we have security where it is appropriate. We will continue to have security where it is appropriate. The perimeter security will not be in operation at all points in time. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure the members opposite that we will have security when and as is required, Mr. Speaker. We will ensure that we have safe courthouses.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 122, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 122, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment and that the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 122 — *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 122 — *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 122, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009* with amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* with amendment and that its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read the first time? I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 126 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*

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

The Speaker: — The Minister for the Environment has moved that the amendments be now read the first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Carried. No, I hear . . . All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it on division. The minister may move to third reading.

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

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 126 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for the Environment that Bill No. 126, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* with amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Carried. All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it on division.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 120, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for the Department of Finance has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 120, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009* and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Minister may proceed to third reading. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 120 — *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 120, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 141, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Crown Investments has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 141, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act* and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — I move this Bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments that Bill No. 141, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 142, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Consequential Amendments Act, 2010* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Crown Investments has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 142, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Consequential Amendments Act, 2010* and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 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***

Hon. Ms. Draude: — I move this Bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Crown Investments that Bill No. 142, *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Consequential Amendments Act, 2010* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by

the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment.

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

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

[14:30]

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010* and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 139, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)*

without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* and that the Bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 138, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, to seek a waiver of the notice of requirement to raise a question of privilege.

The Speaker: — I would ask the member to state his notice of requirement to seek a waiver.

PRIVILEGE

Request to Waive Notice Period

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Rule 10(1) states that, and I quote:

... a Member who proposes to raise a question of privilege shall first advise the Speaker of his intention to do so and . . . the subject matter thereof at least two hours prior to the regular daily opening of the Assembly.

However, rule 10(2) states that, and I quote, "Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Speaker shall have the right to waive the notice."

This matter has to do with the misleading statements by the Minister of Health brought to our attention this morning by the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Because of the extended hours under which this Assembly is now operating, it was not possible to provide two hours of notice of our intention to raise a question of privilege.

For that reason, I would ask that the Speaker waive the required notice and allow the opposition to raise a question of privilege.

The Speaker: — Order. I ask the members to come to order. The member quoted rule 12(1) which all members are aware of about the two hour notice and gave arguments. But rule 12(2) says:

Immediately upon receipt of such notice, the Speaker shall advise the government and opposition House leaders, and any independent Members, of the details of the case and the proposed question of privilege.

And then motion 12(3) then goes on to acknowledge the Speaker trying to determine a prima facie case.

Given the fact that we've had the argument presented by the member from Regina Dewdney, I think it will be only appropriate to at least hear the arguments for the motion that the member is asking of the Assembly and any arguments opposed, and then at that time I will indicate to the House how we will proceed.

I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege. At issue is the statement made by the Minister of Health on April 12th, 2010, recorded on page 4704 of the *Hansard* when he said, "But it's important also to know, Mr. Speaker, that the Privacy Commissioner was consulted formally four . . . times on this very regulation, Mr. Speaker."

In a letter to all members this morning, the Information and Privacy Commissioner clearly states that the statement made by the Minister of Health was inaccurate. In fact the Information and Privacy Commissioner states, "A review of my records indicates that there were only three consultations with my office that could be considered as formal and those consultations spanned the period 2004 to 2007."

The Information and Privacy Commissioner goes on to say, and I quote:

I had not seen the new regulation until a copy was emailed to my office at my request on April 13th, 2010 at 2:47 p.m. by Saskatchewan Health.

I have not received any draft documentation with respect to the type of contract that Saskatchewan Health will be introducing pursuant to subsection 7.1(1)(i) or 8 of the Regulation. In my view, Saskatchewan Health should have completed those pieces and made them available for public comment prior to the proclamation of the subject Regulation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Information and Privacy

Commissioner states:

In summary, for my office, there was only the public consultation in 2004, the exchange of correspondence in 2006 and a further exchange of correspondence in June 2007. I am not aware of any formal consultation on the matter of a fundraising Regulation under HIPA. I also wish to stress that, in each of the three consultations, the text upon which I was commenting was different; none of the three consultations involved text identical to order in council 187/2010 . . .

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is what the Minister of Health said on April 12th, 2010, and I quote, “. . . the Privacy Commissioner was consulted formally four . . . times on this very regulation . . .” That is contrary to what the Information and Privacy Commissioner has written this morning. The Minister of Health clearly misled this Assembly.

And on page 111 of the 22nd Edition of Erskine May it states, and I quote, “The Commons may treat the making of a deliberately misleading statement as a contempt.” On page 141 of the 19th edition of Erskine May it states, and I quote, “Conspiracy to deceive either House or any committees of either House will also be treated as a breach of privilege.”

Mr. Speaker, what the Minister of Health stated in this Assembly on April 12, 2010, has been contradicted by an independent officer of this Assembly. The evidence that I have presented shows a prima facie case of contempt of this House and a breach of privilege. Mr. Speaker, if you find this to be a prima facie question of privilege, I am prepared to move the appropriate motion. And, Mr. Speaker, the motion I would move is as follows:

Be it resolved that the Standing Committee on Privileges be instructed to examine the issue of the statements made to this Assembly by the Minister of Health on April 12, 2010, and report back to this Assembly; and that until such time that the committee reports, the Minister of Health shall be removed from his position as a minister.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D’Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through question period we heard a number of the arguments go back and forth. I would like to quote from the letter from the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner where he says on page 6: “. . . none of the three consultations involved text identical to Order in Council 187/2010 although the 2007 consultation text was very similar but for one significant difference,” Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, these consultations, Mr. Speaker, did take place. There was changes in the regulations on an ongoing basis.

Further, Mr. Speaker, the Information Commissioner states on page 5, “I understand that Saskatchewan Health has suggested that there was also a consultation on fundraising in May 2006, but to the best of my knowledge my office was not involved in that consultation . . .” Mr. Speaker, so clearly there were consultations taking place about fundraising. The Information

Commissioner doesn’t recollect his meeting in May of 2006.

And on a second point, Mr. Speaker, in Beauchesne’s 6th Edition on page 13, no. 31(1) rule, “A dispute arising between two Members, as to allegations of facts, does not fulfill the conditions of parliamentary privilege.” I submit there is no point of privilege here, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I’ve listened to the arguments, and I appreciate the member from Regina, the Opposition House Leader’s comments in regards to the new hours the House is operating under. Given that, and given the current rules, I feel it would be only appropriate for me to take some time to take into consideration the arguments presented by the Opposition House Leader and the Government House Leader, and certainly would ask if the Opposition House Leader would present us with the written arguments so we can look at them carefully. And I will come back to the House at an appropriate time, as early as I possibly can, to inform the House as to where we go with the motion that was presented to us.

Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Mr. D’Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order.

The Speaker: — Would the Government House Leader state his point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. D’Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during question period, the Leader of the Opposition declared in his questions to the Minister of Health that the Minister of Health’s words were not the truth, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they know very well that those words are unparliamentary, that they’re not entitled to speak them. I ask that the Leader of the Official Opposition withdraw and apologize unequivocally.

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rose just a few moments ago and raised what is one of the most serious situations that this House ever has to deal with, and that is the issue of one of our members being in contempt of this House. Mr. Speaker, I rose on something I would prefer not to do, and I’m sure no member of this House would like to do, to have to deal with an issue of a member of this House telling us facts that are not true.

Mr. Speaker, I think it’s obvious from the letters from the Information and Privacy Commissioner, from the statements made by the Minister of Health, that the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition were in fact true.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue. If we, as members of this Assembly, cannot rely upon the answers that a minister provides us as being the facts, Mr. Speaker, we cannot do our

jobs appropriately. We cannot hold the government accountable. We cannot act on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, people can laugh about this if they like, but this is the most serious situation that a House has to deal with. We don't take this as a funny joke. We take this very, very seriously. Mr. Speaker, we need to have this House live by the rules that the Parliament of Canada and this Legislative Assembly are to live by. Mr. Speaker, if a minister of the Crown stands and provides facts that are not true to the members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we cannot do our jobs. And in doing our jobs, Mr. Speaker, we have to be able to call the facts what they are.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, in my time in this Assembly I have seen very few circumstances where we've had to ask for an issue of privilege, Mr. Speaker, to have this House decide upon. In fact in my years, Mr. Speaker, now going on 12 years, I have never seen the committee deal with an issue of privilege. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is of the utmost seriousness. And the member's point of order goes to deal with an issue already before you that's a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you take into consideration in your deliberations on the point of privilege whether or not the facts provided by the Minister of Health were in fact true. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Order. I thank the Government House Leader for the point of order and the response by the Opposition House Leader.

Earlier today in question period, I was listening and listening very carefully and attentively. And as I recall the debate and the way the comment was worded, I didn't at that time see the comment as being directed directly at an individual. I thought it was a general comment, and in that regard I find the point of order not well taken.

Why is the Deputy Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — By leave to introduce a motion regarding hours.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Government House Leader has asked for leave to introduce a motion regarding hours. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

MOTIONS

Hours of Sitting

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I move:

That the sessional order dated April 26th, 2010 regarding

extended hours be rescinded.

The Speaker: — Order. It has been moved by the Deputy Government House Leader, by leave:

That the sessional order dated April 26th, 2010 regarding extended hours be rescinded.

Is the Assembly ready for the questions?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. To speak to the motion in front of us, the motion moved by the Deputy House Leader to rescind the motion of extended hours.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to speak to this motion, just as I was pleased to speak to the motion that set in place the extended hours, Mr. Speaker, because I'd like to repeat some of the things that I and other members said when the Government Deputy House Leader moved this motion to begin with, Mr. Speaker.

First by setting this up, let me simply indicate, Mr. Speaker, that I have a bias as to how governments should operate, Mr. Speaker. Governments should operate with the trust and the confidence of the public who put them there, Mr. Speaker.

And it is interesting on a day like today that the government is going to bring forward a motion that's asking the public to thank them for the trust and confidence that they have shown in the public, Mr. Speaker, because exactly the opposite is the case.

Here today if anybody was watching question period, or watching today, Mr. Speaker, we saw the Minister of Health answer questions related to contrary information about questions that he'd answered previously, Mr. Speaker, questions about consultation. Did this government consult with the public, Mr. Speaker? Consult with an independent officer? The Minister of Health had said, yes I did. And the Privacy Commissioner said, no you didn't, Mr. Speaker.

After that question, we saw the Minister of Trade for this province, the member from Silver Springs, the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation. He was asked questions about the western economic partnership agreement, Mr. Speaker, and why the government did not consult on that issue, Mr. Speaker. Did the government not trust the public or have confidence in the public response, Mr. Speaker? And the member from Silver Springs, the Minister Responsible for Trade, indicated this was a good deal and the consultations occurred three years ago, Mr. Speaker. Well on a different piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and on a different trade deal, Mr. Speaker — at least that's what he argues — consultations did occur. But on this trade deal, Mr. Speaker, no consultations occurred whatsoever.

And the irony, as we found out in question period, Mr. Speaker, is that this government has signed a deal that says to the governments of British Columbia and the governments of

Alberta, we will in fact consult with you on any laws that we have in the province of Saskatchewan. But through this House, Mr. Speaker, and on that deal, this government has said, we will not consult with the people of Saskatchewan . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I believe the motion presented by the Opposition House Leader is a motion regarding the time of sittings and I would ask the member to address the motion.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my point will become very clear here in just a moment. My comment was about trust and confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the government, when it moved its motion here just a little over a week ago, said to the people of Saskatchewan, we need to have extended hours. We need to have our staff stay extra hours, we need to have staff in the ministries be available for extra hours, Mr. Speaker. We don't trust — this is the government speaking — we don't trust the members of the opposition so we're going to ask everybody to put in extra hours, eliminate public participation in our legislative process, Mr. Speaker, all because we need to do this.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the members of the opposition made it very clear at the time that packages of . . . or that the legislative process was being followed; that legislation was being moved forward; that indeed, Mr. Speaker, aspects of the budget were being studied according to the rules of the Chamber, Mr. Speaker. And the opposition said to the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, we don't need the extended hours. The government, through managing things appropriately, has the amount of time to get through this legislative agenda before May 20. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, if they could not get through it, then of course they had the opportunity to extend the number of days available to us.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the government was then saying . . . or what we were saying then to the government: that they were mismanaging the legislative agenda just as they had mismanaged the finances of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier today we saw Chairs of various committees stand in this House and report Bills. And we went through third reading of a large number of Bills, Mr. Speaker, giving evidence to the fact that the opposition continued to — as we had said we would previously — co-operate with the government on their legislative agenda.

So here we are, Mr. Speaker, still two weeks, actually three weeks of a legislative agenda to move forward, Mr. Speaker, and most of the work that the government said couldn't get done, has been done, Mr. Speaker, with great co-operation, I might add, from members of the opposition.

Now there are still pieces of legislation outstanding on which this government said they would consult, but they have not consulted, Mr. Speaker, and it's becoming very obvious. For example, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* amendments, Mr. Speaker, dealing with land designations. The government has indicated they consulted. They haven't consulted and now they want more time to consult, Mr. Speaker, indicating that they're going to meet later this week with those organizations and

groups who feel the consultation process has failed them, Mr. Speaker.

This government miscalculated the amount of time that it would need to get their legislative agenda through. They have demonstrated clearly that they don't have the capacity to manage finances or legislation, Mr. Speaker. They have penalized people who work in this building. They penalized people who work in the ministries, Mr. Speaker, by having them put in those extra hours to midnight most nights, Mr. Speaker. It was unfair to the public. They asked the public for trust and confidence while at the same time demonstrating no trust or confidence in either the opposition or the public, Mr. Speaker.

Just one more thing, one more thing, Mr. Speaker, that the public needs to remember going forward is that we cannot trust this government. We cannot have confidence in this government because the government has not demonstrated they've earned it. The government has not demonstrated that they trust or have confidence in the general public.

They did this once last year. Within four days, they changed their minds, Mr. Speaker, and changed the rules back to normal. They did it this year, Mr. Speaker. In a week of debate, they've realized that they didn't need to do it. Mr. Speaker, I only hope that next year we don't have to go through this process again when the government shows that they do not have the ability to manage the legislative agenda in this Chamber. And that they have the ability to ensure that the public can participate in all the processes of the legislative process, Mr. Speaker.

There is a legislative process that we want the public to be engaged in, that the public should be engaged in. And so, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the government has learned their lesson after going through this process twice and, in both cases, being proved they were wrong in their assessment of where things were at.

Mr. Speaker, we will support the motion in front of us today, Mr. Speaker, because the motion that set up the extra hours was not necessary in the first place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the member opposite that this is about trust. And fact is, Mr. Speaker, the difficulty we on the government side of the aisle was that we were trusting the House Leader for the opposition at his word, Mr. Speaker.

We were trusting when he said none of the environment Bills would pass, Mr. Speaker, that that was what his intentions were. We were trusting, Mr. Speaker, when he said House business would not proceed unless you, the government, rehired the CPS [Corrections and Public Safety] worker, Mr. Speaker. We trusted that that was his intention and not just hollow words, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since that time, since the change in hours came into place, we have passed most of the legislation in the House, which is what the duty of the government is, is to bring forward legislation that the people of the province want, to have it

considered, Mr. Speaker, and to have it come forward for votes, Mr. Speaker. That has happened with most of the Bills, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've had a considerable amount of time put forward on the hours for the estimates, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, prior to the addition of additional hours in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we couldn't be sure that the budget would be passed in the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker. We now have a number of estimates that have moved forward and assurances from the opposition, an agreement, Mr. Speaker, that we will complete the budgetary votes. Doesn't say that they will pass, Mr. Speaker, but rather that they will be voted on, Mr. Speaker, by the final day of session of May the 20th, Mr. Speaker.

So while we did have to put in a considerable amount of time, Mr. Speaker . . . And I understand that the member from Regina Coronation Park felt that it was impossible to work for 16 hours a day, Mr. Speaker. The members on this side of the House were more than willing to prove him wrong, and in fact did, Mr. Speaker. We were ready and did do the work, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank the members, the workers in the Legislative Assembly, and the workers, the employees of the Crown corporations and the ministries for their diligence in providing us for support, for coming to the committees and helping to supply the answers, Mr. Speaker. We certainly appreciate that they have put forward on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the goals that the government set forward in extending the time have been accomplished and now it's time to move on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very important that I enter into the debate and clarify a number of facts and statements, Mr. Speaker. As the Opposition House Leader, I maintained throughout the entire process that there was adequate time to do the work of the government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we had a timetable which we stuck with, whether or not we had extended hours. The time that we had said we would bring forward on Bills, we stuck to, Mr. Speaker. The time that we would have spent on each Bill in either committee or on the floor of the Assembly, the opposition stuck to that time frame, Mr. Speaker. And as is very apparent to the general public and should be very apparent to everyone, Mr. Speaker, we now are virtually out of work, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

We have two pieces of legislation that will be debated this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, one which is a budget Bill, a maximum of five hours on it, Mr. Speaker, and as of now we have estimate hours totalling — nine, thirteen, fourteen and a half, nineteen — about 26 hours, Mr. Speaker, about seven hours of which will be used today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it should be very clear that if you look at the

additional hours we spent, Mr. Speaker, and subtracting the two days we spent on this particular debate to get into the extended hours, Mr. Speaker, and looking at the time that was spent, Mr. Speaker, there wasn't very much additional time actually worked. We spent a lot of time, Mr. Speaker, adjourned or recessed. Friday morning would be a great example: 8:15 to 8:20, we recessed till noon one committee, Mr. Speaker; and about 10 o'clock we recessed to noon in the other.

Mr. Speaker, we were to have estimates on First Nations and Métis Relations on Friday evening, Mr. Speaker. The minister was sick. Those estimates weren't done, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, throughout this whole process the opposition has been co-operative throughout this whole process. I've told them where we'd be and how we would get this done, Mr. Speaker. We've even signed and provided hours in which we would spend on our estimates, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in a short, short two and a half year period, we've seen a government twice, twice have to extend hours because they couldn't manage their agenda, Mr. Speaker. Before we get to next year, Mr. Speaker, I want to offer this. Before we get into this problem next year, Mr. Speaker, I want to offer this.

If you want to work with an opposition, you work with them. If you try to bully an opposition, you don't get co-operation, Mr. Speaker. So in the future I hope that the government has learned that you get co-operation by being co-operative. If you try to push an opposition around, you will not get co-operation. If you're coming to bargain on an issue, you come bargain; you don't make things up, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the question presented by the Deputy Government House Leader, that the sessional order dated April 26th, 2010, regarding extended hours be rescinded.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Whip.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,555 through 1,585.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,555 through 1,585 are tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill 136

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert that **Bill No. 136 — *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a few comments on Bill 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan have a right to feel safe when they ride an elevator, or be that an amusement park ride. And keeping people safe is, Mr. Speaker, one of the core responsibilities of government, but as in so many cases, this government wants to off-load its responsibility on to others.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill creates a delegated administration organization, an authority that, according to the legislation, is not an agent of the Crown. And the Bill also refers to the minister, Mr. Speaker, as a “. . . member of the Executive Council to whom for the time being the administration of the Act is assigned.” In other words, this move to a so-called delegated administrative authority is just the first move.

Now, Mr. Speaker, clearly the government has just privatized responsibility for safety inspections in the province. And we see that on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, because this government, this Sask Party government, does not believe in governing. At the very heart of their beliefs that they have at their core, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they do not believe in government. They do not believe that government should government — that the less government is better.

But in issues of safety, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in issues of safety I believe that they're wrong, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they're dead wrong and in fact that privatization is not the way to go on important issues of safety, important issues where we are talking about keeping people safe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, keeping people safe and keeping things like elevators operating in a safe manner.

Now one of the things that the minister said, or one of the reasons that he used for moving on this was, he said, there were a backlog of inspections. I suppose had this government not so mismanaged the finances of this province, they could have had the money to hire inspectors.

Instead what we are finding is they are cutting, cutting in all departments across the government, cutting everywhere that they can, even down to Dutch Elm disease programs. They're cutting mosquito programs, West Nile programs, Mr. Deputy Speaker. All across the piece, this government is making cuts. Every day we hear more cuts. We had today in the Legislative Assembly cuts to the SIAST programs. And this is indicative of not only mismanaging the finances of this province, but mismanaging files like this one which deal with safety in the province.

And so I guess the question is the approach, the approach that this government takes whenever it gets into a problem. We had today also an issue raised around court security services. And they call those efficiencies, that they're making efficiencies. But in areas of safety, in areas of where there's court safety for the people of this province to be able to enter into courtrooms safely and feel that their safety would not be in jeopardy, that's where they're going. And there are cuts every day that we hear about, that are rolled out and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in such a short time, in such a short time with so much money, that we have come to today where we are again hearing about more cuts.

And it is almost unheard of that you would have, just such a short time ago, spent so much money in advertising of how you're reducing the debt to now seeing all these cuts. And having people ask, where did all the money go? And that they had so much money, and where has the money gone or what were they hiding? What were they hiding, Mr. Deputy Speaker? I think that's now moved over in there as to what were they hiding and not telling the people of Saskatchewan.

We know that they don't consult. We know they don't consult because on any number of occasions we've had people outside of the province. They've gained some international flavour and fame out there for people that recognizing most of these folks, that's what's occurred. And now we have again here where the Minister of Health is saying that in fact he consulted.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he seems to know what you're supposed to say because that's new. It's just that apparently according to the Privacy Commissioner, he did not consult. So we have an interesting . . . They're sort of moving here, or perhaps this is just a different flavour of the whole consultation piece.

Where in most cases they don't consult, this minister felt that he should say they did consult because all the other people weren't seeming to get . . . Maybe he didn't want some international recognition around this issue of consultation. He didn't want to be like some of his other colleagues, so he thought he would stand up in this House and say he did consult, he did consult on four different times with the Privacy Commissioner. Except, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the problem is the Privacy Commissioner said that he did not consult on that particular issue, that he did not consult on the regulation and the changes that he was making . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I would ask the member to return to the Bill that is being discussed on the floor, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*, Bill No. 136. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps it was not clear when again my remarks as to how they relate to this, I think, the idea perhaps of the consultations, the consultations . . . because this has become a trademark of the Sask Party government is their lack of consultations. Or perhaps it's even the understanding of what the basics of democracy are, that you should talk to people. In plain words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, before you do something, you should go and talk to people. Perhaps it's consult, that word is . . . They're having difficulty with that.

But we saw a very good example in here today about the minister saying, I consulted four times. And it wasn't us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that raised that they didn't consult. Now they have the attention of the Privacy Commissioner. So what they have, the attention of . . . They have the attention of the United Nations, now Privacy Commissioner. They're getting quite famous. And of course the member from Martensville with her last episode, she also got some international fame. It was not around consultation; it was just simply around a fundraiser that she got to be known around the world about. So they are getting many people to look at them, not only us and the people of Saskatchewan.

And even as to questions were raised under the TILMA, the new West partnership agreement masquerading for TILMA, that again that they were now going to . . . They signed on, and perhaps they weren't even aware that they have signed on. Perhaps they didn't read it — as many times they haven't read Bills they'd have come in this House, had to have a redo — that they have to consult the provinces, the governments of British Columbia and the governments of Alberta, before they move in certain areas under seven.

So now we have the . . . And perhaps they didn't read that close enough because that's happened in other times when they've put forward Bills and they didn't read it clearly enough or carefully enough, had to bring it in here, and then they had to take them back to redo them.

And so this is, with that kind of background, with that kind of background, we have the Bill before us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill No. 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act* that they bring before here. And the minister touts this as a solution to a safety problem. Well their, sort of, their track record on safety is . . . I'll spend some time about that. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for now, the government, this government believes that this new organization can perform inspections more efficiently.

And here you have again the word of efficiency from this government, the Sask Party government, which are now calling all the changes they're making efficiencies and doing it better, but they're nothing more than cuts, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They're nothing more, nothing less than cuts to services for this province.

And how did this all happen, Mr. Deputy Speaker? And I know you've heard me say this before and listened intently about the \$2.3 billion that they were left with that just seemed to drain down into a . . . just drain, just drain this province of all that money, went on a huge spending spree, and now we find today we're in cuts.

And I would venture to say that now today we find ourselves playing around with safety of people because they now want to do it at arm's length. Because they say, they admit or they are saying that now they cannot do it the way somebody in the private sector can do it, and they would put this agency at an arm's length to do these.

Now why would you, why would you do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Why wouldn't you simply address the problem, have a look at whether there were more public safety officers needed

in here, more people needed in the branch, and hire these people? Again this is with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Now there's quite a . . . This minister is one with quite a background. He's made it into *The Parliamentarian*, forever will be written up in *The Parliamentarian* in an article in there which talked about his approach to governing, his approach to it were in terms of what . . . his apology to this legislature.

And so now we have in the works, we have a motion of privilege for a minister. We've got the motion, the member, before that, on coming before this House and some of the things that he said in this House about his work. And now we have another minister in the same, in the same situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it is this minister also feeling that he can just abdicate his responsibility in this area, abdicate his responsibility.

But I would say that it goes deeper than that. I would say that the Sask Party government doesn't believe in governing and that in every chance that they would get that they would try and get out of governing. And it's interesting that you can hold such ideological beliefs and then run to govern.

[15:15]

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again, they will no doubt, as we'll hear, the minister will probably want to reassure us that nothing will change, that this is merely administrative change and that all of the employees would just be transferred over. Nothing will happen. They will have all their benefits. We'll hear this.

But this coming from a minister whose first reaction was where did you get the information, and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, threatening the member from Regina Dewdney, that the police might come and see them. And for that he has now become rather famous — however not probably, in *The Parliamentarian*, as most of us would want to be written up about — but in a somewhat different manner, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So again, some fame being gained by the minister over there, by the members, by the minister opposite.

Now you can't, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you can't have it both ways here. You can't just simply say that this is . . . Either this is meaningful change as to how inspections, inspections which are very important, are going to be done or it is not meaningful change, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What is it that is going on here?

And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it makes no sense for the minister to create a backlog . . . create a new organization to solve a temporary backlog. I have spoken before on this issue and been very clear that on this issue, we have, on these occasions, that there . . . What about hiring some extra people? What about hiring some extra people so that we can move forward and get the backlog done, as opposed to simply abdicating their authority on here and putting it to an agency that's going to be at least at arm's length is what they say.

But here is some of the . . . In a press release from the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union, it is questioning the need for this new organization. And in there they say, "We've got a bunch of . . ." This is a quote from their press

release:

“We’ve got a bunch of inspectors that have been going out there and doing excellent work. We need a few more, without a doubt, but I don’t know why they’re doing . . . [it] this way,” said Hank Lashta, who represents the inspectors at the negotiating table. “The problem is easily corrected within the current framework.”

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are people who work within this field. And again:

“Lashta said there is a conflict of interest to have industry involved in the organization that will administer the safety program and suggested public safety could suffer.”

And again here they go on to explain what the organization is about:

The new organization will operate at arm’s-length from the government, but the government said the responsibility for legislative and regulatory requirements will remain with the province.

Now that’s interesting. And exactly what will that mean?

And then:

The 52 staff in the licensing and inspection branch will be transferred to the new authority, expected to be up and running in July.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I guess the questions that come out of this is, sort of, what accountability mechanisms will there be to guarantee the safety standards are met? We’ve heard nothing, nothing from this. Simply again to have, without consultations, without having any discussions, they’re asking us to simply say that this is . . . that we should accept this.

Will the Provincial Auditor and Ombudsman have powers to oversee the operation and address the problems? We know how important . . . Now again I sense that maybe it’s not only the lack of interest in governing that this Sask Party has. But again as we’re seeing by bringing in the Privacy Commissioner the way the Health minister brought that individual in — an esteemed individual of this legislature, appointed by this legislature — that perhaps this is not a problem for them. Perhaps it’s not a problem of whether the Provincial Auditor or Ombudsman has some . . . is able to oversee the operations here and address problems. Perhaps they want to hide this as well. Hide this the way they said, we don’t have a deficit, we don’t have a deficit.

Can you imagine that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they can come out and say to people, sit across from them at tables, go back to their constituencies, have us go back to the constituencies and have people say, there is no deficit. There is no deficit in Saskatchewan. There are only, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are only efficiencies.

We have efficiencies at the courthouse. We have efficiencies over at the courthouse, we do. We have efficiencies when it comes to the Dutch elm disease. We have efficiencies there. We

have efficiencies in SIAST, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have efficiencies there. We have efficiencies in the West Nile. A lot of efficiencies we have. This government’s big on efficiencies and being efficient.

And people will start saying, well what are they hiding? What about that \$3 billion of potash that the Minister of Energy and Resources was talking about? What happened to all our money? Because they’re out there and the people of Saskatchewan are out there working and making this economy go and earning a living for their families. But they’re turning around and finding waiting lists haven’t improved. There’s a doctor shortage. They’re not getting their tax breaks. The municipalities aren’t getting their money. And we hear on a continual basis, Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, raising taxes. And they’re hiding that and saying, well we don’t have a deficit. We don’t have a deficit.

We hear members from on the other side saying, well here’s what we gave them last year; they should be happy with that. And if, sorry, if we led you over the cliff by saying you would get it next year and now we can’t, you figure it out. Here’s a parachute. Here’s a parachute. But maybe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, maybe they’ll even cut back the parachutes because of efficiencies. So when people jump over the cliff, they’ll be gone. Because that’s what they’re doing, they’re doing to the people in municipal governments. They’re doing that to people in education governments. That’s what they’re doing because, Mr. Speaker, because they’re hiding, they’re hiding the deficit. They’re hiding it, not being upfront about the deficit.

They’re saying they consulted four times. And the Privacy Commissioner has to write them and say no. They say they consulted on the Bills, on the labour Bills and the ILO [International Labour Organization] from the United Nations has to write them and say, no, you didn’t. Mr. Deputy Speaker, how many more letters do they need to get?

You have a minister’s . . . threatening people on this side of the House, getting written up in *The Parliamentarian*. This is quite the record that in two and a half years — unbelievable — that you could get so much notoriety on issues like that in this House.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also on this side, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have to explain that. Because I guess when you have members acting as the way these folks do, invariably the conversation turns to where we are also asked. And politicians as a whole, Mr. Speaker, are not held in high regard because of that.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just one other thing. I know I’ve talked about the Ombudsman regarding this — and I’ve talked about whether they’ll have the powers — and the auditor. What about will freedom of information and privacy protection rules that apply to government ministries apply to this authority as well? Mr. Deputy Speaker, when there will be issues around the way people perform inspections — how many inspections and the regulation, what oversight — and how will the public, how will we as legislators be able to gain information into what is going on here would be my question.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think we must look at here, what

is the real agenda here? What is the real goal? Here we have a bunch of people who are here and they don't like to govern. They don't like to govern. And they talk about, they talk about excess, excess bureaucracy, excess bureaucracy, use the words bureaucrat because they know the connotation that they would, that those words would conjure up for the public. And so they would say, these are efficiencies. These are efficiencies and what we do is we play with safety; we play with safety. They're willing to go and play with safety not only in the courthouses in this province but also with the elevators and amusement rides.

And I think what they really are about, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what they're really about here is they're about privatization of public services and privatization wherever they can get away with it because that's what they believe in. That's what they do. SaskPower can build their own generation stations, but they would see it that they would have to put the needs of their own personal, and the needs and the wants of their friends, in front of the needs of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So it's a privatization agenda.

We don't see any checks here in terms of what would be happening. And I personally am not reassured, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is before us here, that there has been any clear reason for doing this. The only reason I can see is that they are talking about a backlog, and that is the apparently the main reason for doing this. And I can see that this is in some way just sort of a for-profit . . . Somebody's going to make a lot of money.

And there has been examples, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You would think they would learn. The listeriosis situation in Ontario a while back where you had, where the government handed over inspection to people who could do their own, to companies who'd be in charge of their own . . . And in areas of safety, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is probably not where you should be going.

Perhaps they feel that in some way there's better safety. Or perhaps that's the problem, is that they are not really concerned about safety, is that really, when it comes to that, it's not really on their minds. But their prime, the prime . . . If they would have said here that our prime concern is safety, our prime concern is safety, but nowhere do I see in the minister's rollout or in the minister's release that it's safety.

What in fact is in the Corrections, Public Safety and Policing release is interesting. He's been concerned about the backlog in inspections and the government's ability to respond to our needs over several years. Now I don't understand if it's simply, simply that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why there wasn't . . . why the government didn't see the solution as hiring extra officers to do the jobs.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again just a review of what we have had, or even what we saw today in the legislature in terms of the safety concerns in the courts, the cuts to the SIAST. On a daily basis we come here and hear more about cuts. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I suppose the unkindest cut of all is the hiding of the deficit. The hiding of the deficit is perhaps the most unkindest cut of all to the people of Saskatchewan because they elected a government, they expected that they could trust this government, and what has occurred, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

In two very, just over two short years, we have, they have drained, spent \$2.3 billion. Just gone, gone down the drain. You can almost just see it there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just draining down, draining from our province and then the red ink flowing. You can almost just see it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you could visualize that, that of these people spending money.

And so they had a lot of friends. They had a lot of friends while they were doing that. It was a big party. And now that the party's over, now what are we doing? We're playing with safety. We're playing with safety. And I guess it's quite clear in terms, when you have a Premier say, there's too much red tape in occupational and safety and that prevents business from coming. It's not a far step then to start saying, well all of these people who deal with safety should be somehow at arm's length and the government will watch over them.

But there's nothing here that lends us any comfort or for people that . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, people elect us, elect us to come here and be guardians over those sorts of things because we, we who are here, should not, would probably not, have a vested interest. Our vested interest is to the electors, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who elected us. That's our vested interest and we don't want to see any of them get hurt. And that's clear.

And I'm not saying that companies want to see anyone get hurt or that anyone does but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we should be the proprietors of this. We should be in charge of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And to abdicate that responsibility . . . And it's an abdication. It's an ideological move on the Sask Party government that is simply privatizing by stealth, privatizing by stealth on a number of fronts. Trying to get away with and covering it using the cover of arm's length and backlog are probably some of the most weakest arguments I think you could find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on an issue like this.

[15:30]

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again we have words that the minister will still be in charge of this. It's unclear, though the minister is a member of the Executive Council to whom, for the time being, the administration of the Act is assigned. Again in other words, this move is to a so-called delegated authority. So what else is going to happen here? What else when you say something like, the minister is ". . . the member of the Executive Council to whom for the time being the administration of this Act is assigned"? Where will it be going after that?

Are we getting rid of . . . I can't hardly imagine that they will be getting rid of inspections in these crucial areas, but what does it mean? And why are we again being held in the dark? If the minister has another plan, perhaps he should tell us. Perhaps he should tell us more than threatening people that the police will visit them and getting himself written up in *The Parliamentarian*. Perhaps he should tell people what is happening here, and where are we going with this. Where are we going with this?

Again the lack of consultation, the lack of transparency is becoming a trademark, a hallmark of this government in just two short years. And worst of all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are again not moving away. They're again hiding what is coming.

What is coming that you would say, for the time being the administration of the Act is assigned to the minister? So what are they hiding and why are they not coming forward with what their plan is? This is an important area. The people of Saskatchewan deserve the right to know what is happening. These words in an area of safety just don't cut it.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know there are other members that would like to enter into the debate, and so I will at that point allow them to do so.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to speak to Bill 136, *An Act establishing the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan and respecting the Administration of Safety Statutes*. As I understand this Bill, what we're being asked to do is to move inspections that presently take place in Corrections and Public Safety into a new agency.

Those inspections are in the area of amusement rides when our families enjoy rides across Saskatchewan in amusement parks or at exhibitions. Mr. Speaker, we're also being asked to move the boiler and pressure vessel people out of public safety and into this new agency, along with passenger and freight elevators as well, Mr. Speaker.

I understand from the data that I've been able to collect that literally there are thousands of inspections that take place each year in the province of Saskatchewan. I understand that presently people who work for government inspect elevators and freight elevators. They inspect amusement rides and they also inspect boilers and pressure vessels.

And, Mr. Speaker, that work is no longer going to come under the auspices of government, but is going to be transferred to this new agency that appears to be controlled by the industry, Mr. Speaker. And that is cause for concern. Because in the Bill, the minister is going to appoint a board of directors. And it sounds as though the minister is going to appoint a board of directors that come out of the very industries that are presently being inspected and regulated by government.

And, Mr. Speaker, that leads to this whole issue of, how is the government going to deal with conflict of interest? Because we could have a situation where someone that they've appointed to the board of this new agency also happens to operate a company that is inspected by this new agency. There may be some difficulties with an elevator or with an amusement ride or with some boilers or vessels. And the question that I have as a legislator, how is that conflict of interest going to be handled, or are there people going to be appointed that don't have a vested interest in this agency and are not going to be in a conflict of interest?

I do know that they say that the board is to establish a code of conduct and a code of ethical behaviour for members of the board and employees of the authority. But nevertheless it does raise a bit of a red flag that when you're asking industry to police itself, to govern itself, particularly when it comes to public safety, that we should all be concerned because

sometimes profit does trump expenses that may be incurred as a result of having to meet safety regulations, Mr. Speaker.

I think one of the things that also concerns me, and it should concern the public, is that while government is in charge of the legislation that is being turned over to this new agency, and the legislation is *The Amusement Ride Safety Act* as well as *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* and *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*, what the government does in this legislation, and this is important that the public understands it, is the government has inserted into this legislation article 27(1) called immunity. And I want to read this into the record because I think the public needs to know this.

[That] no action or proceeding lies or shall be commenced against the Government of Saskatchewan, the minister, the minister responsible for the administration of a safety statute, the authority or any officer, employee or agent of the Government of Saskatchewan or the authority for anything in good faith done, caused, permitted or authorized to be done, attempted to be done or omitted to be done by that person or by any of those persons pursuant to or in the exercise or supposed exercise of any power conferred by a safety statute, this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act or a safety statute or in the carrying out or supposed carrying out of any order or direction made pursuant to a safety statute or this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act or a safety statute or any duty imposed by a safety statute, this Act or the regulations.

And,

(2) No action or proceeding lies or shall be commenced against the Government of Saskatchewan, any member of the Executive Council, the authority or any officer, employee or agent of the Government of Saskatchewan or the authority because of the enactment of this Act.

So what we have, Mr. Speaker, in law is a government that isn't prepared to take legal and financial responsibility for basically the deregulation and devolution of the public safety.

So we have three important safety pieces, *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*, *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*, and *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* that are apparently the responsibility of the province, the government, but the Act is going to be interpreted and dealt with by this new agency, and the government has made itself immune — immune — from any kind of legal obligation when it comes to the public safety. They're turning it all over to this new agency, but we have no assurances that this new agency is going to have the capacity or the skill, particularly at the board level, to understand conflict of interest, to make sure that the public's safety is paramount.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is about industry policing and regulating itself. And I think in this day and age when the public is more concerned about public safety, whether that public safety is on the streets or on the roads in our province, they're also concerned about their public safety when it comes to going to work, riding an elevator, being in a building where there are boilers and pressure operations; as well, Mr. Speaker, riding a public elevator in a building that the public has access to.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that this appears to be about saving money. Now their argument that the government has put forward is that we're not doing enough inspections, and if the industry controls it, they'll be able to hire more people and do more inspections and charge for it. Well, Mr. Speaker, there's a very easy way to resolve this. The government hires more people and they charge the necessary fees to cover the cost of this particular operation so that the public is assured that the elevators that they ride, the buildings that they go to where there are boilers and vessels, and also the amusement rides that their children are on are safe, Mr. Speaker.

But that's not what the government wants to do. Because in the minister's, I guess what we could say, budget, when it comes to the whole area of money that's been allocated for public safety, when it comes to particularly elevators, boilers and vessels, and also amusement rides, the minister last year had about \$3.2 million allocated to this kind of inspections and regulatory regime, and this year his budget estimates show that this has been cut in half, down to \$1.6 million, Mr. Speaker.

So effectively what the Government of Saskatchewan has done is that they have privatized this particular function of government. They've made themselves immune from any kind of action on the part of the public should this new agency not fulfill its obligations, Mr. Speaker. And they have cut the cost to "the taxpayers" in half. And yet the taxpayers are people who are riding those elevators, that have our children enjoying those amusement rides, and we also visit those buildings where there are boilers and vessels that need to be inspected in order to protect the public.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is about the government's philosophy. And it's quite clear from many pieces of legislation that we've seen before this House that they are moving away from the public interest to the private interest. This is about the private interest of industry. This is not about public interest. And in fact when you have a government that puts in legislation that they're immune from any kind of legal action by a citizen, this is indeed problematic, particularly when it's this legislature that brings in those pieces of legislation in order to protect the public.

We have a minister that's in charge of "public safety," public safety when it comes to amusement rides, elevators, when it comes to boilers and pressure vessels. But this is a government that's quite prepared to devolve this to industry. And I have to say that I find that unacceptable because really what it's about is deregulation of program delivery. It's about government ending its legal obligations, obviously, and legal responsibility in actual service delivery because, while they hold the legislation tools, apparently they hold the policy tools, but they are letting some other agency deliver the actual on-the-ground service. And that other agency is going to be controlled by industry, according to the minister's own remarks. Because the minister has said in his remarks that this is about industry having more timely service, when in fact if you look at it, it appears as though it's about government not having any kind of legal obligation and responsibility. They've devolved this out to the industry.

Now the minister said, and this is important for the public to understand, there are about 32,000 boilers and pressure vessels

that are in operation in the province. There are about 3,100 elevators that carry passengers and freight, and there are about 240 amusement park rides that our children go to each year, particularly in the summertime.

[15:45]

And he says during the previous year about 5,000 boilers were inspected, about 4,000 pressure vessels were inspected, about 200 elevators, and they also included refrigeration plants. And he says that if only one of these devices should fail or if a boiler or pressure vessel explodes, property and lives — I would say lives — are put in jeopardy. So he says we need to ensure this doesn't happen, and this is why we're ensuring this equipment meets rigorous safety standards.

Well that's interesting, because if he wants to meet rigorous safety standards, I'm not sure you'd put industry in charge of regulating themselves, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure you'd do that because I'm not sure how you sort out a conflict of interest when you have industry controlling the board, when you have a Chair that not only gets to vote but also gets to break a tie. And who knows who the Chair is going to be. The Chair is going to be appointed by the minister.

Now he says that boilers and pressure vessels are inspected at frequencies of one-, two- or five-year intervals, depending on the assessed degree of potential risk, and inspections ensure that installed safety devices continue to provide for safe operation and to assure the structural components are sound. Well that's fair.

He also says that elevators are inspected at frequencies of 12 to 18 months, depending on the risk, and the risk is based on maintenance by licensed contractors. Well I wonder if any of these licensed contractors are going to be appointed to the board. So we'll have to see who in fact is appointed to the board, and whether or not any of the people that they choose to appoint to the board will be in what could be seen to be an obvious conflict.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say that this legislation is about delegating what should be government's authority to an organization controlled by industry. The authority is going to get to charge fees and, as I understand it, fees were already charged by government. They're going to get to retain the revenues. What's not clear, will they be audited by the Provincial Auditor? I suspect they will, but that hasn't been made clear by anything that I've been able to observe, Mr. Speaker.

I will be interested to know what conflict of interest policies a board will have, particularly if there is someone who is very involved in the industry. They may have had numerous inspections, there may be some difficulties. I want to know that the code of ethics or the conflict of interest policy would prevent that board member from applying any pressure to the CEO or any of the staff, that certainly we would want to make sure that that would be in place, Mr. Speaker.

And I think that the minister will have to explain to us why government is immune from any kind of action. Given that government does control the legislation and given that

government has the policy tools, why is the government exonerating itself or making itself immune from any kind of action should this authority have all kinds of difficulty, which it could have, Mr. Speaker, if the necessary code of ethics and conflict of interest provisions are not put in place.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I thought it was important that comments be put on the public record. This is a very serious piece of legislation because there are huge consequences if a boiler or a pressure vessel were to fail, if an amusement ride were to fail, or if an elevator were to fail. At this point we know that government is in charge of inspecting and licensing these particular devices at the moment. Government is in charge of enforcement, and the regulatory enforcement is now going to be transferred to a board of directors, an outside agency, that will be controlled by industry. And I think in terms of public safety that is extremely problematic.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll take my seat.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join into the discussion today on this Bill, Bill 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*. I sat, Mr. Speaker, and certainly appreciated the remarks that the member from Saskatoon Nutana made because certainly many of the remarks she made are consistent with some of my feelings and thoughts about this proposed legislation. And I think, Mr. Speaker, it's also consistent with many of the concerns that people in Saskatchewan have about the approach that the Sask Party government is taking to the safety of the public.

If we think, Mr. Speaker, about the activities that we do on a daily basis, we often put faith into many of the modern conveniences and utilities that we have here in Saskatchewan and here in the developed world. And while, Mr. Speaker, in certain countries if you flip the light switch or push the button on the elevator or turn up the thermostat in a building, sometimes you wonder whether or not they will work and whether they will work safely and properly, we here in Saskatchewan, in Canada, in the developed world, we generally put our faith in these amenities and services, programs, and trust that they will work, Mr. Speaker.

And we put our trust in these types of things because we, as a general public, as elected officials, believe in a system of regulation and control that ensures that these services will in fact be provided. So we can think of any area of life, if it is the area of boilers and pressure vessels, we in a sense take this for granted. But we can't just take it for granted because it's clear that in order for it to work properly, there needs to be a regulatory system in place that ensures there's the safe and proper operation of this feature.

I know, Mr. Speaker, when taking an elevator and often in an elevator, Mr. Speaker, if you're in an elevator with strangers or even people you know, there's this unwritten norm that we have in our culture that you don't normally engage in conversation. So one will be standing there in the elevator, if you have a fairly long ride up or down, watching the numbers tick by, the lights show up on every floor. And, Mr. Speaker, I think probably

most members of Saskatchewan and most MLAs . . . There's also that certificate up in the corner by the lights, and it shows, Mr. Speaker, that the elevator that one is riding has in fact been inspected and has been deemed to be safe and not in violation of any other regulations.

Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps because of my own partisan bent, sometimes when I see the name on that certificate of inspection in the elevator, I sometimes question the name on that certificate because we see, here in the Assembly we have the opportunity to see ministers at their finest and sometimes at their worst, which is the human condition. But nonetheless, even though it's the minister's signature on that certificate, Mr. Speaker, we know when we see that certificate, when we see the 2010 number up there and the fact that it has been inspected, we can ride with a degree of confidence because we know that a person has inspected that elevator, has ensured that it's not in violation of any of the rules, and that there is a degree of safety of course.

Everyone assumes a certain element of risk when we put our trust in any modern convenience, whether that's the brakes in a car or the tires on a car or the safety and security of an elevator. But certainly elevators are a key example of the need for safety and everyone can think of Hollywood movies where there are elevator problems and all the drama that comes around that. And many people have phobias about riding elevators. And perhaps, perhaps it's heart-smart, Mr. Speaker, to take the stairs to avoid the elevator use, but it's not always possible. Sometimes people's knees aren't all that great. Sometimes they don't want to have a sweaty suit or a sweaty brow when they get to the top floor of an office building for a meeting.

But it's clear that when it comes to the role of elevators, people in Saskatchewan, people in society, we put our trust in these machines that take people up and down. And there needs to be a guarantee that the proper inspections have taken place and that the elevator is in fact safe. So that's an example, Mr. Speaker. We put our trust in a modern convenience, and we assume that it was working well, working properly.

A highlight for summer for many people also is going to the fair, going to the exhibition, whatever it's called in an individual's local community. And once again, this is a highlight for many people, for many children. Perhaps it's a family tradition that they go every year. They've always gone with their parents or their grandparents, or perhaps they don't get to go on a big trip to another part of the country or another part of the province, or they don't get to go camping. But they get to go to the exhibition, experience the rides, experience the fun. And a big part of that, Mr. Speaker, is going on the amusement rides because everyone appreciates the thrills, as the minister said in his opening remarks, of taking the amusement park rides and being a little bit scared and having some excitement and some good memories of family and friends.

So it's an example where Saskatchewan people might go to the fair, might go to the exhibition and expect a good time. And we never, ever want tragedy to hit a family or an individual. But especially tragic, Mr. Speaker, when something that's designed to be a fun and positive and memorable event for children and adults alike, when an event like that turns into something where there's a fatality or an accident or that results in an injury where

an individual lives with the lifetime effects of an injury related to an amusement park ride — surely this is an area, Mr. Speaker, where we want to ensure that there is proper regulation and oversight with how things are being inspected and how the check marks are given to, the stamp of approval, indicating that yes, this amusement park ride is safe, is good to go, and will provide lifetime memories to boys and girls that are going from Saskatchewan.

So no member of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I believe would disagree with that position, that someone who rides an elevator, someone who rides an amusement park ride, someone who benefits from a boiler or pressure vessel, Mr. Speaker, that individuals who use those services or entertainment pursuits, that they do so with the highest level of safety. We in Saskatchewan, we have high standards for the rides. We ought to have high standards for the rides, and we ought to have proper inspection.

I remember one time travelling in Guatemala, and we were on a bus and passing a town with a little fair and a carnival going on and a few rides. And, Mr. Speaker, while maybe the rides looked fun and it would have been a good memory, I simply did not have the same level of confidence in going on those rides in a country that may not have the same level of quality and control with standards as we do have here in Canada. Perhaps they do have high levels of quality control on amusement park rides in Guatemala. I don't actually know that. But I decided to err on the side of caution and take a pass and stay on the chicken bus, Mr. Speaker, which perhaps was just as dangerous as going on the rides in the town in Guatemala.

All that to say, Mr. Speaker, that we in Saskatchewan, we have an expectation. We have a demand as legislators and in the broader public that the regulation of things like elevators, things like amusement park rides, like boilers and pressure vessels, Mr. Speaker, we want these services to be done in a responsible and clear and transparent manner in how they are inspected.

Mr. Speaker, it was only a few days ago, April 28th, that was the day of commemoration for workers killed or injured on the job. And, Mr. Speaker, workplace injuries take a variety of forms, but every injury, Mr. Speaker, that takes place is a tragedy, and every one is one too many. There is no family that wants to say goodbye to a loved one in the morning as they go off to their place of work, as they go off to earn a living and provide for the needs of their family, for their friends, for anyone that they're in charge of. There is no individual who or there is no family who wishes harm on that person and does not want to see their loved one returned back safe and sound in the same condition as when they left the house.

[16:00]

And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to keep in mind that day recognizing the sacrifice that many Saskatchewan workers have made over the years. Just preceding April 28th when we had that announcement for . . . or not the announcement, but the day of commemoration for injured and fallen workers on the job, just before that, there was a delegation here from the Potash Council, an umbrella organization for many of the labour organizations representing potash workers throughout the mines in Saskatchewan. And with them, Mr. Speaker, was the widow

of a man who died in an accident in a Saskatchewan potash mine. And nothing drives home the point in a more clear and chilling way than hearing directly from a widow who has lost her partner because of a workplace fatality, a workplace accident, though I know the use of the word of the accident in such a context is not the proper use because it always comes down to proper regulations, proper enforcement, slowing down, using one's head properly.

And, Mr. Speaker, I don't have a personal and direct connection to those that work on amusement park rides, though certainly I've been on amusement park rides and I know many people that have ridden on them. And I don't have direct activity on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker, working with boilers and pressure vessels or inspecting elevators, though of course I ride elevators, as most people do. I try to take the stairs when I can, but it doesn't always happen; I have to confess and be honest with everyone.

But the ethos of safety and the general approach where safety is our top concern, this is something that affects all Saskatchewan people. While probably for most MLAs in the Assembly here, the greatest risk statistically with the type of accidents that we might be exposed to or types of workplace injuries with the amount of hours that most of us drive on provincial highways, not always in the best conditions, whether that's from city to city or city to a rural area, our concern with highway safety is a top priority.

But I know there have been occasions, Mr. Speaker, where I've chosen to spend an extra night in one city or to not drive or to carpool with some other people or wait to do the trip until I have my winter tires on the car because safety for me is a concern because I know I don't want to leave this planet any sooner than I need to and I know there's loved ones who, thankfully, feel the same way about that, who want me around for a little while thankfully.

So that same concern that I have, Mr. Speaker, for my own personal safety and for that of my family, when I think of individuals who are actively engaged in running the amusement park rides, individuals that are going on the amusement park rides, individuals that are working on boilers and pressure vessels, individuals that are taking elevators, that same concern that we have for ourselves, the same tragedy or the same avoidance that we have to tragedy as we saw on that day when the wife of a fallen potash worker came to the Assembly — that's the same approach, Mr. Speaker, that we should take when having pieces of legislation that affect the safety of the workplace or the recreational place of activity here in the province. I think that's the lens that we need to approach a piece of legislation with.

While we are not always directly affected by the piece of legislation that we are debating, we need to understand that this piece of legislation has the same type of effect on many Saskatchewan families that it could have with us, even if the effect of the legislation is not always immediate or apparent.

So we have to ask ourselves, the proposed changes to a piece of legislation, does this increase the safety for a Saskatchewan family, for a Saskatchewan worker, for a Saskatchewan person? Or does it decrease the amount of safety that one would have?

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure, when looking at Bill 136 and the changes that the minister put forward to deal with the regulations — some of the safety requirements around elevators, amusement park rides, boilers, and pressure vessels — I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, that the approach that the minister has taken in this case is the best approach.

And I say that, Mr. Speaker, because — while the minister's opening comments might want us to believe that or simply take it for granted that that's what this is all about, that it's about additional safety, Mr. Speaker — I think, based on the Sask Party's past actions, based on many of the comments we've seen around deregulation, around off-loading responsibility from the provincial level to other levels or other organizations or other entities, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government does not have a track record that builds up a whole lot of confidence in us simply taking them at their word that this is about improving the safety and the quality.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think there are certain services that are present in a developed society, that I've talked about, that are the role of government, certain services, certain responsibilities that government is best suited to deal with, that government is best suited to oversee and ensure that regulations and requirements are in fact met and/or exceeded.

And, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the suggestion that is put forward in Bill 136 raises some flags for me and some question marks about the motives around this piece of legislation, the motives . . . and also how the doors that this opens, that this piece of legislation, the doors that this piece of legislation may open for a continued slide down the slope of deregulation, a continued slide down the slope of ensuring Saskatchewan people are cared for, respected, and are able to go home at the end of the day, whether it's from a work pursuit or a recreational pursuit, but able to go home at the end of the day in the same condition or a better condition than when they left the house early in the morning or whatever time of the day they left.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we look at Bill 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*, it's necessary to ensure that Saskatchewan people are made to feel safe in whatever pursuit they are engaged in, whatever pursuit they are doing. And, Mr. Speaker, what we have suggested in this piece of legislation by the minister, and this is a quote, that “. . . the member of the Executive Council to whom for the time being the administration of this Act is assigned.” In other words, Mr. Speaker, this move to a so-called delegated administrative authority is, in my opinion, just the first move.

And this is a pattern that we see quite often with the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. They sometimes have a reluctance to take a piece of legislation as far as they want. They sometimes have a reluctance to take an idea or a proposal as far as they want. So they'll take a middle step which in their hope will allow Saskatchewan people to warm up to the idea and will also allow them more time to engage in whatever type of spin or campaign of misinformation in order to ensure that individuals can buy into this proposal that they want to see go forward.

Now if you don't, if members of the Assembly don't believe me, Mr. Speaker, one prime example of this — taking the first

step of floating an idea and seeing what kind of reaction may occur — occurred by the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Education, when he put out the idea of greatly reducing the number of educational assistants in Saskatchewan schools.

Now it didn't take long, Mr. Speaker, for parents, for children, for teachers, for . . . I should say parents who may have children benefiting from an educational assistant directly, but also parents of children who are benefiting indirectly by having an educational system in the classroom because of the greater amount of . . . or because of how the educational atmosphere in the classroom can be enhanced and strengthened, allowing all students in the classroom to succeed.

And it didn't take long, Mr. Speaker, where we saw some amazing backpedalling where the minister, he floated the idea up there with a trial balloon, but when it was clear, Mr. Speaker, that there was going to be a large outcry from Saskatchewan people, we saw the minister prick that balloon and quickly pop it because he thought he was going to get a lot of backlash and a lot of flak with that trial balloon. And then we saw all of these ridiculous comments, Mr. Speaker, about how it's actually not policy, it was just an idea. And we're not quite sure how it got itself into a memo, and we're not quite sure how it got itself out into the various corners of Saskatchewan.

When we see that approach, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't build up a whole lot of confidence for members of the Assembly, for the broader public, for individuals directly affected that the Sask Party government is particularly willing, is particularly happy to simply state what their plans are and carry through with their plans. When we saw the huge amount of backpedalling on this issue of educational assistants, I know it caused many people to have great concern.

So when we look at this initial step that the minister is proposing with respect to *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*, this initial step where he talks about creating an arm's-length organization to oversee the safety, when we see this off-loading, I can't help but think, Mr. Speaker, help to think and ask myself, what is the minister's endgame and what does he actually want to accomplish at the end of the day? How much deregulation does he want to see? How much ceding of control from his ministry, ceding of responsibility from his ministry does he want to end up having in the area of inspections and public safety for Saskatchewan people?

Now if members opposite and members in the public watching at home don't believe my position here that they like to float an idea, they like to put an idea out there a little bit and see what kind of reaction they might get, we saw similar instances, Mr. Speaker, with the Finance minister going to public events talking about harmonized sales tax, talking about the need for user fees in the health care system. Mr. Speaker, simply attempts to float an idea to see what kind of reaction there might be and see what Saskatchewan people are going to say.

But it's telling, Mr. Speaker, because when the Sask Party government lets their guard down for a moment and lets their true colours shine through, it's when you see these glimpses of honesty with respect to what they actually want to do. I mean we all know the example of the past leader, Mr. Hermanson — in a previous election when he said, well you know everything

is on the table; we'd consider anything — providing a bit of honesty. And it allowed Saskatchewan people to see what the true motives are of members opposite.

You know, we even saw as of late the Government House Leader before the previous election talking about hiving off SecurTek and how that might be an option. But in each instance, Mr. Speaker, the trial balloon is put out there, the idea is put out there, and then public reaction is gauged and public reaction is monitored to see what kind of outcry or opposition there may be.

So my concern is with Bill 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*, by having the type of off-loading of responsibility for the maintenance or for the control and regulation of the services that I have mentioned — elevators, amusement park rides, boilers and pressure vessels — Mr. Speaker, I think in my opinion most Saskatchewan people want to be able to use these services, use these amenities with a high degree of confidence knowing that they are as safe as possible.

And, Mr. Speaker, in order for someone to do their job in an honest and most diligent way that they possibly can, the individuals involved in regulation, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the individuals that are best suited in the evolution of this regulation are those, Mr. Speaker, who do not have something to gain or lose with respect to issuing a report that may in fact say that the elevator can still be used or the elevator can't be used.

It should not be the individual doing the inspection that is involved with, well can this amusement park go forward? Can the drop of doom carry on? Can the — whatever the favourite roller coaster is — can it continue on or is the plug pulled on that roller coaster for a period of time, on that zipper while the proper changes to the safety standards are met and followed?

And, Mr. Speaker, it makes sense to Saskatchewan people that you would want the individuals that are inspecting a service, inspecting a product to not have a direct gain or loss if they are the ones that are giving the thumbs up or the thumbs down. It makes sense, Mr. Speaker, to have a professional group of individuals who are committed to safety because that is by their very definition the job that they've been asked to do, the job that they've received training to do, the job that they are qualified to do, the job that they have a track record doing. To me, Mr. Speaker, it makes sense that these are individual who would conduct the inspections on the various pieces of equipment and rides that I've been speaking of.

[16:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, if there is a backlog of inspections that need to be done, if there are increased inspections that should occur in order to ensure that Saskatchewan people can use elevators, boilers, pressure vessels, and amusement rides with the highest degree of confidence, Mr. Speaker, there are options available to the minister to address a backlog. There are options available to the minister to make changes within his ministry to allow for this type of oversight and regulation.

But the problem, Mr. Speaker, that we see with members opposite is that they have an inherent, an inherent inability to

place confidence in members of the civil service to do their job. And in their view, their ideological view of what government should do and how government should operate, Mr. Speaker, they're suggesting that having a smaller civil service would meet the needs of Saskatchewan people. And while, Mr. Speaker, the size and the role of the public service, that's certainly a debate that we can have in this Assembly, and it's a debate that's occurred many times and probably will occur many times in the future, Mr. Speaker.

But there are certain things, Mr. Speaker, that government is best suited to do, that government has a direct role and responsibility in ensuring in my opinion, and there are certain areas where government has a track record in delivering the quality services that people expect.

And so while members opposite may have what has been coined a four-by-four plan to reduce the number of people in the civil service doing the job, I mean performing duties in the civil service, it's not clear to me, Mr. Speaker, that there's a clear plan that government members have or the Sask Party has in ensuring that we have a strong and vibrant civil service meeting the needs of Saskatchewan people.

If the approach to civil service, Mr. Speaker, is to simply not do any hiring, to have individuals retire, thereby create vacancies and then, Mr. Speaker, to simply shuffle people around as need be according to seniority and maybe some past experience, to me, Mr. Speaker, that is not a strategy and approach that will guarantee we have the best individuals working in the public service, doing the best jobs that they are trained and qualified and want to do, if it's simply a shuffling around of people.

And so when we have the changes proposed in Bill 136 have been put forward by the Minister of — I always mix up the order of the responsibilities here, but — Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, CPSP, comment, Mr. Speaker, that in his news release of April 20th where he comments and says, "A delegated authority will deliver services more effectively and efficiently, which responds to industry needs and minimizes risks to public safety."

Mr. Speaker, I think that says more about the member's dislike for the public service than it does about his knowledge of how elevators, amusement rides, boilers, and pressure vessels are actually maintained, and how they're actually monitored and guaranteed to be in good quality to ensure that there is safety for all Saskatchewan people.

And time and time again, Mr. Speaker, we see this government opposite so willing to off-load responsibility, so willing to duck their responsibility because they, Mr. Speaker, through their own mismanagement have gotten themselves into a position where they're not able to deliver on the many promises that they've made because of the horrible financial situation that they have taken our province into — a situation, Mr. Speaker, of having had billions of surplus into over \$1 billion deficit; a situation, Mr. Speaker, of increasing debt.

So it's time and time again that we see this theme emerge, whatever the issue is, where Saskatchewan people are being asked to pay the price for the Sask Party's own inability to manage the provincial finances and the provincial economy in a

responsible way. No criticism in any way, Mr. Speaker, to the many people that are engaged in economic activity in Saskatchewan. They're doing a fabulous job. But when it comes to the Premier and his front row of cabinet ministers being able to manage things properly, being able to have down-to-earth, realistic expectations of revenue, and then to craft a budget accordingly, Mr. Speaker, according to what revenues they think will be coming in, they've horribly failed on this front. I think everyone recognizes that.

Interesting editorials in the weekend paper, Mr. Speaker, of examples of how Saskatchewan people are being asked to pay the price for the Sask Party's own inability to manage the provincial finances. The topic, Mr. Speaker, in one of the editorials by a columnist was specifically addressing the issue of Crown Investments Corp., CIC, and the actions that the Sask Party government has taken and how those actions have threatened the long-term viability and sustainability and strength of our Crown sector here in the province.

And one of the points made by the comments, Mr. Speaker, was that instead of coming up with these ludicrous and almost comical explanations as to why they're doing things, the minister should just be frank and say, well guess what? We're horrible managers of the province's finances. We've done a brutal job in predicting revenue and then budgeting accordingly, and for that reason, we had to do some things that are negatively affecting the Crown sector.

And just be upfront. Tell it like it really is and own the problem and recognize how the problem that they created by their very own making, Mr. Speaker, is having a negative effect and a negative outcome on areas of Saskatchewan society. And the comments in Saturday's paper said that when it comes to the Crowns, the Sask Party government's own inability to manage the province's finances in a responsible way has negatively affected how the Crowns have been treated.

So it's an example, Mr. Speaker, where the actions that the Sask Party have taken, the result of these actions are that Saskatchewan people are being paid to ask the price. And I think, Mr. Speaker, with Bill 136, it's another example where Saskatchewan people are being paid to — or being asked, not paid — being asked to pay the price for the Sask Party's own ability to do their job properly.

Because if there is a backlog, Mr. Speaker, if more inspections need to occur, if safety is the top priority, Mr. Speaker, members opposite, if they hadn't mismanaged the province's finances in such a horrible way would have more funds at their disposal to hire more inspectors, perhaps on a temporary basis to attack the backlog, hire more inspectors, and address the issue that is a concern of all Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, when there's a health backlog on a particular issue, the Health minister suggests exporting people out to BC to get the work done to address the immediate need to address a backlog or a wait list of some sort.

If there is a backlog, Mr. Speaker, of inspections, for whatever the issue might be, whether it's an elevator, a pressure vessel, a boiler, or an amusement park ride, Mr. Speaker, the government, if they believed in the role of the public service, if

they believed in their own responsibility that is placed on them in order to ensure that there is a proper control of things like amusement park rides, elevators, boilers and pressure vessels, Mr. Speaker, they could take the necessary steps to solve the problem.

They could take proactive steps, Mr. Speaker, by hiring people, perhaps on a temporary basis, I don't know, but hire individuals to address that concern.

What is not appropriate, Mr. Speaker, is farming out that responsibility, off-loading that responsibility to a group that hasn't traditionally done it. Because in my opinion, government is best suited for doing the types of inspections that are involved with ensuring that boilers, elevators, pressure vessels, and amusement park rides are in fact properly maintained and in a good safety state so that all people in Saskatchewan can ride them with a high degree of confidence or be around them with a high degree of confidence knowing that they will in fact be safe.

So, Mr. Speaker, the remarks that I have made on Bill 136, as I begin to conclude things on this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, they've addressed a number of areas. They've addressed how we, as Saskatchewan people, place a great deal of trust in the amenities and the services that we appreciate having here in the developed world.

We appreciate having boilers and pressure vessels that work properly. We appreciate having the opportunity to go to the exhibition or the fair in the summer with our families, have some good memories, have a fun time, go on the Zipper, maybe get a bit of an upset stomach, and then have some cotton candy, Mr. Speaker. That's the kind of day that we want when it involves going to the fair or the exhibition.

We do not want, Mr. Speaker . . . And the same can be said about taking the elevator, something that everyone just takes for granted. But I know I've been in the elevator, Mr. Speaker, when it hasn't quite worked properly or the door is partially opened or there's been a bit of a jarring. And it's . . . Watching individuals' faces is, I won't say amusing, but everyone is always quite startled because we put our daily trust in services like that and so when something could perhaps go wrong, it certainly quickly causes people to panic or show some great concern in their face. It's not unlike a landing gear on a plane or something like that. If there's a funny noise that comes, it doesn't take long for people to become quite worried about that.

So my point is we put a great deal of trust in these services. We put a great deal of trust in these services and products that either provide enjoyment and amusement or provide a very important utility and service to Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, because we put such a high amount of trust and place such a high degree of confidence in these services and products, it's necessary that they have the highest level of safety and regulation and control, Mr. Speaker. It's necessary that people can in fact ride and use these products and services without fear, knowing that they will work properly because, as we've seen in recent weeks, no one wants what is a regular day of going to work or no one wants what is a regular outing for a bit of fun, perhaps an annual highlight for a family, to turn into

tragedy and despair. That's not what we want here in Saskatchewan. So government's objective should be that we maintain the highest levels of quality, safety, and control with the types of services that we've been talking about.

My concern is, Mr. Speaker, on many occasions we have seen Sask Party members display actions that would at least cause me — and I know many members in Saskatchewan — to have some serious questions about how wholeheartedly the government members take that responsibility.

Because we've seen many instances, Mr. Speaker, where members opposite have floated a trial balloon, have talked about a major change, but they have done so in a partial measure, have done so to test the waters, to put up a trial balloon. And so my concern is with this arm's-length organization that is being made, Mr. Speaker, or that is suggested to be made in Bill 136, that this is one of these partial steps where the true motives of the Sask Party members opposite are not evident and clear to everyone.

And, Mr. Speaker, if there is a problem — my final point — if there is a problem, if there is a safety concern that should be a worry to Saskatchewan people because there is a backlog, there are means available to the Sask Party government to address that problem without the off-loading of responsibility that they so greatly seem to enjoy doing time and time again.

And so, Mr. Speaker, simply because members may not place a high degree of confidence in the civil service, or simply because members have horribly mismanaged the provincial finances so they may feel like their hands are tied with respect to the actions they can take to ensure that there is a high degree of safety, that's not an excuse, Mr. Speaker. Because time and time again, whether it's the examples in Advanced Education or whether it's examples in the Crown sector, we sadly see Saskatchewan people being asked to pay the price for the Sask Party government's own inability to manage the provincial finances in a responsible, sustainable manner, their own inability to show good stewardship of our provincial resources and ensure that Saskatchewan's needs are met.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've stated some of my thoughts about this piece of legislation, Bill No. 136, and I've enjoyed the opportunity to listen to other members from this side who have shared comments. And I'm going to look forward, Mr. Speaker, to talking to more people in the public about this issue as well because I think when it comes to safety, it's top of mind or ought to be top of mind for all people. What is certainly top of mind is the love that we have for our families and friends and co-workers, and how we want everyone to remain safe here in the province.

[16:30]

And in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 136 is a step in the wrong direction. It's not a step towards safety, but it's a step towards decreasing the level of safety in Saskatchewan workplaces and Saskatchewan's recreational pursuits. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks, though I will sit or watch on television perhaps the remarks of my next colleague who wishes to speak on Bill No. 136. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to speak to Bill No. 136, *An Act establishing the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan and respecting Administration of Safety Statutes*.

And, Mr. Speaker, if one is of a conservative temperament — as you would think some of the members opposite might be, Mr. Speaker — the question that one would ask when ministers bring forward legislation, either to cabinet or to the caucus, is: why, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know what answer the members opposite got if they asked that question in respect to this piece of legislation. This question is, why we are doing this? But there's certainly no obvious answer in the legislation and there's no obvious answer in the minister's second reading speech, Mr. Speaker.

We just heard today in respect to questions about the Minister of Justice removing perimeter security and laying off deputy sheriffs in the courthouses, that despite the fact that this was an initiative of the previous government in 2007 that the minister supported when he was Justice critic, he's had in place for a number of years — and as a matter of fact when it was temporarily down, there was an issue of safety and security — despite all of that, the minister today made the remarkable statement that, well we didn't do it 100 years ago, so why would we keep on doing it now?

The ministers didn't fly 100 years ago. I expect if that's the government policy, they'll stop flying now, down to Regina. The government didn't have women in the caucus 100 years ago, so I suppose that the minister's support of that is conditional. We didn't have the Internet 100 years ago too and I suppose if a government member hadn't had access to that, there would've been less controversy in this legislature over the last couple of weeks as well, Mr. Speaker.

But that surely isn't the reason. And we expect that the actual reason, in the case of cutting back court security and laying off security officers, deputy sheriffs, who I suspect — I need to have this confirmed, but I suspect — this government went through considerable trouble to have declared as essential, Mr. Speaker, and all of a sudden today, no longer essential, not essential at all. We didn't have them doing this 100 years ago; why would we have them doing it now, Mr. Speaker? So perhaps this legislation is an attempt to return to the days maybe of laxer regulations 100 years ago, in respect to elevators, boilers, amusement park rides, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps that's the new policy of the government.

That's not what the minister said. Now you have to be careful about what the minister said in his second reading speech because it sounds like, partway through his speech, that he's giving an answer to that question of why — why, if it's not broken, you don't fix it, Mr. Speaker. And this is where the minister's answer appears to be, at first blush:

Why does this government require that this Bill be passed into legislation during this session? There are two vital reasons, Mr. Speaker.

And he goes on to say what those reasons are, Mr. Speaker. And this can be found in the minister's second reading speech, April 28th, 2010, page 5133 of *Hansard*. He goes on to state what those reasons are. But those aren't reasons why the government requires the Bill to be passed. There actually are no reasons in the second reading speech as to why the government requires the Bill to be passed.

There are only reasons set out to why, if we're going to pass this Bill, the government wants it passed during this session — not why it's going to be passed, not why we are going to change the way that we regulate, inspect, and ensure the safety of boilers, elevators, and amusement rides. No explanation as to that, Mr. Speaker, just an explanation as to why it has to be passed this session. The first reason why it has to be passed this session is because there is a backlog of inspections and this new authority is going to be able to hire inspectors, I suppose, and address this backlog, Mr. Speaker. No explanation as to why that requires the Bill to be passed, Mr. Speaker.

Because there's a backlog, the government could hire new inspectors. The government won't hire new inspectors because then you would just have more people employed by government who the government does not want employed by government. The government wants them employed by this other body. The government is actually quite willing to tolerate this backlog, Mr. Speaker. They are quite willing to tolerate this backlog until this Bill is passed. And they would like the Bill passed quickly so the backlog can be dealt with more quickly, but they're willing to tolerate a backlog instead of hiring inspectors to do these jobs, Mr. Speaker.

They are willing to allow a backlog of inspections — to be clear; it's in the second reading speech of the minister — they are willing to allow a backlog of inspections on the province's boilers, elevators, and amusement rides and say to the opposition, if these aren't inspected, if these aren't safe, it's because you won't pass a Bill changing who has authority to actually conduct the inspections and carry out that work. The government currently has it. The government's not going to fulfill its obligations under current legislation. The government is going to allow this backlog to exist until this Bill is passed.

So that's the first reason given for passing the Bill this session, Mr. Speaker. It's not a reason for passing the Bill. There's no explanation in the second reading speech about why we are making this change.

The second reason given in the minister's second reading speech is that this function currently falls under the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, and the mandate will move when the Bill is passed to an authority that collects its operating revenues from its stakeholders, and it is necessary to align revenues with expenditures appropriately for the business year. So for the accounting purposes of this new authority that's not an agent of the Crown, this non-government agency, for their accounting purposes, the Bill has to be passed this session and specifically before July 1st, 2010.

That doesn't explain the reason for the creation of the authority, Mr. Speaker. That just explains why the authority needs to come into existence, why it needs to have this Bill passed this session — so it can align revenues and expenditures.

Essentially the government is saying, we quit doing this to the extent that we can. We're going to allow the backlogs. We want out of this, and we want this designated authority to be doing this job and that's why we need the Bill passed as quickly as possible.

And you get the impression, along with many other pieces of legislation, this government, that if they could have done this by regulation, they would have, Mr. Speaker. But they can't. They have to bring this into the House because this affects legislation. This affects legislation that has been debated and passed by this legislature, and it can't be done by regulation. It's got to be held up to public scrutiny and, you would think, an explanation given as to why, why this is no longer properly done by a government ministry, why it is now going to be done by an agency that is not an agent of the Crown.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's been suggested — I think the previous speaker on this Bill suggested it — that this is part of a two-step that we've seen before. We saw in the '80s, particular on a number of files, Mr. Speaker, a two-step where a separate agency is created separate from a government department, and then that agency can then be completely privatized, Mr. Speaker.

Now can we be sure that that is the plan of the government? No, I don't think we can, Mr. Speaker. It's not clear in the legislation that that is the second step. This may be the only step. This may be the only thing the government plans on doing in the case of safety inspections of boilers, elevators, amusement rides, and there may be no further privatization step beyond the creation of this authority, Mr. Speaker. But it is a necessary step if there is a privatization agenda here. Opposition can't be confident that this is the last piece, Mr. Speaker.

And without another explanation of why this has to be done — other than the government doesn't want to hire inspectors to do this important work, Mr. Speaker — we have to be at least skeptical. We can't make accusations of certainty, Mr. Speaker, but we have to be skeptical about what is the motive and ask since it doesn't appear that the minister was asked by his caucus colleagues, at least not from his second reading speech, Mr. Speaker. We have to ask why. What is so flawed, besides the government's inability to manage its finances, to hire a sufficient number of inspectors? What is so flawed about the current safety authority?

And you don't have to be particularly radical, Mr. Speaker, to be concerned about the delegation, the derogation of inspections and safety legislation from government to non-government authorities. And the minister was so fervently fixed on this issue — that might be a concern to members of the public and members of the Legislative Assembly — that he repeated himself in the second reading speech. He repeated that although the delegated administrative organization would charge fees and retain revenues, it doesn't appear that the minister thought it would actually do anything. Now in fact, it's going to administer safety legislation, Mr. Speaker. Otherwise there's no point creating it.

But besides saying that it's going to charge fees and retain revenues, the minister didn't say what the authority would do.

And repeated, he says it twice, that the “policy, legislation, and regulations will be retained by government.” And he says, “Mr. Speaker, I wish to repeat that,” and then repeats it.

That’s not quite right, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the legislation talks about compliance with the Act. Well the Act doesn’t actually set out any safety requirements, Mr. Speaker; I don’t believe. It creates this authority to administer them. Then the Act does refer to the administration of safety statutes which will be the responsibility of this non-government authority. It’s not an agent of the Crown authority. And then the legislation says — this is in section 25(2) — in reference to safety standard agreements, “The minister and the authority shall enter into a safety standards agreement for the purposes of this Act.”

So no longer will the government be legislating safety standards. No longer will the government be setting the standards for boilers, amusement rides, and elevators. From here on in, Mr. Speaker, once this legislation is passed and acted and proclaimed, the government will negotiate with this authority which appears to be in the business, in certainly one respect, charging fees and collecting revenues for this work . . . will negotiate with this authority which is in the business of administering the safety standards and making the inspections, will negotiate with this authority what the safety standards are, Mr. Speaker. That’s what the Act says.

I don’t know what the minister was referring to when he suggested in his second reading speech that policy will be retained by government. Policy will not be retained by government, Mr. Speaker, in respect to safety. Policy will be negotiated by the minister with the authority, negotiated prior — I suppose — to, as the agreement says, entering into safety standard agreements.

Now the legislation sets out provisions that must be in those agreements, and the government has some authority, even under regulation, to provide for further provisions. But that’s indeed the case, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

If the government’s going to retain all the power to set the standards, then the phrase, the section in the legislation that says that the minister and the authority shall enter into safety standards agreements is without meaning, Mr. Speaker. And the courts are loath to find clearly written pieces of legislation like that subsection, Mr. Speaker, as to be without meaning. And so that bears a meaning. And the meaning is derogation of authority over safety standards to be negotiated now, to be negotiated with an authority that, at least as far as this legislation’s concerned, bears some connection, maintains some connection with government but is being for some reason divided off from the Ministry Responsible for Public Safety.

And we have to wonder why, Mr. Speaker. We have to wonder why, in light of the government failure, when given an opportunity on the second reading speech of the minister to give an explanation as to why — not why the government wants the Bill passed now, but why the government wants the Bill passed at all, Mr. Speaker. And that is lacking, that is lacking from the government.

And I don’t know how many examples one would need to raise a concern about an ideological, knee-jerk reaction to government regulation when it comes to the environment or it comes to occupational health and safety or public safety, Mr. Speaker. I don’t know how many examples you would need to suggest that the government here should tread very, very carefully, much more carefully than they are, Mr. Speaker. And they need another explanation. The public needs another explanation as to why, why we would be tinkering around in a very non-conservative way with safety and inspections of publicly used equipment, Mr. Speaker.

We know this week, maybe as a result of self-regulation of an oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, that there is an oil slick the size of Jamaica moving towards Louisiana or — the Governor of Louisiana hopes — Alabama or Mississippi, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess if it hit Alabama or Mississippi, that’s good news because those will have beaches and you can scoop the oil off the beaches. If it hits Louisiana, it’s in the bayous and it’s there forever, Mr. Speaker. So here we have a situation — a disaster — and hope that it will be partially averted by other states being struck, by this failure of a valve, Mr. Speaker, like a valve on a boiler that was inspected, perhaps, only by the company that owned it, Mr. Speaker.

We have the circumstance of listeria where the federal government decided that inspection by the federal government on meat packing plants on the nation’s food was too onerous on either government — which seems to be the motive behind this legislation — or too onerous on the industry. And so we had self-regulation. And I think the company involved very sincerely, very sincerely thought that they could regulate themselves, inspect themselves, and that they were confident that when they found a problem that they were on top of that problem and could address it. And that turned out not to be the case, Mr. Speaker. That’s another example.

This ideology of deregulation, it took hold in the United States around electricity and in California where you had — the capacity for electricity was not used — you had blackouts. And then they might not even be caused by negligence and lack of inspection; they may have been deliberate, Mr. Speaker. But you had blackouts in a state that had more than enough energy capacity, electricity capacity. There is no question that the deregulation of the industry was the source of that problem.

And whether it started in the United States or whether it started in Britain under Prime Minister Thatcher — the sense that, the belief that, on the part of people who like to call themselves conservative, that, you know, if it’s not broke, yes, we do want to fix it and we want to remove the heavy-handed regulation — it has caused nothing but trouble, Mr. Speaker.

And if you want to go back to Britain, after years of deregulation there was, as some people might remember, a terrible ferry accident. And it was the type of accident that when it happened and people died, people said this is a Third World accident. This is a developing world accident. This is an accident that you don’t expect to see in the country of Great Britain.

I was recently in Spain, Mr. Speaker, which is not a Third

World or a developing country, and visiting Alhambra, which is the old Moorish palaces in Granada, and the safety measures there — and I suppose they don't want to destroy or harm the very fragile staircases and walls there — the safety measure there, Mr. Speaker, are sort of photographs or drawings of people falling down stairs. So the safety measure there for people is a reminder that gravity has not been repealed, Mr. Speaker.

Well that's not what we're used to, Mr. Speaker. That's not what we're used to. We're not used to having on stairwells, instead of guardrails, a little reminder that people can fall down stairs. We're not used to, instead of a government official's signature on, and the minister's signature on an inspection certificate in the elevator, a little warning that gravity hasn't been repealed. We don't expect that in our amusement rides, Mr. Speaker.

And in the case of boilers, we don't expect warnings on boilers saying, well you know, the other laws of physics haven't been repealed either, Mr. Speaker. What we have grown to expect in the province of Saskatchewan is public officials, public servants being responsible for public safety, Mr. Speaker.

And without an explanation as to why that's inappropriate, without an explanation as to why that doesn't work beyond the fact that the government is willing to admit that they have hired or failed to hire sufficient inspectors, which is actually the minister's argument for this legislation . . . It's actually his argument for why it has to be passed this session.

But implicitly, in the absence of any other explanation, his argument for passing this legislation, changing how we have administered safety statutes in Saskatchewan for a good period of time, his only argument for that is, well the government has failed to, can't afford to, whatever, hire enough inspectors to administer these Acts properly, and we have a backlog. That is, as the member says, a shameful argument. That is a shameful argument, Mr. Speaker.

Now this is once again the legislation brought forward by a majority government, and I think the concerns that we have raised will have fallen on deaf ears, Mr. Speaker, but it was our duty to raise them. And I suppose, because it was a little repetitive on the issues of deregulation and privatization and the dangers of tinkering with something that works perfectly well, that may have been a little repetitive, Mr. Speaker.

But we do want to put on the record our concerns about the motives behind this legislation and the advisability of it, Mr. Speaker. We do want to do that. And we will have — I assume some of us at least — a number of questions to ask about this legislation in committee. And, Mr. Speaker, I therefore move that this legislation now, this Bill 136 now proceed to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a question presented by the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing that Bill No. 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall the Bill stand referred? I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 136, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the House do now adjourn for committees at 7 o'clock.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This Assembly is adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:57.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Harper	5293
Trew	5293
Brotten	5293, 5296
Norris	5293, 5296
Ottenbreit	5293
McCall	5293
Chartier	5294

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Harper	5294
Higgins	5294
Junor	5294
Atkinson	5294
Forbes	5294
Vermette	5295
Brotten	5295
Furber	5295
Morin	5295
Iwanchuk	5295
Quennell	5296
Wotherspoon	5296

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

Hart	5296
------------	------

Homelessness in Saskatchewan

Forbes	5297
--------------	------

Missing Children's Month

Schriemer	5297
-----------------	------

Working People and May Day

Iwanchuk	5297
----------------	------

Emergency Preparedness Week

Kirsch	5297
--------------	------

Crown Corporations

Yates	5298
-------------	------

First Female Commanding Officer of the Snowbirds

Michelson	5298
-----------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Personal Health Information

Lingenfelter	5298
--------------------	------

McMorris	5298
----------------	------

New West Partnership Trade Agreement

Nilson	5300
--------------	------

Cheveldayoff	5300
--------------------	------

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Brotten	5301
---------------	------

Norris	5301
--------------	------

Security for Courthouses

Quennell	5302
----------------	------

Morgan	5302
--------------	------

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on the Economy

Hickie	5303
--------------	------

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

McMillan	5304
----------------	------

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Michelson	5305
-----------------	------

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 122 — *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009*

Heppner	5303
---------------	------

Bill No. 126 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*

Heppner	5304
---------------	------

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 122 — <i>The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2009</i>	
Heppner	5303
Bill No. 126 — <i>The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act</i>	
Heppner	5304
Bill No. 120 — <i>The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009</i>	
Gantefoer	5304
Bill No. 141 — <i>The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act</i>	
Draude	5305
Bill No. 142 — <i>The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Consequential Amendments Act, 2010</i>	
<i>Loi de 2010 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act</i>	
Draude	5305
Bill No. 139 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010</i>	
Morgan	5306
Bill No. 140 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Streamlining Government) Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)</i>	
<i>Loi corrective (rationalisation administrative) n° 2 de 2010</i>	
Morgan	5306
Bill No. 138 — <i>The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2010 (No. 2)</i>	
<i>Loi n° 2 de 2010 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine</i>	
Morgan	5307
PRIVILEGE	
Request to Waive Notice Period	
Yates	5307
D'Autremont	5308
The Speaker	5308
POINT OF ORDER	
D'Autremont	5308
Yates	5308
The Speaker	5309
MOTIONS	
Hours of Sitting	
Harrison	5309
Taylor	5309
D'Autremont	5310
Yates	5311
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Allchurch	5311
GOVERNMENT ORDERS	
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 136 — <i>The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act</i>	
Iwanchuk	5312
Atkinson	5316
Brotten	5318
Quennell	5323
Harrison (referral to committee)	5326

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
President of the Executive Council

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

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

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

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

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital
Commission

Hon. Rod Gantfoer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Municipal Affairs

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

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

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

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

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

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

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