



No. 58

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FOURTH SESSION – TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Friday, June 13, 2003

10:00 a.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following Members: Draude, Gantfoer, Elhard, Stewart, Eagles, Yates, Huyghebaert, Dearborn, Brkich, Lorenz, Hart, Allchurch and Van Mulligen.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Deputy Clerk having favourably reported on the same pursuant to Rule 12(7), the following Petitions were read and received:

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew those leases.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 12)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 47 South in order to avoid serious injury and property damage.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 13)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary steps to have Sask. Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 18)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 22 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 27)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in the area.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 41)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure continuation of the current level of services available at the Kindersley Hospital and to ensure the current specialty services are sustained to better serve the people of West Central Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 100)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to recognize the deplorable condition of Highway 14 from Biggar to Wilkie and to take the necessary steps to restructure and repair this highway in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 114)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to repair Highway 20 from Nokomis to Strasbourg in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 119)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to repair Highway 43 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 120)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to reconsider its plan to allocate the used CT scanner to Swift Current and instead provide a new CT scanner for the southwest.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 124)

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Yesterday an issue was raised by the Deputy Government House Leader (Hon. Mr. Hagel) and responded to by the Member for Rosthern (Mr. Heppner) regarding unparliamentary language by the Member for Saltcoats (Mr. Bjornerud). I have reviewed the verbatim record of the exchange yesterday and find that, although the words themselves do not always fall into the strict category of unacceptable language, the words taken in the complete context leave an unmistakeable impression that Members on the other side are of doubtful veracity.

I want to take a few moments of the Members' time to indicate to all Members some of the guidelines that I use in making judgments of this type because things are not always very clearly black and white. First of all, a Speaker must rely on the basic concept of democracy, that is freedom of speech, which is probably the most important thing to preserve in a legislature and to allow passionate debate where concepts, ideas, words, and statements can be challenged. There are limits to how far Members should be allowed [to go] or limits Members impose upon themselves on free speech, and that is anything that could be considered libellous or may impute bad motives such as illegalities or immorality, or being unethical, as well as personal attacks on the Members themselves because the debate should be taking place on the issues. There are several precedents in *Beauchesne's*, 6th Edition, that a Speaker can refer to. On page 145 I bring to Members' attention, the word fabricate, which has at times been stated as unparliamentary. On page 149 the words distorting, distort and mislead, fabricate and fabrication have also been called and declared as being used in an unparliamentary sense. And last of all, I interpret what I consider to be the Member's own intention, that is to uphold the honourable tradition of this House and a respect for the institution. It clearly has a bad effect on the House and the dignity of this institution is lowered when words are put, crafted in a fashion which impute bad motives. And it also tends to escalate negative emotions as opposed to bringing out the positive in what Members have to say.

Now Members, when I looked specifically at the statements on page 1621 of *Hansard*, I would like first of all to bring to your attention that the two first statements on the right-hand column by the Member for Saltcoats, are good examples of how questions can be asked. Then, Members, further on when I go to page 1622, one of the statements is: "... city Members in Regina – fabricate the numbers and distort the facts ...". In this case, what has happened is the Member has made a rather specific allegation and it also implies bad intentions. Where the word "fabricate" can be used in a positive sense and a creative sense in many ways, in this case it is used in a negative sense and non-positive and I would ask Members to avoid that. Going back to page 1621, the Member for Melville (Hon. Mr. Osika) uses the phrase: "there appears to be more distortion coming from" the opposite side. Now in this case as well, although it is much more general than the second case, again it is a borderline situation. And I do want to caution Members on that.

Therefore, Members, what I first would like to do, based on what I've just said, is to caution and ask the Member for Melville not to use that type of statement again. With respect to the Member for Saltcoats whose statement was perhaps more direct and more personal, I would ask the Member for Saltcoats to withdraw the statement at this time.

Thereupon the Member for Saltcoats withdrew the statement.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question No. 722 and 725, pursuant to Rule 43(1), the answers were Tabled and, by reason of their length, converted by the Clerk to Return Nos. 393 and 394.

(Sessional Paper Nos. 148 and 149)

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 723 and 724, they were answered. (See Appendix)

GOVERNMENT MOTION

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Thomson, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

That the practices and rules recommended by the Third Report of the Special Committee on Rules and Procedures, as were adopted by the Legislative Assembly on April 3rd, 2003, be implemented and brought into force effective the first sitting day of the next Session of the Legislative Assembly.

A debate arising, it was moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Mr. McMorris, in amendment thereto:

That after the words "next Session of the Legislative Assembly" the following words be added:

or immediately after the next provincial election writ period whichever occurs first.

The debate continuing on the motion and the amendment, and the question being put on the amendment, it was negatived, on division.

The question being put on the motion, it was agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 43 – The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2003

The Hon. Mr. Belanger, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 43 – The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2003 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. D'Autremont, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Assembly, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

During consideration of Bill No. 40 – The Rural Municipality Amendment Act, 2003 – it was moved by the Hon. Mr. Osika:

Clause 7 of the printed Bill

Strike out Clause 7 of the printed Bill and substitute the following:

“Section 189 amended

7 The following subsection is added after subsection 189(3):

“(4) If a rural municipality does not pass a bylaw pursuant to section 188.1, the rural municipality may adopt a policy respecting the issuance of permits pursuant to this section that, among other matters, takes into consideration:

(a) facilitating the movement of vehicles, goods and other commodities between the rural municipality and adjacent rural municipalities, urban municipalities, cities and northern municipalities; and

(b) if an adjacent rural municipality has designated routes in a bylaw passed pursuant to section 188.1, harmonizing the routes in the rural municipality with those designated routes in a manner that facilitates the movement of vehicles, goods and other commodities between the rural municipality and adjacent rural municipalities, urban municipalities, cities and northern municipalities' ”.

The amendment was agreed to.

The question being put on clause 7, as amended, it was agreed to.

The following Bill was reported with amendment, considered as amended, and by leave of the Assembly, read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 40 – The Rural Municipality Amendment Act, 2003

The following Bills were reported without amendment, read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 23 – The Cities Amendment Act, 2003

Bill No. 41 – The Urban Municipality Amendment Act, 2003

Bill No. 24 – The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2003

Bill No. 39 – The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2003

The Committee was given leave to sit again.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:43 p.m. until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Draude asked the Government Question No. 723, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) For the year 2002, what is the total amount of money collected in Saskatchewan through the education portion of the property tax? (2) Of this total, how much was collected for each of commercial property, agricultural property and residential property? (3) Are there any other classifications of property for taxation purposes? If so, how much is collected on each of these classifications? (4) Are rental properties, such as apartment buildings, classified as residential or commercial property? (5) If such properties are classified as residential properties, how much of the total education tax collected on residential property is collected on these types of rental properties and how much is collected from homeowners living in their own homes? (6) What are the projections for each of these classifications (commercial, agricultural, residential and others) as to how much will be collected in the year 2003?

Answer:

This question is best asked to the Minister of Government Relations.

Ms. Draude asked the Government Question No. 724, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Junor:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) For the year 2002, what is the total amount of money collected in Saskatchewan through the education portion of the property tax? (2) Of this total, how much was collected for each of commercial property, agricultural property and residential property? (3) Are there any other classifications of property for taxation purposes? If so, how much is collected on each of these classifications? (4) Are rental properties, such as apartment buildings, classified as residential or commercial property? (5) If such properties are classified as residential properties, how much of the total education tax collected on residential property is collected on these types of rental properties and how much is collected from homeowners living in their own homes? (6) What are the projections for each of these classifications (commercial, agricultural, residential and others) as to how much will be collected in the year 2003?

Answer:

This question is best asked to the Minister of Government Relations.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Tuesday:

Mr. Heppner, to move the following Motion for a Seventy-five Minute Debate:

That this Assembly encourages the Government of Saskatchewan, today and in the future, to maintain the publicly-owned and operated Autofund in the interest of avoiding uncontrolled rising auto insurance rates seen in other jurisdictions.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Tuesday:

Ms. Atkinson to move the following Motion:

That this Assembly recognize, along with the Bank of Canada, the dangerously inflationary effect of uncontrolled rising auto insurance rates in provinces with only a private insurance industry.

Mr. Forbes to move the following Motion:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan deplores the racist views and publications of Jim Pankiw, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon – Humboldt.

Mr. Yates to move the following Motion:

That this Assembly vigorously support Saskatchewan workers in their current campaign to educate the public on the harmful economic and social consequences of a privatized retail liquor industry in Saskatchewan.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 55 and are to be answered by day no. 60:

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 731:

To the Minister of Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: In light of the fact that comments made by the Minister of Liquor and Gaming in the Legislature on April 9, 2003 during Oral Questions contradict (RFP (WCLC reference) #621-97) Section 12 which refers to “supplier expertise” and which stated “WCLC is not an expert in the work and therefore will rely in the skill, expertise, judgement and representation of suppliers”, who made the decision to present Wascana Gaming Inc. to the SLGA for a final decision in RFP-621-97?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 732:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) Did any Saskatchewan Crown Corporation pay Touchstar System Inc. anything for supplying any goods or services in 2002? (2) If so, how much was paid, by which company, and for what service?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 733:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) Did any Saskatchewan Crown Corporation pay Touchstar System Inc. anything for supplying any goods or services in 2001? (2) If so, how much was paid, by which company, and for what service?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 734:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) Did any Saskatchewan Crown Corporation pay Touchstar System Inc. anything for supplying any goods or services in 2000? (2) If so, how much was paid, by which company, and for what service?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 735:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) Did any Saskatchewan Crown Corporation pay Touchstar System Inc. anything for supplying any goods or services in 1999? (2) If so, how much was paid, by which company, and for what service?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 736:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) Did any Saskatchewan Crown Corporation pay Touchstar System Inc. anything for supplying any goods or services in 1998? (2) If so, how much was paid, by which company, and for what service?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 737:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) Did any Saskatchewan Crown Corporation pay Touchstar System Inc. anything for supplying any goods or services in 1997? (2) If so, how much was paid, by which company, and for what service?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 738:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) Did any Saskatchewan Crown Corporation pay Touchstar System Inc. anything for supplying any goods or services in 1996? (2) If so, how much was paid, by which company, and for what service?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 739:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: For the fiscal year 2002-2003, can the Minister provide all donations and grants given out by SGI?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 740:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: For the fiscal year 2002-2003, can the Minister provide all donations and grants given out by SaskEnergy?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 741:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: For the fiscal year 2002-2003, can the Minister provide all donations and grants given out by SaskTel?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 742:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: For the fiscal year 2002-2003, can the Minister provide all donations and grants given out by SaskPower?

Mr. Hart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 743:

To the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: (1) How many multi-peril crop insurance contracts does Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation project it will carry in 2003? (2) What is the projected liability attached to these contracts?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 56 and are to be answered by day no. 61:

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 744:

To the Minister of Executive Council: What are the names of all the people employed by Executive Council, and for each person, what is their title, and what is their current salary?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 745:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) What was the number of personal income tax returns filed in Saskatchewan for Tax Year 2001 with Total Incomes in excess of \$500,000? (2) What was the combined total income assessed for this group?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 746:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) What was the number of personal income tax returns filed in Saskatchewan for Tax Year 2000 with Total Incomes in excess of \$500,000? (2) What was the combined total income assessed for this group?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 747:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) What was the number of personal income tax returns filed in Saskatchewan for Tax Year 1999 with Total Incomes in excess of \$500,000? (2) What was the combined total income assessed for this group?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 748:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) What was the number of personal income tax returns filed in Saskatchewan for Tax Year 1998 with Total Incomes in excess of \$500,000? (2) What was the combined total income assessed for this group?

Mr. Elhard, to ask the Government the following Question No. 749:

To the Minister of Learning: For the academic year 2002-2003, how many students, who were otherwise qualified, had their applications rejected from all programs offered at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, and all of the province's SIAST campuses?

Mr. Wall, to ask the Government the following Question No. 750:

To the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation: (1) What is the current status of the Prud'homme joint venture between TransGas Limited and MLTC Inc.? (2) Further to that, what is the next anniversary following the effective date of the agreement whereby both parties will have various options?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 58 and are to be answered by day no. 63:

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 751:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) Did the Minister purchase the speed limit sign that he donated to charity recently from the Department of Highways? (2) If so, how much did he pay for the sign? (3) Can any citizen of the province buy a similar sign?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 752:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: (1) Could the Minister please provide an explanation for the process for allocating taxpayers dollars for the production of the Toronto, Ontario program “Designer Guys”? (2) Further to that, how much Saskatchewan taxpayers’ dollars have been allocated for this production?