



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

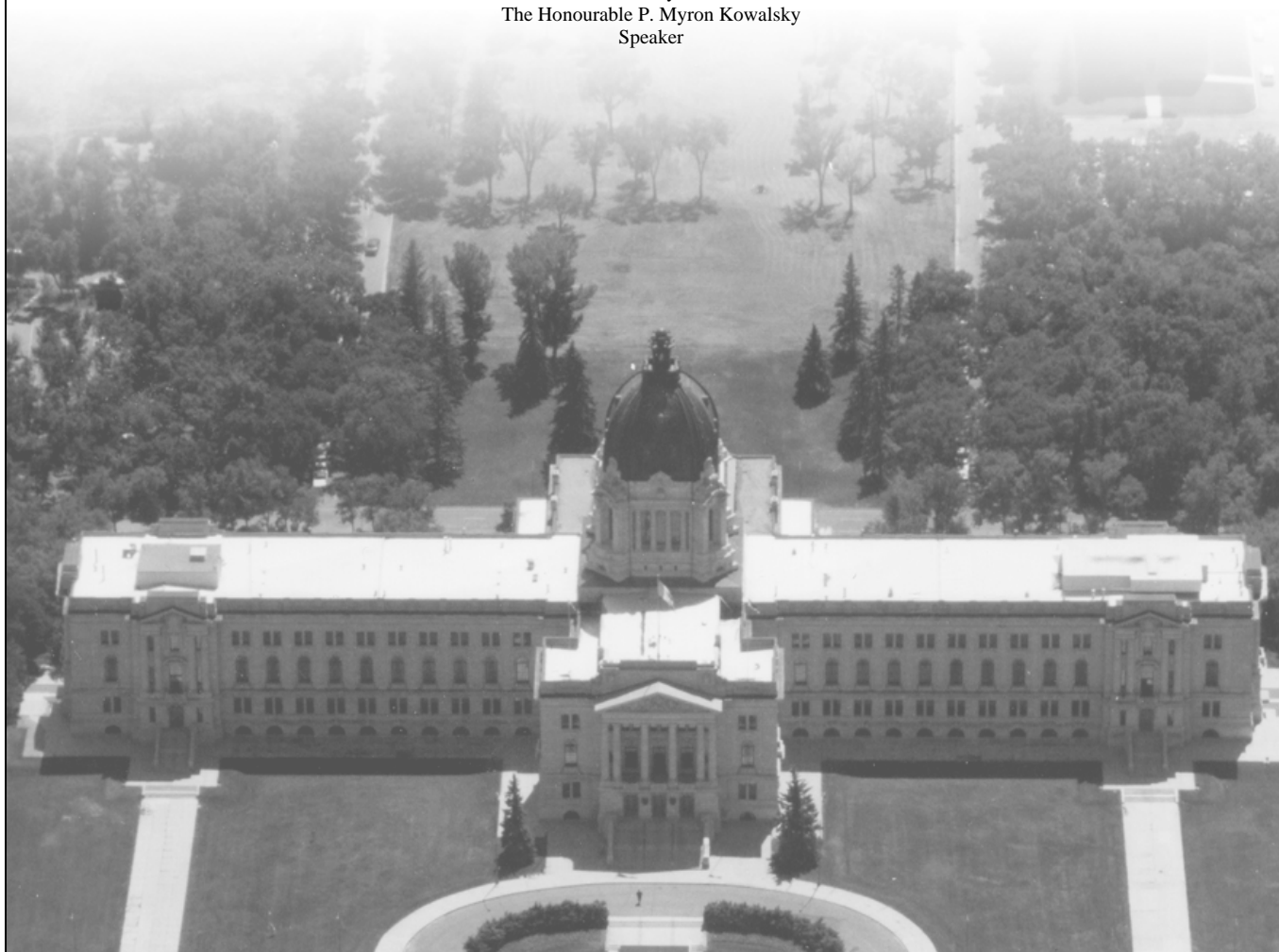
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
 Premier — Hon. Lorne Calvert
 Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornrud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Hon. Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Hon. Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Hon. Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Martensville

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's again my privilege as it has been over the past number of days and weeks to present a petition to this Assembly on behalf of the people from the communities of Kipling, Broadview, and Whitewood and other communities along the Trans-Canada Highway — that part of the province — in regards to the need for dialysis services in the southeast corner of the province. And I read the prayer, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement a strategy that will see a dialysis unit placed in Broadview Union Hospital.

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

I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege again today to present a petition on behalf of individuals from around the province of Saskatchewan. Since the incidence of colorectal cancer has become so prevalent, their concern with the funding of the drug Avastin is represented in this petition. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the petition today is signed by individuals from the communities of Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition to present on behalf of citizens of the province regarding the cancer drug Avastin. And it's quite a long list of petitions here so it will take a while to read some of the names. But first of all the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, these numerous petitions are signed by people from . . . [inaudible] . . . Turtleford, Mervin, Major, Macklin, Kerrobert, Unity, Lloydminster, St. Walburg, and many other . . . Edam, many other places, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions to present on behalf of a constituent from Carnduff. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the very southeast corner of the province — from Carnduff, Glen Ewen, Estevan, Regina, Gainsborough, Carievale, Mr. Speaker — all the way up to the northwest corner, Mr. Speaker, Lloydminster and Baldwinton, Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of residents of the province who share concerns about the availability of some funding for the cancer drug Avastin. Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence I'll read the prayer of their petition:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure today to rise on behalf of petitioners who come from Carnduff, Saskatchewan; from Brandon, Manitoba; and from Calgary, Alberta. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade the Bruno access road off of Highway No. 5.

All the petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are from the community of Bruno.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the lack of provincial

government funding for the cancer drug Avastin. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals all from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to present a petition regarding the funding of the drug Avastin. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures are all from the village of Carnduff.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are very concerned with this government's addiction to gravel. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and maintain Highway 22 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Earl Grey area families and businesses.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signatures to this petition come from a number of communities including Strasbourg, Bulyea, Regina, Southey, and Cupar. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have a number of petitions of citizens concerned with safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And to demonstrate how well-travelled this particular highway is, the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Asquith, Meacham, Saskatoon, Bruno, Cudworth, St. Denis, Humboldt, LeRoy, Dana, Regina, Invermay, La Ronge, Watson, Kelvington,

Muenster, Sturgis, Lloydminster, Hendon, Carmel, Bjorkdale, Viscount, Preeceville, Kindersley, Aberdeen, Biggar, Wadena, Elrose, Clavet, Prince George, Pilger, Annaheim, St. Gregor, Jansen, Lake Lenore, Lanigan, Fulda, Englefeld, Guernsey, Quill Lake, Burr, Peterson, and Middle Lake. Also from Alberta, Drayton Valley, Edmonton, and Calgary. From Manitoba, Virden, Swan River, and Winnipeg. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province who are very concerned about this government's two-tier health system. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Saskatoon. I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise again to present a petition from citizens in Wilkie who are concerned about their reduction of health care services in their community. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Wilkie Health Centre and special care home maintain at the very least their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Wilkie and district. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to once again rise in this House and present a petition on behalf of frustrated parents across Saskatchewan who for the past seven years have been lobbying this government for a dedicated children's hospital within a hospital in Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources this year to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

The petitioners today, Mr. Speaker, come from the constituencies of Saskatoon Meewasin, Saskatoon Silver Springs, Biggar, and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I once again rise in the Assembly to present a petition on behalf of citizens that are very concerned about the NDP's [New Democratic Party] two tiered health system. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed in total by the good folks of Martensville. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition — actually a lot of petitions — for tougher sentences for sex offenders against children. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take all steps available to speed up the public disclosure process so that communities are alerted to the presence of a known sex offender in their community as soon as possible and lobby the federal government for tougher sentences for sexual offenders against children, tougher measures to keep track of offenders once they are released from the correctional facility, and a review of the dangerous offenders designation process.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures of this petition are from Spiritwood, Medstead, Leask, Shellbrook, and a number of other places in northwest Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to bring forward a petition for the people of Saskatchewan that are urging the tougher sentences for sex offences against children. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to create a website that provides information about high-risk offenders who live in the province who are going to be released into the province, lobby the federal government for tougher sentences for sexual offences against children, tougher measures to keep track of offenders once they are released from correctional facilities, and a review of the dangerous offenders designation process.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good people of Wakaw and Cudworth. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition that is calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to maintain the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Saskatchewan Highways employees who would be affected by such possible closure.

And as we know coming up today in the highways, we really need that section shop today on that particular piece of highway.

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This particular petition is signed by the good citizens from the town of Watrous again.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud today to present a petition on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, that this is the first time in the province's history that the government has denied coverage of a cancer drug recommended by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

From the good people of Carnduff, Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I so present.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege in the House today to rise and to present a petition regarding the funding of the highly effective cancer drug Avastin. This is signed by citizens that are concerned about two tiered health care. Mr. Speaker, I will read briefly the prayer for relief, and it states:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, I note that this petition has been signed by many people, and on the particular one I'm presenting today, it is signed by people from Saskatoon on Egnatoff Way, Gathercole Crescent, RR [rural route] no. 5, Nordstrum Road, Buckwold Cove, Crean Crescent, Whiteswan Drive, and also from Martensville, Dundurn, and Langham. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this on behalf of those citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly to present a petition urging the government to repair Highway 36. And I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to invest the needed money to repair and maintain Highway 36 so that it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and businesses.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions to present, signed by people from Coronach, Scout Lake, Southey, Big Beaver; Amherst, Nova Scotia; Fife Lake, Willow Bunch, Rockglen; Richmond, BC [British Columbia]; Dundurn, Assiniboia, Bengough, and Harptree. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who are still concerned about Highway 49. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to repair Highway 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth and tourism in Kelvington, Lintlaw, Preeceville, and surrounding areas.

The people that have signed this petition are from Lintlaw, Buchanan, Melfort, Kelvington, and Yorkton. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to again present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are very concerned about the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to continue to actively and strongly support the position that it is the right of all Western Canadian farmers to decide the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, not the federal cabinet.

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners come from Woodrow, Regina, Sedley; Virden, Manitoba; Wilkie, and Coronach. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are very concerned about the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to continue to actively and strongly support the position that it is the right of all Western Canadian farmers to decide the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, not the federal cabinet.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, signatures to this petition come from Weyburn, Regina, Waldeck, Grenfell, Tramping Lake, Edgeley, Moose Jaw, and Raymore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Yorkton, the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I too am pleased to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are concerned about the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The prayer reads as follows:

Whereby your petitioners humbly pray that the Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to continue to actively and strongly support the position of the right of Western Canadian farmers to decide the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, and not the federal cabinet.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on the petition are from Cavell, from Kipling, from Balgonie, from Naicam, and from Wynyard. And, Mr. Speaker, I present the petition.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order petitions tabled at the last sitting have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 15(7) are hereby read and received.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 34 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 34 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I'll move that consideration in Committee of the Whole be now waived.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader is requesting leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 34. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 34 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 34 — The Labour Market Commission Act

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — 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 Advanced Education and Employment that Bill No. 34 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the standing economy on the committee is recognized.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 1 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill No. 1 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Labour has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When will this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 1 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2006

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Labour has moved that Bill No. 1 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 29 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 29 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 29 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 29 — The Labour Standards Consequential Amendments Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Labour Standards Amendments Act, 2006

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Labour has moved that Bill No. 29 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy is recognized.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now table the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the member from Biggar:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Dewdney, the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy, seconded by the member for Biggar:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Infrastructure**

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Kelvington-Wadena:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure now be concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure, the member for Regina Northeast, seconded by the member for Kelvington-Wadena:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

And I move, and seconded by the member from Cypress Hills.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services, the member for Saskatoon Eastview, seconded by the member for Cypress Hills:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move by a motion, seconded by the member from Cannington:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. It has been moved by the member for Regina Walsh Acres, seconded by the member for Cannington:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview, seconded by the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The motion is carried and pursuant to rule 95, the private Bills 301 and 302 are deemed to have been read the first time and are ordered for second reading on the next private members' day.

Any further reports by standing and special committees?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all of the members of the House a group that is seated in your west gallery. This is a group of grade 12 students from Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School. And I think it be a very well-informed group because they're all participating in social studies 30 classes. I look very much to meeting with them after question period. And at this point, I would ask all the members to make them feel very welcome today. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today in the west gallery, I am pleased to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly guests from the Regina Open Door Society, Regina area Refugee Support Group, and several newcomers to our country.

The Regina Open Door Society provides settlement services to immigrants and refugees in the Regina area. This past Friday the federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Monte Solberg, recognized Regina as the first city in Canada to create settlement services and supports for all newcomers. The Regina area support group is made up of dedicated volunteers that have been sponsoring and supporting refugees coming and living in Regina for many, many, many years.

These two organizations have just completed a calendar entitled *Dispelling the Myths* which profiles 12 refugees from the Regina area, some of whom have joined us this afternoon in the gallery. The focus of the calendar is to provide awareness and to dispel myths associated with immigrants and refugees.

Mr. Speaker, there are presently 20.8 million refugees living outside of their home countries. We are indeed fortunate that we have refugees who have become permanent residents and Canadian citizens now living in the province of Saskatchewan. These folks, Mr. Speaker, are contributing to society. They have jobs. They are raising their families. Their kids are going on to post-secondary education, and they are doing well.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming the dedicated staff and volunteers plus the

profiled newcomers in the calendar to our Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition I would like to join the minister in welcoming all of the people here from the Open Door Society. My daughter volunteers there and thoroughly enjoys the work that she has done with the organization and with all of the people that come there and use the services.

It is such an essential service that you offer, and we appreciate everything that is done there. So on behalf of the opposition, welcome to your Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Rosemont.

Ms. Crofford: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I risk offending by doing this, but I do want to single out my good friend Muna DeCiman because just last week the member from Saskatoon Eastview made a statement and gave us some statistics around the AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] issues in Africa. And Muna DeCiman and some other women will be heading off very shortly, at the end of this week, to take some of their knowledge and work to Africa to work on that issue. So thank you very much, and could you recognize Muna.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly, seated in your gallery, some guests that have joined us for the proceedings today.

Seated there today is the brand new candidate for the Saskatchewan Party for the constituency of Martensville. Nancy Heppner has joined us, as well as Whitney Friesen, a long-time assistant to the former member — Nancy's dad, Ben Heppner. As Ben would say, the number of Nancy's visits here is three. The first time was for the tributes that we all got to share in for Ben. The second is today. And the third one will be when she is sitting down here, Mr. Speaker, for a short time over on this side, and then we'll move over to the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

While I'm on my feet, if I may, I'd also like to introduce a friend of the member for Yorkton, the Deputy Premier, who's here. The Saskatchewan Party candidate for Yorkton has also joined us. Will all members help me welcome Greg Ottenbreit, Nancy Heppner, and Whitney Friesen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Yorkton, the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome in your Assembly as well this afternoon, two individuals: Mr. Greg Lightfoot who is the Chair of the Battlefords REDA [regional economic development authority], along with Ryan Bater. Just give a wave.

They're here earlier today, meeting with the Minister of Industry and Resources to talk about all of the good work that's happening in their community and region, and also to provide some lobby for some additional staffing of which they want for their REDA in their region. So I'd like the House to welcome them.

And before I sit, I'd like to also, Mr. Speaker, welcome Mr. Ottenbreit to the Assembly today. Greg and Leone do great work in the community, Mr. Speaker, in relationship to the Cuts for Cancer. They do tremendous work in our community. As well Mr. Ottenbreit is a successful businessman.

When I talk to people around the community, they say he's a pretty good guy, but he's with the wrong party, Mr. Speaker. And then they go on to say that, I love it when he's here, Mr. Speaker, because he spends less time driving around the community showing off these two posters, Mr. Speaker, of two wanted guys, Mr. Speaker. And I think they want votes, is what they're talking about, Mr. Speaker.

So I'd like to welcome, Mr. Ottenbreit, Greg, and Mr. Lightfoot to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to join with the Deputy Premier in welcoming Greg Lightfoot and Ryan Bater to their legislature. We'd met with them earlier. They're here to promote the western part of the province, and they're doing an excellent job. I also want to mention Greg used to be my neighbour; he used to be from my own constituency at the town of Kenaston so I wish him well, and I know he's doing very well in the town of North Battleford, promoting that area. And I wish them all the success in the future, and I know that they will have that in promoting their part of the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege for me to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the legislature a group of 50 individuals from the great Southwest. Now I'm not going to identify them by name, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell you that they're here in support of the Southwest drought disaster committee. There's farmers. There's ranchers. There's a few business people in the crowd up there. There's some elected municipal officials, and we are also privileged to have

one member of the Swift Current media here, Mr. Scott Anderson from *The Southwest Booster* based in Swift Current.

Mr. Speaker, these people have come to their legislature today over difficult roads. There's wind and snow blowing throughout the Southwest, but their courage in coming here today is in support of a very good cause, and I'd like all of us to welcome them to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member in welcoming the folks from the Southwest drought committee. We've had correspondence with a number of them and certainly had meetings in the past with delegates from the group, and I know it's been a very challenging issue — continues to be. And I know that coming here today on roads that are slippery and with snow having come down makes it a little difficult. And I wish them safe . . . And, Mr. Speaker, we do wish them safe journeys on their way back when they're finished their business here today. And I would like to join in welcoming them here to our legislature today. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly I would like to introduce a constituent of mine. Seated in the east gallery is Bill Kish from Estevan. Give us a wave, Bill. He's here today to observe the proceedings, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming him to his Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Gradworks Program

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, the Crown Investments Corporation's Gradworks program provides recent post-secondary graduates with internships in the Crowns.

The program's goals are to help develop the Crowns' future workforce and to provide career opportunities so our young people can stay in Saskatchewan to build their future. During their one term, graduates gain valuable work experience, develop career-related skills, and receive mentoring from a coach who is an experienced employee and supervisor.

Mr. Speaker, since the establishment two years ago, Gradworks has been a huge success with 163 internships created so far and 48 young people currently in the program. Some former interns have returned to school, and a handful are seeking employment.

But the great news, Mr. Speaker, is that 104 former interns have already secured full-time jobs, and all but six of those jobs are in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous success story. Gradworks is helping our educated young people stay in Saskatchewan. That's good news for the future of our province, and that's good news for our young people. It's just one more reason why Saskatchewan is such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I commend CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] and its subsidiary Crowns for implementing and supporting this program. I wish them continued success. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Saskatchewan Party Candidate Nominated for Martensville By-Election

Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on November 30 the Saskatchewan Party chose its candidate for the upcoming Martensville by-election. And in case the members opposite are wondering, in this House there will always be a Heppner. Over 700 people packed the hall in Warman to select Nancy Heppner as the next Saskatchewan Party MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. Nancy beat out two other very able candidates in this close nomination battle. The Saskatchewan Party would like to thank Stan Reddekopp and Kelly Block for their hard work and continued dedication to the party.

The Saskatchewan Party is set to give this out-of-ideas NDP a real drubbing when the Premier decides to call the by-election. Since our latest member, the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy, was able to secure a two percentage point PST [provincial sales tax] cut shortly after his decisive victory, I wonder what tax cut the government will slash or how many other holidays they will create to try and prop up their dying chances of re-election.

I'm also wondering, Mr. Speaker, if Liberal leader, David Karwacki, would like to go for the hat trick and try and go down for a third straight defeat.

The Saskatchewan Party is ready to offer a positive voice for the people of Martensville. Nancy looks forward to following in her late father's footsteps, and the Saskatchewan Party can't wait until she gets that chance. The upcoming Martensville by-election will be another wake-up call to the sleepwalking NDP government.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that Arlene Heppner has joined her daughter and Whitney Friesen in the House, and I'd like to ask the members to welcome Arlene as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Community Association Hosts Forum on Gang Violence

Hon. Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In August of this year the North Central Community Association in Regina Elphinstone-Centre established the ganging up on violence committee.

The committee was established to help fight gang activity in the inner city and beyond, and to help take on the devastating toll gang violence can take on young people, families, and community. Its purpose was to develop solutions and strategies to educate young people about the destructive, often tragic, effects of gang activity.

As part of this initiative, the North Central Community Association hosted a community leaders forum on gang violence at the Albert Scott Community Centre on Saturday. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that I was one of over 100 people in attendance, and it was a very positive, very worthwhile event.

The day began with a pipe ceremony and a prayer. Readings were brought and an anti-gang educational video *R U Down or R U Out* made its premiere. A panel discussion was held with some courageous young people who have left the gang life behind. And we heard from people who've had their lives tragically affected by gangs. The afternoon broke into smaller group discussions and the issues were considered and strategies developed to help protect young people and communities from gangs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the North Central Community Association for hosting this forum. I want to thank awesome facilitator, Reggie Newkirk; Rodger Ross and Creerunner for the powerful video; elders, Norma Jean Bird and Lily Daniels; and pipe carrier, Harold Lavallee. I especially want to thank the courageous former gang members who participated and who are using their special knowledge and experience to help in the fight against gangs and to help take back our colours.

And I especially want to thank, Mr. Speaker, the commitment . . . and I want to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of Kevin Daniels, co-founder of the ganging up on violence committee and Chair of the forum. Thank you to him for turning tragedy into something very positive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Announcements and Ideas

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Highways and Transportation has become the king of reannouncements and stolen ideas.

On November 13, 2006 the minister announced that there will be an additional \$54.6 million invested in Saskatchewan highways. However he had already announced 25 million of

that on July 13, 2006. What's old is new again, Mr. Speaker.

More recently this tired, old NDP government announced that they were going to dedicate all gas tax revenue to Saskatchewan roads and highways, even though they've been saying that they were doing it all along. Where did they get that idea? The Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. That idea had been in our policy guide for over a year, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

The Saskatchewan Party has been talking about creating economic corridors and having a rolling four-year plan for highway construction and maintenance for a long time, Mr. Speaker. Now all of a sudden the minister thinks that that's a great idea and has started to talk about it. In his ministerial statement on November 8, 2006 this minister said, "... this government will be bringing forward a bold and visionary new strategy before the end of this session."

It's so bold and visionary that it doesn't exist. I have two questions for the minister. There's only one day left, so where's the grand highways plan he spoke of? And secondly, how many of the Saskatchewan Party ideas will it include? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Hudson Bay Primary Health Care Team

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the Hudson Bay primary health care team from the Kelsey Trail Health Region recently held a celebration. Why were they celebrating? Well, Mr. Speaker, a recent survey of their clients has shown that their innovative, team-based approach to health care is working, and working wonderfully.

Clients who used this team's services indicated high satisfaction with the quality of the service, Mr. Speaker. More than 90 per cent of those surveyed said the team spent sufficient time listening to their health concerns. The vast majority rated their overall health as good to excellent. And 92 per cent said access to health care service was not a concern.

Mr. Speaker, the groundbreaking team consists of health care professionals with many different skills and backgrounds. It's an excellent example of a primary health care model, one of the first in the province.

In addition to meeting the day-to-day primary health care needs of the residents of Hudson Bay and surrounding communities, the dynamic team has initiated a number of exciting programs addressing a range of issues like diabetes, mental wellness, literacy, and women's health.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to visit the centre shortly after its opening, as I was the associate minister of Health at that time.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to invite all members to join me in

congratulating the Hudson Bay primary health care team and all of those from Kelsey Trail Health Region. Today the people of Hudson Bay are reaping the benefits of their innovative work. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Climate Change

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a recent appearance on NBC's [National Broadcasting Company] *Meet the Press*, former President Bill Clinton was asked, what issue presents the greatest threat to long-term world stability? And you know what his answer was, Mr. Speaker? He answered, climate change, Mr. Speaker. Climate change coupled with depleting oil reserves around the world will present a great threat to world stability, Mr. Speaker.

Some weeks later Alan Greenspan, the former Chair of the US [United States] Federal Reserve, speaking in Calgary, also identified climate change as a threat to world stability. But he went on to talk about the great opportunities that this issue presented for Canada and the leadership role that Canada could play, Mr. Speaker.

So what is happening here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? Well I'll tell you. We have some of our municipalities and cities moving ahead and dealing with this issue. They are putting plans in place, like the city of Regina and its green ribbon committee, Mr. Speaker.

But what is this green NDP government doing, Mr. Speaker? Well let me tell you. What does the Suzuki Foundation say? They say they have no plan, and in fact Saskatchewan has the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions of any province in Canada, Mr. Speaker. So what do we get from this green government, Mr. Speaker? We get nothing but greenwash, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Benefits of Minimum Wage

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every day in this Assembly I am reminded of the vast philosophical differences that separate us from the members opposite.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Morin: — We operate . . . Thank you. Thank you. We operate from what's-best-for-the-common-good end of the spectrum while the members opposite tend to occupy the what's-in-it-for-me end of things. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the only loyalty the members across the way seem to have is to their hard right philosophy of everyone for themselves and the devil take the hindmost.

On this side of the Assembly we're used to hearing their hard right pronouncements, but every once in a while they'll say something so over the top and so outrageous that it just can't go unchallenged. Here's one from the member of Saskatoon Silver Springs from just last week, and I quote: "They [the NDP] like to talk about having increases in the minimum wage, but who does that benefit?"

When it comes to minimum wage, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite show minimum understanding. He's not kidding. He doesn't know, so I'll tell him. Young people, students, the working poor, immigrant workers, single moms — just to name a few — that's who benefit from an increase in minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, it's comments like that that remind me of why our political movement was created in the first place and hardens my resolve to work even harder on behalf of the working men and women of this province to ensure they never find themselves at the mercy . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — Order. The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Martensville By-Election

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other night, Thursday night in Warman the Saskatchewan Party held a very large nomination meeting for the constituency of Martensville. Mr. Speaker, about 700 people attended, and there was three excellent candidates. The winner of course, we're delighted to say, is Nancy Heppner. Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate part for the folks in that constituency is that they've gone this fall session obviously without any representation. And it's important that we address that quickly.

The question to the Premier is this: will he commit to calling that by-election for the Martensville constituency, commit to holding that by-election before the spring sitting of the legislature, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, I will be calling that by-election.

Now I will give members opposite a Christmas period off. And we wouldn't ask of course the constituents of Martensville to be out involved in an election campaign during the Christmas season. But in the new year, Mr. Speaker, I will be calling that by-election and look forward to the result of that by-election, adding a member to the government benches. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Participation in Energy and Trade Organizations

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that by-election will be another opportunity, as Weyburn-Big Muddy was, for a discussion of competing visions for the province's future — one that we would offer on this side of the House and a lack thereof on that side of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure we'll be talking about energy in terms of the future of Saskatchewan. We know the Premier has at least said he agrees with our position that our province can be a centre for energy on the continent. Mr. Speaker, there is an organization to this end called the energy council. It's made up of representatives from ten US states, four Canadian provinces, and a nation.

Government officials, industry representatives are a part of this. They work together on energy issues like energy development, secure energy supply, alternative energy sources, new technologies. The ministers of energy from the provinces, the representatives from the States are involved. Guess who's not involved, Mr. Speaker? The second largest producer of oil, the province of Saskatchewan, under the NDP.

The question to the Premier is this: on such an important issue where he talks the talk, why has he not walked the walk? Why is Saskatchewan outside looking in at this important energy council, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the development of the oil and gas sector, I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that although we may not belong to every organization relating to energy, the oil and gas sector is certainly growing in Saskatchewan.

I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, who likes to go around spreading gloom and doom, that the amount of purchases of mineral rights for oil and gas in Saskatchewan for the first five sales was up 33 per cent from last year. And last year was a pretty good year, Mr. Speaker.

I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition who is always quick to point out, if he thinks Saskatchewan is behind Alberta, that in fact this year, Mr. Speaker, Alberta's drilling will be going down 12 per cent. BC's will be going down 28 per cent. Saskatchewan's will be going up. We're doing just fine in oil and gas, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, this is not just an issue about drilling activity which is up of course in every jurisdiction that happens to have oil and gas at \$60 a barrel. Mr. Speaker, this energy council, this energy council also is investigating, discussing the importance of energy sustainability, of security for the continent. They're talking about alternative sources of energy, Mr. Speaker — non-renewable and renewable sources of energy.

Guess who's involved, Mr. Speaker? The province of Alberta, the province of British Columbia, the province of Newfoundland, the province of Nova Scotia, and 10 US states. They are involved in this effort, Mr. Speaker. This is the second largest producer of oil in the country, third largest producer of gas.

The question to the Premier is why, if the stated goal is for this province to be a centre for energy development, why is he again on the outside looking in? Why does his vision stop at the borders of this province, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, let's listen to what the Leader of the Opposition says. He says drilling is up everywhere where they have oil. That's what he says in this House. Yet when we listen to the Petroleum Services Association of Canada, what do they say? They say there will be a 10 per cent decrease in Alberta, Mr. Speaker. So who's right? Who's right? The Leader of the Opposition or the oil industry? Well I'll put my money on . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order. Order. Let's do it one at a time. Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I'll put my money on the industry over the Leader of the Opposition because what he said is not true, Mr. Speaker.

But I want to say this too, Mr. Speaker. We're involved with the United States. There's a conference that goes on every year called the Williston Basin Conference, and it alternates between North Dakota and Saskatchewan. We gather with people from the United States and talk about issues that are relevant to the Williston Basin which is where most of the oil in Saskatchewan is located. We do that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier and I were in the White House visiting the United States vice-president to talk about oil and gas policy, and the Leader of the Opposition wants to tell people we're not involved . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the rest of, the other

two Western Canadian provinces involved don't understand why this province isn't there. They don't understand why they wouldn't be at the table with respect to a deal between those two provinces on trade.

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, the Premier is worried that he won't be, that this organization won't accept a left-wing outfit. But he ought not to be because apparently Venezuela is a part of it, Mr. Speaker. He would be welcome to be a member of the energy council.

This is an important council, Mr. Speaker, for our province to be represented at. Mr. Speaker, we need to have a presence there with these other states, with these other provinces. We need to show some leadership and some vision. Why won't the Premier stand, take to his feet today and commit to that, commit to participating in this important council, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to make the Leader of the Opposition very happy. I'm going to advise him that two days from now, I'm going to get on an airplane here in Regina, and I'm going to go to San Antonio, Texas, to an oil and gas conference, Mr. Speaker. That's what I'm going to do. And you know what else, Mr. Speaker? While I'm there, I'm going to talk to the energy council of the United States. So, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition wants us to get involved with the United States — I'll be gone in 48 hours, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, if that's all that it takes — given how close the House is — would he leave a little bit later this day so we can have a vote in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker?

This is good news. The conference that the minister is talking about in San Antonio is put on by the energy council. It's not an American organization. I hope he does a little research and gets briefed on this organization before he goes because BC is there. Alberta will be there. I think Newfoundland is a part of it. Nova Scotia is a part of it.

Can the minister then also stand up and confirm that his government, that he will take the step that his government will also sit down with the new Premier of Alberta and the Premier of BC to determine Saskatchewan's lead role in the new West, sit down and talk about the trade agreement between those provinces? Will he do that, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well as I said, Mr. Speaker, we'll be there.

We'll be represented. We don't need the Leader of the Opposition to plan our itinerary for us. But I would have hoped, Mr. Speaker, that while he was at it, the Leader of the Opposition would have complimented us — and the member from Thunder Creek was with us — on co-chairing the Beijing first World Heavy Oil Conference.

Mr. Speaker, we're talking to people in the United States. We're talking to people in Canada. We're talking to people in China. We're talking to people all over the world, Mr. Speaker, because they know that there's a good story to be told about all the great things happening in this great province. And we're proud to tell our story around the world, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

[14:30]

Shortage of Health Professionals Impacts Rural Hospitals

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately hospital closures in Saskatchewan are becoming almost so common that they're not even newsworthy. So far this session Canora, Preeceville, Spiritwood, Big River, Shellbrook, Bengough, Coronach, and Vanguard have all experienced closure situations, and once again we're hearing that services have been reduced in Kamsack. Yesterday the Sunrise Health Region announced there will be no emergency or outpatient services at the Kamsack Hospital from 5 in the evening until 8 in the morning.

Mr. Speaker, emergencies don't work that way. They don't take 12 hours off so this government can find enough staff. Why, once again, do the people of Kamsack have to experience a hospital closure under this NDP government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again I reiterate to the member opposite and to the people of Saskatchewan that the temporary closures are enacted by regional health authorities to ensure the safety of the patients in the hospital and in the people who live within that community. Mr. Speaker, these temporary closures — and Kamsack is no different — the temporary closure in Kamsack, Mr. Speaker, has been announced for four days to handle a temporary shortage of professional staff within that facility, Mr. Speaker.

Our government's commitment to provide enhanced, quality health care to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is delivered by the regional health authorities through the safe and secure mechanisms that are available to them and, Mr. Speaker, the circumstances in Kamsack are no different.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, and it's not just doctors. Once again the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses pointed out just exactly how fragile our health care system has become. A news release released by SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] this morning points out that there are 599 vacancies of registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses.

The minister's own committee he put in place this fall has targeted only 400 nurses. There's a huge discrepancy between the 599 that SUN is talking about and the minister's numbers, which he's finally admitted that there is a nursing shortage, which begs the question: when we are that short, which facilities does this NDP government plan on closing?

Rosalee Longmoore, the president of SUN, says, and this is a quote from her news release, "It is only a matter of time before more rural facilities are forced to reduce beds or close entirely."

Mr. Speaker, Mankota has four nurses working. Two are over the age of 65. If they retire, the facility will close. Which facilities does this NDP government plan on closing in rural Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I hope the member opposite will listen very closely, and I expect it'll be front page news tomorrow in all of the media — none, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I wish they would have said that two months ago when we see, day after day, more hospitals closing because of lack of staff. And I don't believe it's going to end because this minister stands in the House today and says no.

When you look at the number of vacancies that SUN has pointed out — such as in the Royal University Hospital, 94 vacancies; St. Paul's Hospital, 54; Saskatoon City Hospital, 29 — that's 177 vacancies in Saskatoon alone. Regina General has 47 vacancies; Pasqua, 44; Prince Albert, 24; North Battleford, 21 vacancies.

Here's the advice of SUN for the minister back in September: why doesn't he stop setting up committee after committee to advise him and start acting on the real problem? Put that money to fixing the real problem, Mr. Speaker.

Him standing in this House saying that there'll be no more closures is of no solace to anywhere in Saskatchewan. What we need are the health care professionals this government fails to provide. When will he start doing his job and provide the health care professionals we need in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I simply answered the member's question. He didn't like the answer; I'm sorry about that.

Bottom line, Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to the recruitment and retention of health care professionals, and in particular nurses, Mr. Speaker. And our record over the course of this last year has been very clear, and it's more than setting up a committee to advise the minister, Mr. Speaker. In fact we've dedicated specifically interim financing in addition to the \$300 million increase in the budget this year, Mr. Speaker. We dedicated an additional, additional, Mr. Speaker, \$25 million specifically for health care professionals in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot create out of nothing a registered nurse or a position, Mr. Speaker. If they don't exist, Mr. Speaker, we have to keep the ones we've got. Or, Mr. Speaker, we have to recruit them from other jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, we are doing those things. And if the member opposite paid attention on our recruitment efforts, Mr. Speaker, we have 90 per cent of graduates committed to working in Saskatchewan . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Drought Disaster Assistance for the Southwest

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are some 50 people in the gallery today who have come back to their legislature to have some questions answered. They want to know why this NDP government does not treat them fairly. Just last week five members from the Southwest drought disaster committee were here asking for fairness. And now more than 10 times that number have returned to get an answer.

Mr. Speaker, could the Premier please explain to the farmers and ranchers here today why he will not give them the same fair treatment as he did for the flooded producers in the Northeast?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, clearly we recognize that in the Southwest they are facing difficult times because of drought. And, Mr. Speaker, we have been working diligently to try and make sure that we have good programs in place.

But I think it's very important to acknowledge that both the Saskatchewan Party and the government have said, and acknowledge clearly, that the federal government has primary responsibility for disaster. And I quote from the Sask Party caucus release. I quote:

“Obviously, when a disaster hits and Saskatchewan

farmers really need help the most, the support just isn't there” . . . “It's up to Ottawa to develop better farm support programs . . .”

Mr. Speaker, we've been working with Ottawa to develop those better programs. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly, when we had a flood situation in the Northeast, the federal government did come to the table first. They put their \$15 an acre on the table before the provincial government even knew what hit them.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Agriculture minister flat out denied the request of the drought committee to have a meeting with the farm support review committee. He said that all inquiries to that committee should go through him. But that was not the case with the flood affected areas in the Northeast, Mr. Speaker. The farm support review committee did meet with the farmers affected by flooding. Mr. Speaker, what kind of a double standard is this? One group gets a meeting; another group doesn't.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why he will not allow the Southwest drought disaster committee to meet with the farm support review committee? And if he can't, then can the Premier explain why he allows this double standard to continue here today?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, clearly there are significant differences not only in the circumstances but also in the time, Mr. Speaker. And the reality is, Mr. Speaker, that the farm support review committee is an advisory body for the minister and to speak directly with the minister gets the message through very clearly, Mr. Speaker.

And in the Northeast, Mr. Speaker, we had some circumstances wherein I wanted to get specific guidance because there was no disaster program in place, Mr. Speaker, no framework put together by the federal government. And so this body which is helpful in developing programs, I asked if they would just specifically deal with one segment of the issue.

Mr. Speaker, they did that for me and provided some advice. Mr. Speaker, in this case I'm offering to spend the time myself to listen to the case of the people from the Southwest. I've done that on several occasions, Mr. Speaker, and the farm support review committee is not needed to intervene in this case.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Crop Insurance

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the farmers and ranchers that are here today have a lot better things to do than keep coming to the legislature to ask for help, but they have no choice.

Mr. Speaker, these same farmers and ranchers have watched for 15 years this government download onto agriculture and neglect rural Saskatchewan. They've watched them cut programs. They've watched them cut program funding. And the problem just goes on.

Mr. Speaker, Doug Davidson last week when he was in here said, "The crop insurance program has been gutted." And I quote:

"These are the programs that would get us through the droughts in the past. We can't sustain back-to-back droughts if we don't have the vehicle to do so."

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit today to start rebuilding the crop insurance program so it actually works for farmers in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite should know a little better about how the crop insurance program works. Mr. Speaker, it is on a 15-year cycle, and it has to rejuvenate itself, Mr. Speaker, and that is exactly what it's doing. It's paid out significant dollars over the last few years — billions, Mr. Speaker. And in that payout, then it reduces the amount that's available. And therefore rates go up; coverage goes down. That's the reality of the crop insurance program, Mr. Speaker.

But the program is there and does provide coverage, and people can get up to 80 per cent coverage which was there and is there for the farmers in the Southwest as well as for the rest of the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite talk about this government and what we have done or not done for agriculture. Mr. Speaker, we are supporting agriculture at an unprecedented rate. When we went to the federal government for more money . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member's time has elapsed. The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that minister, that government knows very well they have done nothing but cut programs in this province for 15 years.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — And for him, Mr. Speaker, to stand here today and say they're doing everything they can for farmers is not . . . It's actually a joke, but it's not a funny situation that

these farm families are in out there. They need this government to come to the table and help them.

One way they could help them is start rebuilding the crop insurance program. Manitoba farmers have a better program. Alberta farmers have a better program. But we're stuck in Saskatchewan with an NDP government, and all they do is gut the farm program. Will he finally deal with the problem, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't matter how loud the member opposite gets, what he is saying is still absolute nonsense, Mr. Speaker. Very clearly we have put significant dollars into agriculture, far more than any other province on a per capita basis.

And, Mr. Speaker, when I went to Ottawa in the spring to ask for more money for farmers in this province, \$575 million, where, Mr. Speaker, was the member opposite? Well you know, he was too sensitive to travel with me because he might not get along, so he didn't come. But, Mr. Speaker, we were there fighting on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have been active on this particular case. We have taken action, Mr. Speaker, and we have got specific programs that are working.

Mr. Speaker, we have gone to the federal government. We have pushed for immediate funding for Saskatchewan livestock farm water program. We requested the federal government to reinstate deferral drought-induced breeding tax on breeding stock, Mr. Speaker. They've said they will.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister is probably right. There's a number of reason I won't travel to Ottawa with him, but the main reason is I've been there with Ag ministers from that side of the House. The first thing they say when they get down east and meet before the standing committee on agriculture is, it's your problem. We're not helping our farmers, and we're never going to. And we hear that continually out of that government.

We hear that out of that minister, Mr. Speaker. We heard that out of the member for Yorkton when he was . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member for Melville-Saltcoats.

[14:45]

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've heard that same comment from that minister. We've heard it from the member from Yorkton when he was the minister. We heard it from Mr. Lingenfelter when he was the

minister. We even heard it from one of my relations, Mr. Upshall. He continually said, we are not supporting farmers in the province of Saskatchewan; it's the federal government's fault.

It was the federal Liberals. Now it's the federal Conservatives. Mr. Speaker, at what point do . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order please. Order. I would just ask members to allow the question to be put. Order. Order. I would invite the member for Melville-Saltcoats to put his question.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that minister and that government today to start doing the right thing. Meet with this group of farmers and ranchers . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order please. Order please. I would ask the member for Melville-Saltcoats not to involve members or guests in the gallery into the debate. Member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask the minister today and that NDP government and that Premier to do the right thing. Meet with the farmers of southwest Saskatchewan. Come to a conclusion of how this government can actually help those farmers. And then the next step is to start rebuilding the crop insurance program, so they don't have to come in here with cap in hand and ask for help.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to see the member opposite stick by their party's code of ethics in his comments.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I want to know is, did the member opposite come clean and tell the folks that are asking about the southwest jog, did he come clean and tell them his view on what should happen around weather-related production problems in agriculture, Mr. Speaker? And I'll quote what he said in *The Four-Town Journal*: Should the government step in? He says, "No, I don't think there would be need for the government to step in." That's his position, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's easy to say anything to any crowd you want to when you're in opposition. But we have to be accountable, Mr. Speaker. I have to be clear, straightforward, and honest with the people I'm dealing with. That I will be. If the people want a meeting with me, they ask for a meeting, I'll be there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Why is the member for Saskatoon Southeast on his feet?

Mr. Morgan: — A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Would the member just hold his point of

order for about a minute please. Order. Would the member hold his point of order for a moment, please. Ministerial statements. Introduction of Bills. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast on a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, during the last exchange during question period, the member for Athabasca stated, and I quote, "Once again you guys lie." That statement was heard very clearly here on this side of the House, and I'm sure the microphones picked it up, Mr. Speaker. It's inappropriate language. It's not acceptable in this Chamber. Mr. Speaker, we would ask that you direct the member to withdraw the statement and to apologize to the House.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Athabasca.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the comment and I apologize profusely. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I thank the member for his apology.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I'll be tabling responses to written questions 222 to 328.

The Speaker: — Responses for all of the questions nos. 222 through 328 have been submitted.

The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, leave to introduce motions of condolence.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave to move motions of condolence. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Karl Frank Klein

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There are three motions of condolence this afternoon and I would begin with a motion of condolence, which I will formally move at the end of my remarks, for Karl Klein. And I believe the Leader of the Opposition is going to second the motions today.

Mr. Speaker, like so many members of this Assembly both past and present, Karl Klein was a farmer. He was also, again as many members are and have been, he was also a teacher. And

like so many of his generation, Mr. Speaker, he was a veteran of the Second World War.

And as we know, having very recently been part of remembrance ceremonies around the 11th, with each passing year there are fewer veterans from that conflict for us to thank for the freedoms we enjoy today. And so in some ways this is a special condolence as we have this opportunity to honour and acknowledge the service of Karl Klein, not only to this legislature but to the Royal Canadian Navy from 1940 to 1945. Like so many of his generation, he was a teacher when he enlisted and he spent his young adulthood far from home in a very uncertain time, but for a very definite purpose and that was the service of Canada.

It was later in his life, Mr. Speaker, that Karl Klein served as a member of this legislature, serving the whole province of Saskatchewan. And I think it's always fitting, Mr. Speaker, that we pause on one afternoon of our sitting to formally offer condolences to the families of former members. But we also do it to acknowledge the debts that we owe as sitting members to those who went before us.

The influence that members of this House may have on younger citizens considering public life can be very profound. And I therefore think it bears mentioning today, Mr. Speaker, that when the current Member of Parliament for Regina Wascana, Ralph Goodale, made his maiden speech in this legislature in 1986, he took that opportunity to pay tribute to Karl Klein and declared his own intention to uphold the high standards that he had observed as a young constituent of the former member for Notukeu-Willow Bunch. This is the kind of legacy to which each of us would aspire, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And so, Madam Deputy Speaker, by leave of the Assembly I move, then seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly records with sorry and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Karl Frank Klein, who passed away on June 22, 2006, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1964 representing the constituency of Notukeu-Willow Bunch for the Liberal Party. Mr. Klein was born October 17, 1922 in Lafleche. He married Agnes McCarthy on July 1, 1948, and together they had six children. Mr. Klein received his early education in local schools before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1940. He served overseas as a wireless telegraphist until 1945.

Upon his return, Mr. Klein attended teachers college in Regina. He completed his degree in education at the University of Manitoba. Mr. Klein's teaching career extended over 27 years. He also found time to farm and participate in the activities of his local church and the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Klein served two terms in this Assembly, winning his seat in the 1956 and the 1960 general elections.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to join in the discussion today and the remembrances of members and former members of this Assembly who have passed away.

Without, at the risk I guess of repeating some of the words of the Premier, I know that there are also other members on this side of the House . . . I know the member for Wood River, who knew Mr. Klein, as well as the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy would also like to put some remarks on the record. And I want to certainly make way for that, especially for the personal comments of the member for Wood River.

As the Premier has highlighted, Mr. Klein was a veteran, an educator, and of course an esteemed member of this Assembly. From 1956 to 1964 he served here. And I can imagine . . . well I mean we can read about the debates that were, that this Chamber hosted during those years. It would have been quite a place to be in terms of the history of the province, the political history of Saskatchewan. And I know the people of Mr. Klein's riding were well served and well represented by his views on their behalf in those important debates.

According to one of his relatives, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Klein never lost his passion for teaching. He continued to visit schools to talk about his time with the navy, Mr. Speaker, and his time as a veteran, even after he had finished teaching. And as I'm sure you and other members of this Assembly are aware, many veterans who have served in those great wars, in World War I and World War II and any conflict, sometimes have difficulty sharing about what they saw first-hand, what they witnessed, what they experienced as they encourage all of us to avoid, to avoid the scourge of war throughout the world in the future. For many, frankly the memories are just too painful to speak about. But thankfully for the students in the Lafleche and the Wood Mountain areas, Karl Klein was more than willing to talk about that experience overseas.

In a memoriam for his great-uncle, one of Karl Klein's great-nephews had the following to say, and I quote:

I have several memories of my Uncle Karl, and the most vivid as a kid is shared by many of my schoolmates. Karl was invited by Wood Mountain School to speak about his military time served on the Atlantic Ocean during World War II fighting the Nazis. I think everyone found it

interesting, but Karl was so enthusiastic about telling his stories that he lost track of time and talked past 3:30 p.m. when the buses were ready to take the kids home. He had been a school teacher, so he was no stranger to a gym full of kids itching to be dismissed.

I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, like his colleagues in this Assembly, all those kids who were there that day, all the school children who heard what he had to say on those occasions of remembrance, benefited from the fact that he was willing to tell the stories even if he ran over a bit in terms of time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the Premier, as do all members on this side of the House, all members here today want to join in supporting this motion and ensuring that the family and the friends of Mr. Klein know of our best wishes for them, our sympathies on their bereavement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in talking a little bit about one of our past members, Mr. Karl Klein. And at the start I would like to say that I knew Karl very well. Karl was a very good friend of mine as it turned out over the many years.

I first, I guess met Karl . . . I was fairly young but he was the principal of the school in Fir Mountain, and that was my hometown. That's when we had a school. And Karl was extremely well-liked by students, and even at that time there was schools that were having difficulty with staying open. And Fir Mountain was a very, very small town and the neighbouring town was a bit larger, but students were travelling on their own hook by car, I guess, to come to Fir Mountain to go to high school because Karl was such a great teacher. And Karl was just totally, totally liked by all of the students as attested to by the people that came from the other communities to be taught by Karl.

I was in intermediate grade school at the time and some of the memories I have of Karl was recess periods and lunch hours. We had quite a gopher infestation around the schoolyards at the time. No running water in the school and so us junior kids we would be carrying water from the town well at noon hour and recess to pour down gopher holes. Well you can imagine the amount of pails of water that we had to carry to get a gopher to come out. And Karl, as the teacher, was the person that was in charge of getting rid of the gopher. And I don't know if it would pass the tests of the environment and the humane people today how gophers were exterminated but we did keep the gopher population down in our schoolyard, and thanks to Karl.

[15:00]

In a few later years I had the opportunity again to be in school with Karl Klein when Karl came back to school in Glentworth to teach and it was in my final year of high school, and so I actually became a student of Karl's. And he was just an outstanding individual and an excellent teacher. I probably owe Karl a bit of gratitude for me joining the military because there was times when we did talk about his career in the navy and

maybe subconsciously that prompted me to go into the military.

I do remember when Karl was a Member of the Legislative Assembly. And I believe in those days, Mr. Speaker, that you still had the opportunity to hold a full-time job and then you took a leave of absence to come when the House actually sat. And Karl would get a replacement teacher in while he was actually in the legislature. But I do remember one of his maiden speeches, and I can't say for sure if it was his maiden speech, but he talked passionately about the constituency then of Notukeu-Willow Bunch and the area.

And particularly he talked about a bit of a phenomena south of the town of Fir Mountain called the sinking hill. And I've used that example a couple of times in my speeches where Karl had, back in the early '50s or mid-'50s when he was sitting in this Assembly, talked about the opportunities of that time for tourism and ecotourism in southern Saskatchewan. And talked passionately how we could draw tourists into southern Saskatchewan and into Saskatchewan by such things as visiting the sinking hill of southern Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Speaker, I've spoke about the same thing some 50 years later, talked about still the opportunity is still there for the tourism down in that area.

It was very interesting sitting and discussing politics with Mr. Klein. It's very interesting because we could debate — sit and have a friendly debate — and we could agree on most things. In fact I would suggest that Karl and I would agree on everything until we walked into a polling booth. And Karl was a very, very strong Liberal, and he could never convince me that that would be the way I should vote. But we agreed on everything we talked about, which is quite ironic.

One of the concepts that Karl constantly talked about even up until the time of his passing was how we could revitalize areas of rural Saskatchewan. And Karl lived in Lafleche up until his passing, a short stint in the Gravelbourg hospital. But he talked about such things as the abandoned farmyards and small, let's say they're farmyards which a lot of people would call an acreage. And the opportunity it would present itself to people that were on social assistance and how they could have a hand up by inhabiting some of these farmsteads and actually houses in rural towns. And it'd give them an opportunity . . . for an example, as Karl had put so passionately, that if you had people that were on social assistance with a few kids and you put them out into a 10- or 15-acre property where they would have an opportunity to grow a garden, they may have an opportunity to have a few animals such as chickens and pigs. And he said, look what that would do for this province if we could have some of these people into these places.

And I know I mentioned that one time, and I kind of got told that we would be forcing people away from what they're used to. And I said no, that's not true — and this was Karl's view also — we would be offering them an opportunity rather than telling them they had to do something, but giving them the opportunity to move to an area such as rural Saskatchewan and to one of these farm lands or acreages and make a life for themselves that would help them along the road to self-independence. And Karl up until the time of his passing talked very, very passionately about that.

Karl was also very much into winemaking. And we would spend some time discussing different types of refreshments, and he very much enjoyed talking about it. And on occasion I've had the opportunity to sample a couple of his products — which was very interesting — over a little bit of a political discussion.

Prior to Karl's passing, we met in Lafleche one day and he said to me, he said, this is the first time in my adult life that I do not have a federal political party. And I use the word federal political party, because I'm pretty sure that Karl would have supported me in my bid for a seat in this legislature. I don't know that for sure. But Karl, as a lifelong Liberal, was very, very upset with the same-sex marriage Bill and the federal government. And so his last discussion with me on politics was that he did not have a party any more, and he really felt sad because he was really not in favour of this Bill that went through the federal parliament.

Karl will be very much missed by people in the community. He was very active in the Legion. And again as age creeps up on all of us, you get less and less active, but Karl was a very, very staunch Legion supporter. He was a very staunch community person. He was very involved with the Knights of Columbus. And Karl was just an all around great individual and a great asset to the community.

Karl will be greatly missed by so many people in the area, and I would like to join in supporting this motion and offering my sincere condolences to Karl's family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to rise today in the Assembly to speak to the condolence motion with respect to the late Karl Klein. Mr. Speaker, I will speak to the motion, not as somebody who knew Mr. Klein — because I did not — but as a member of the Assembly who currently represents the part of the province that Mr. Klein once did.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's . . . I have a real appreciation for the time that we take in the Assembly to honour a former member at the news of their passing, so I consider it a privilege to say a few words on one of my predecessors.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have spoken very eloquently about Mr. Klein, as has the member from Wood River, who gave this House a very personal side of Mr. Klein.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the session when I was given notice of Mr. Klein's passing and notice of the motion and the offer to speak to the motion, I was in the middle of preparing my maiden speech in this House. And so I thought it would be interesting to go back and see what Mr. Klein had said in his maiden speech 50 years ago. And I want to thank the library staff for finding those resources for me.

Mr. Speaker, I might be a little bit biased. I think members know that I have an undergraduate degree in history and so I may be a little bit biased. But I think that history's a very important tool to not only knowing where we come from, but to

planning a road map to where we're going. And certainly our history as a country and a province is important, but I think equally important is the history of our legislature. And we certainly have a rich history of this Chamber and what happens in this building.

Mr. Speaker, in reading Mr. Klein's maiden speech and the comments that he made, not only did I think I got a bit of an insight into the man, but also his speech provided some answers to my questions that I have and some of my personal curiosities about the history of this Chamber, and in fact answered some of the questions that I get most from my constituents. And I'll share some of those with you today.

Mr. Speaker, since my election one of the most frequent questions that I get, especially from people who come to the legislature or tune in on television is, is the House always this loud and boisterous? And has it always been this way? Have the debates been as ferocious at times as they can get? And a bit of Mr. Klein's speech will answer that question for me, Mr. Speaker.

And I'll tell you that it's been indicated by speakers before me that Mr. Klein, prior to his election, was a teacher. And in his maiden speech he tells about the time that he was preparing his high school students for debating. And he thought it would be a good idea to tune in the legislature on the radio so that his students could hear what a good debate sounds like. He thought that the Assembly offered, in his words, "debating of the highest order in the province."

And as he's telling the story, Mr. Speaker, he mentions that not only was it his students' first time listening to the legislature on the radio, but it was also his first time. And as he called it that day that they listened on the radio, he called it a particularly bad feud going on at the time. So after the broadcast, Mr. Speaker, he turned off the radio and he turned to his students and he said, and I'll quote him:

Well, today we have learned what not to do in debating; next week, I will teach you what should be done.

So my question on that matter has been answered. It seems to be it's always been this way, Mr. Speaker.

The second thing that I learned from his speech was that the more things change and the more time changes and time goes on, the more they seem to stay the same. And by that I mean this: how much of how today's opposition, how we criticize the government of the day, is quite like it was back 50 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Klein in his maiden speech said in the House that the first thing that his constituents asked of him after he was elected into the Assembly — he was a member of the opposition — but the first thing that his constituents asked him was for some good roads. And, Mr. Speaker, that really hasn't changed because that's, I think, what my constituents ask me about and I've presented petitions on that.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Klein in his maiden speech was critical of the government of the day for something called the *Regina Manifesto*. He reminded the government of many of the ideas that they stole from his party during the election that preceded

his sitting.

And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Klein reminded the government of their failed investments, from the box factory and the shoe factory. And, Mr. Speaker, I know the member, my colleague from Wood River, said that Mr. Klein was a lifelong Liberal. But from reading his main speech, I think Mr. Klein would have felt right at home in this caucus, in the opposition caucus of today.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to know what a person thought when he was giving his maiden speech just from reading the text. You don't get the emotion; you don't get the context of the day. But I think that I can draw a couple of conclusions from Mr. Klein's maiden speech.

Mr. Klein took pride in representing the people of Notukeu-Willow Bunch. He held the Chamber and the proceedings and this building in high regard and respect. And, Mr. Speaker, while it was probably a highlight of his life to be an elected member of this Assembly for eight years, it was probably not the highlight of his life. He rightfully took pride in his long teaching career, his community involvement, and his family. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the obituary that appeared in the *Leader-Post* this summer is quite lengthy, yet it only has one line about his eight-year political career and, as I said, quite lengthy on everything else that he achieved in his life.

And so, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the good people of Weyburn-Big Muddy, I'd like to join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and all members of this Assembly in supporting this motion and offering my sincere condolences to the family of Karl Klein. Thank you.

[15:15]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, the Premier, seconded by the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province. Karl Frank Klein.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Bernard Leo Korchinski

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again at the close of my remarks I will move the formal motion. I believe it will be seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly this afternoon will want to recognize the contribution, both to this House and to this province, of Mr. Bernard Korchinski. Mr. Speaker, Bernard Korchinski has the distinction, relatively unique and rare

distinction, Mr. Speaker, of having been born on Saskatchewan's first Christmas, December 25, 1905. There will only be a few who will be able to claim that distinction.

He was born, Mr. Speaker, to a family of 13 children. He was the first of his brothers and sisters to be born in Canada. Mr. Speaker, he was a teacher in our province for 35 years. His extracurricular activities ranged from war bond drives to organizing for the Wheat Pool to being a long-serving scoutmaster, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Korchinski was deeply devoted both to his church and to his Ukrainian heritage, and in 1932 helped found the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada.

Bernard Korchinski served in this Assembly on two occasions, through two terms as the member for Redberry in the Liberal opposition in the 1950s. Later in his life, Mr. Speaker, he was named Citizenship Court judge, a position, I am told, of which he was very, very proud, and one that gave him great joy as he welcomed new Canadians and bestowed upon them the rights and privileges of Canadian citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, at the age of 100, a century old, Bernard Korchinski was still granting interviews — one that year to the *Leader-Post* and one to the University of Saskatchewan alumni news. And as a conversationalist and a raconteur, even at 100 years of age he was still in very fine form, which may not be surprising when you consider that during his tenure as an MLA — and again this was during the 1950s when there were many accomplished orators in this legislature — in the 1950s Bernard Korchinski was selected by members of the press as the best debater in the Saskatchewan legislature.

Mr. Speaker, in his interview with the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] alumni news, Bernard Korchinski summed up the character of Saskatchewan people as follows. He said, Mr. Speaker:

The spiritual attitude of people in Saskatchewan is one that says we won't give up easily. We're not going to surrender to political, social, or even environmental oppression; we're going to fight back against adversity. We have lived through the Dirty Thirties and through times when we got 90 cents for a bushel of wheat. Somehow we managed to survive. I say we can survive anything.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard Korchinski, was more than just a survivor. He was an indeed an example of a full life very well lived. And so, Mr. Speaker, I move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Bernard Leo Korchinski who passed away on October 13, 2006 was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1948 until 1952 and from 1956 until 1960, representing the constituency of Redberry for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Korchinski was born on Christmas Day, 1905, at Beaver Hill near Ituna. He was educated at schools in Ituna, Yorkton, and Regina before attending the University

of Saskatchewan. He married Slawka Marak on July 21, 1938. He is survived by his four children and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Korchinski's teaching career spanned 39 years and schools throughout Saskatchewan. During the Second World War he took a leave from teaching to work for the National Film Board showing newsreels and promoting war bonds. Mr. Korchinski's public service also included periods as the provincial director of the Emergency Measures Organization and as a Citizenship Court judge. He served two terms in this Assembly.

Mr. Korchinski was a lifelong supporter of the Boy Scouts, serving as a scoutmaster for 26 years and as president of the district scouting organization.

Mr. Korchinski was proud of his heritage and was a founding member of several Ukrainian organizations including the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood, St. Athanasius Church, and the Ukrainian Catholic Youth. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and an organizer with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, to his constituency, and to the province. Bernard Leo Korchinski.

The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again it's a privilege for me to join in to pay tribute to a former member of this Assembly. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Korchinski lived to be over 100 years old, I'm sure that his family and friends will . . . and therefore had many, many birthdays and Christmas days to spend with his family, to share with his friends, I'm sure he will be very much missed. I am sure it won't be an easy Christmas as his family and friends fondly remember him.

Mr. Speaker, the two former members that we honour today, that we've honoured today so far — the Premier has spoken of Mr. Klein and as well as members on this side of the House, and now Mr. Korchinski — I couldn't help but notice that they served together in this Legislative Assembly. They would have served together in the same party, working on the same issues. And I think all of us in this Assembly know a little bit about the kind of friendships that are born of that shared responsibility and work, and I have no doubt that that was the case for Mr. Klein and Mr. Korchinski.

The Premier has highlighted Mr. Korchinski's past, his contribution to this province, his contribution to the Ukrainian community here in Saskatchewan, to the Ukrainian Catholic community and, Mr. Speaker, again at the risk of repeating some of what the Premier highlighted for members of this Assembly, I do think that it's interesting to look at some of the other quotes you'd find in that same *Green and White* publication, the U of S Alumni Association publication.

In its 100th year, as the Premier has highlighted, Mr. Korchinski was interviewed and the Premier shared one quote. But there were some others that I thought were interesting, reflective of this individual, this man who served this Assembly, and of the times that he served, and even of the times that he went to university because of course he served in this Assembly for eight years and lived over 100. And so as important for him as service in this legislature would have been, there was so much more — so very, very much more — that he had to reflect on for that interview.

When reflecting on his life at 100 years, Korchinski said it was extremely difficult to be a teacher in Saskatchewan when World War II broke out. "At the time, I was" . . . This is a quote from that article, Mr. Speaker. He went on to say:

At the time, I was teaching high school in a place called Rama. When war broke out, the next thing I knew half of my grade 12 students had volunteered for the Air Force. Everybody wanted to get involved. It was a very emotional time.

He was asked about his university life on the U of S campus in the 1930s now, Mr. Speaker. Korchinski said, at the time it really hadn't changed much in 70 years. He said, and I quote:

Students missed classes, tried to copy from each other, and engaged in all kinds of shenanigans [Mr. Speaker].

He said:

University was co-educational so we used to socialize with the girls and go to dances as often as we could. [And] It was very social, but also very hard work.

I'm sure the friends and the family and those who knew Mr. Korchinski well were so very pleased that he was able to see and enjoy the province's centennial, that he was able to receive his medal as a centenarian in the province of Saskatchewan — probably for some selfish reasons, so they could hear those kinds of stories. We're all well served by them, by the history of this province, when it's told to us directly by leaders as Mr. Korchinski was.

Mr. Korchinski was still active well into his later years, Mr. Speaker. The *Leader-Post* columnist Will Chabun wrote his column about Bernie Korchinski a few days after his passing. Chabun had interviewed one of Korchinski's long-time friends, Mike Shykula, who had written a book with Mr. Korchinski in the late 1980s. I'd like to share a part of that column, if I can, in closing today, Mr. Speaker. Here's a quote from the column:

Mike Shykula remembers how Bernard Korchinski sought his help in buying a computer.

"It was when he was over 90 — and he learned to use it," said Shykula. "I helped him buy it and a printer, too. He wanted it because he was writing his family history.

"So many people, when they're in their 40s or 50s, say they're not able to learn how to use a computer . . ."

Some may be in this room right now, Mr. Speaker — but Mr. Korchinski did.

He was well loved in all of the communities he touched over those 100 years and all of those groups. A clear example of this is the fact that there were three official celebrations that were held for his 100th birthday by his family, his church, and the Knights of Columbus, an organization he served for an amazing 77 years.

The Premier has pointed out he is survived by his four children, a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. And it is a pleasure on behalf of the official opposition to pay homage and tribute to Mr. Korchinski here today in this Assembly and to join with the members of this Assembly in a condolence motion for the bereaved family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to pay tribute to Mr. Bernard Leo Korchinski. A lot of the details have already been put on the record, but I'd like to add to some of them. And I believe I have some new or different information that I'd like to add to the record about Mr. Korchinski's life, and the fact that I got to know him somewhat in his later years.

As was mentioned, Mr. Korchinski passed away October 13, 2006. He was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1948 until '52 and from 1956 until 1960, representing the constituency of Redberry for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Speaker, as was referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, there was an article in *The StarPhoenix*, but I'd like to just add a bit more from that article concerning Mr. Korchinski:

Mike Shykula remembers how Bernard Korchinski sought his help in buying a computer.

[And goes on to say] "It was when he was over 90 [years old] — and he learned to use it," said Shykula. I helped him buy it and a printer, too. He wanted it because he was writing his family history.

"So many people, when they're in their 40s or 50s, say they're not able to learn how to use a computer — but he did." He even got online as well — an example of the energy and curiosity that made Korchinski, who died Friday at 100, so special.

[As was mentioned before he was] Born on Dec. 25, 1905, at Ituna, Korchinski was educated there and in Yorkton, Regina and Saskatoon.

He began teaching in the mid-1920s, when Ukrainian

surnames were rare in any profession and bigotry against Ukrainian immigrants was building.

He taught at Ituna, then at Holdfast and Hafford, where he met and married Slawka Maruk in 1938. He took a leave to work for the National Film Board during the Second World War, showing newsreels and promoting war bonds.

After the war, he taught at Speers, southeast of North Battleford. He entered the legislature as a Liberal from the Redberry constituency in 1948, juggling teaching and MLA duties.

Defeated in 1952, he returned to the legislature in 1956. After the Liberals took office in 1964, he became director of the province's Emergency Measures Organization and later became a federal citizenship judge.

[15:30]

In a 2005 interview, he remembered how new citizens sometimes fearfully confused him with a judge of the criminal courts and how he heard horrifying stories of people forced to flee their homes because they feared torture or death.

All in all, though "I think that was the happiest part of my life. My election as an MLA and appointment as a citizenship judge were the highlights," he said.

In the late 1980s, he and Shykula — a former journalist who lives in Kelowna, B.C. — wrote a biography of the late Bishop Nykyta Budka, the former Ukrainian Catholic bishop who might be the first person with Saskatchewan links to be named a saint of the Catholic church one day.

So popular and respected was Korchinski that his 100th birthday was marked by separate celebrations by his church, the Knights of Columbus — the Catholic religious order to which he had belonged for 77 years — and [of course] his family.

So Mr. Korchinski was quite an active individual in his community and in the province.

I of course like many of us who was elected in 1999 first saw or spoke to or was introduced to Mr. Korchinski at the CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] banquet in spring of 2000. My wife and I came in a bit late, and we just happened to sit at a table where there was some room. And I sat beside Mr. Korchinski and soon found out that he was the former member of Redberry. And of course at that time I was newly elected for the constituency of Redberry Lake so there was immediately a bond, and we shared many conversations. And he spoke quite eloquently about his days as an MLA and the area of Redberry, which I represented most of it at that time.

So it was very interesting just speaking to him about the days when he was an MLA and his views of politics and the world. And so it was a great pleasure to have met him and just by chance to be able to sit at the same table with him and speak to him about his life and the province and his views on where things were going and where they should go.

I believe it was last year or the year before he was given the Centennial Medal at the CPA banquet. And of course there is a saying, never give a mike to a politician or a former politician because they just might go ahead and use it and speak. And he certainly did. He took that opportunity to start telling stories. And it was sometimes hard to hear what he was saying, but I remember some of the same stories that he had told me in 1999 when I sat with him at the CPA banquet. So it was certainly a pleasure to be able to meet and speak to that man and hear about all his stories.

So I'd like to certainly join in the motion. I'd like to join the Assembly with the feelings and the deep sense of loss and bereavement and express our most sincere sympathy to the family of this most outstanding citizen of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I would ask leave of the Assembly to make a few remarks with respect to Bernard Korchinski.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I thank the members. I'm very honoured to be able to stand in this Assembly today and recall a few memories about Bernard Leo Korchinski. He was, I have to say, the first politician that I actually ever did meet in real life, and I think I was probably under 10 years old at the time when I met him. And it's hard to say just how much a person impresses you at that age, but quite often it may have been the beginning of some kind of messages that are conveyed to a young person that eventually move one to work towards life in politics. I'll say a little more about how that happened a little later.

But I noted through the remarks today and also through the record that Mr. Korchinski was elected in 1948. He had defeated at that time Mr. Lazorko, who was a member of the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation], and I think he was able to defeat him because all of my relatives must have voted for him at the time. My family lives along the border, sort of moved around between Redberry constituency and the North Battleford constituency.

And then in 1952, Mr. Dick Zipchen ran for the CCF, and Dick Zipchen was actually related to my family. So Dick Zipchen won that year. However I think some of the family must have deserted Dick because in 1956 Mr. Korchinski won again, and I'm sure that it must have been my family members that caused that to happen. And later on, 1960, he was defeated by Dick Michayluk of the CCF. And I think that happened when it was a movement of the boundary and so that some of my family members must have got moved out of the constituency.

And I notice one other thing here as I read these names: Lazorko, Zipchen, Michayluk, and Korchinski. In those days you pretty well had to be Ukrainian to get elected in the constituency of Redberry.

I mention that he was the first politician that I knew in real life and it happened this way. In those days of the one-room schools, we used to have these track meets. And schools from the entire unit would come together to one place in the spring and we'd have these competitions. Now it happened that I was at a school . . . in one of the schools in that area and we

travelled to Speers for the track meet. And I think it was between, I think it was between the potato race and the 60-yard dash that we had a break. And all us children were assembled to the steps of a two-room school to hear the principal of the school. There were very few schools that had principals; just big schools with two or three rooms had principals. And he spoke to all of the assembled teachers and children that were there.

From that, my memory is simply that he walked very straight. He was very straight in his demeanour as he walked, and my feeling was that he talked straight too. And hearing today that he was, as has been mentioned earlier, that he has been a scoutmaster, and I think he carried that right through into his school work.

I knew that he loved to meet people. He took his work very seriously. He had a great work ethic. He was an outgoing person and a passionate fighter for the Redberry constituency, so passionate that he did, as the Premier mentioned, won . . . was recognized as a great, perhaps the best, debater of the time.

Now the member for Biggar mentioned that he heard him and talked to Mr. Korchinski during our CPA meeting. I know that Mr. Korchinski was a very, very faithful and regular visitor to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meetings that we had. He'd come annually with his daughter, Bernadine and Leslie. And the year 1905 . . . When we honoured him, we were reminded of what kind of a politician he was. So even though he was 100 years old at the time, he showed us that he had as much stamina as anybody else at the mike when his remarks turned into a historical account of his politics.

So I wish to at this time to pay my respects and condolences to his family members. I look at Mr. Korchinski as somebody who loved politics. He had a roller-coaster career. He had a good career, and a good life, and he was a tremendous politician.

The question before the Assembly then, members, is the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current:

That this Assembly record with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciate of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province. Bernard Leo Korchinski.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Joseph Clifford McIsaac

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again at the close of my remarks I will move the formal motion of condolence. This to remember and celebrate the life and service to the province and this legislature of Dr. Joseph Clifford McIsaac although, Mr. Speaker, I think across this province best known as Cliff McIsaac.

Cliff McIsaac spent much of his early life on the move in this country. He was born, raised, and educated in Prince Edward Island, continued his education in Nova Scotia, and then onto Ontario where he obtained his degree in veterinary medicine.

Fortunately for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, Dr. McIsaac's travels were not yet finished and he found a home and made a home in our province, beginning his veterinary practice in the Unity, where in the community of Unity he quickly became a leader in that community through his service on the local school board then taking him to service in the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association, and a host of other organizations. Cliff McIsaac, as well as a vet was also a very successful rancher in his own right and businessman.

Dr. McIsaac was elected to this Assembly on three occasions, Mr. Speaker, and served in the cabinet of Premier Ross Thatcher and the Liberal government at that time. He continued his public life beyond this legislature in the federal parliament in the . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Let the record show that the power failed us from 3:40 to 3:50. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was observing that in condolence of the passing of Dr. Cliff McIsaac, that following his service to this legislature, Mr. Speaker, he continued in public life running and being successful in running for the Canadian House of Commons. He served in the Trudeau government as the Member of Parliament for Battleford-Kindersley. Mr. Speaker, a man of many interests, talents, and enthusiasms, Cliff McIsaac's contributions were likewise many and varied.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Cliff McIsaac chose Saskatchewan as his home and he chose a life of service to the people of his adopted province. And, Mr. Speaker, for his many years of service we pay him tribute in our Assembly today. And therefore, I move, seconded by the member of Swift Current:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Joseph Clifford McIsaac who passed away on July 25, 2006 was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 until 1974 representing the constituency of Wilkie for the Liberal Party.

Dr. McIsaac was born in Mount Herbert, Prince Edward Island on August 30, 1930. He attended local schools there before graduating from the Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown. Dr. McIsaac continued his studies at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College from which he received his diploma in 1950. Later he was awarded a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1955 from the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph.

Dr. McIsaac married Marie Vandervoort on July 29, 1953. He is survived by his wife and their six children.

Dr. McIsaac began his veterinarian career by opening a practice in Unity. He expanded his interests in the farming field by establishing a commercial beef operation and a mobile feed milling company. In later years he moved his practice to North Battleford.

Dr. McIsaac was active in a number of community and professional organizations. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus, served on the local school board, and the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association.

His professional interests led to his involvement with a number of cattle, farming, and veterinary medical associations. Dr. McIsaac was appointed to the Canadian Dairy Commission and served as Chair of the National Farm Products Marketing Council.

Dr. Cliff McIsaac was first elected to this Assembly in the 1964 election and retained his seat in the following two general elections. He served in the cabinet of Ross Thatcher as minister of Municipal Affairs and later in the Education portfolio.

Upon leaving this Assembly in 1974, Dr. McIsaac was elected to the federal parliament for the Battleford-Kindersley constituency. He served as parliamentary secretary to the ministers of Transport and Regional Economic Expansion, and as Chief Government Whip.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution made to his community, his constituency, and to the province. Joseph Clifford McIsaac.

The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to second the Premier's motion today, this motion of condolence for the family and friends of Dr. McIsaac, who was well-known in politics as Cliff.

Mr. Speaker, Cliff McIsaac was one of those many Atlantic Canadians who contributed mightily to the province of Saskatchewan after moving here. But he retained a strong love for his alma mater, the Nova Scotia College of Agriculture. And in the year 2000, at the 50th anniversary of his graduating class, Cliff and two former classmates founded . . . they launched and founded a bursary fund, the class of 1950 fund, for students in need of assistance.

The trio had a target of \$50,000 and encouraged all other alumni to pledge donations or to leave donations in their wills so that other students could access the college.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has already highlighted the great contributions of Dr. McIsaac to this legislature, to politics in general, and has noted the fact that he was a very well-respected veterinarian with a strong background in agriculture. You know that Dr. McIsaac, as you know, Mr. Speaker, also established a mobile feed milling company and a commercial beef operation.

For 10 years he served in this legislature, Mr. Speaker, being asked to serve in the cabinet of Premier Ross Thatcher. And after his stint in provincial politics, as the Premier has pointed out, he spent some time in Ottawa where he did hold important positions as Chief Government Whip and was the minister in the federal cabinet for Regional Economic Expansion and Transport, and no doubt an influential force for this province, for the province of Saskatchewan, in the national cabinet.

When he wasn't in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, tending to his duties there, he was busy in his constituency. There are some events of note that he would highlight I'm sure if he had the chance, including what some might consider to be the small events in the life of an MP [Member of Parliament] that are not small at all but are quite significant for those communities — the opening of a new grocery store at the Red Pheasant Reserve south of North Battleford in '74, the addition to the existing band office on the Sweetgrass Indian Reserve west of North Battleford in 1976.

And, Mr. Speaker, when he left federal politics, Dr. McIsaac along with Léon Blacer was commissioned with what many in this Assembly would consider to be an unenviable job — to review the salaries of members of both the House of Commons and the Senate. And we know how contentious the issue of remuneration compensation for elected members can be. There's a great deal of interest on this subject on the part of Saskatchewan people and the part of Canadians, and rightfully so.

The McIsaac report, as it became known, is best remembered for some increases that it recommended for MPs. The reasons, according to the McIsaac report, were three-fold: MPs' workloads had increased significantly over the years; the job of an MP had become a full-time position in the view of Mr. McIsaac; and an argument we still hear today, for competitive salaries, and candidate recruitment was difficult for all of the parties at that current rate.

Mr. Speaker, that would have been a difficult report — maybe not difficult to prepare, but I'm sure there was much scrutiny and many questions asked on the part of the people of Canada for the McIsaac report.

Mr. Speaker, Bonnie Donison, who works as a constituency assistant today for the current member for Thunder Creek, worked here at this Legislative Assembly when Dr. McIsaac was an elected member. In remembering him, she said this:

Cliff McIsaac was a warm [and] friendly man who had a great interest in people and their problems. He really liked people and [he] was happiest when surrounded . . . [by]

friends and family. He always had a big smile and looked like he enjoyed every day. The family found it very hard to watch him suffer with Alzheimer's disease but even then he continued to have that same hearty hello and a big smile for everyone he met."

[16:00]

Mr. Speaker, Bonnie has, I think, captured the personality of Dr. McIsaac better than any of us could in this Assembly because she worked with him, and she knew the kind of personality he was. And she knew how difficult his passing was and the circumstances around his passing were for his family.

And with those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I do second the Premier's motion of condolence, and on behalf of the opposition we offer our condolences to the bereaved friends and family of Cliff McIsaac. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just add a few more comments to this condolence motion regarding Joseph Clifford McIsaac. While I didn't have the privilege and honour of meeting Mr. McIsaac personally, I had the privilege of meeting one of his family members.

His son Alex practised veterinary medicine in the community of Wawota for a number of years. And I remember, Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected and driving down to Wawota and meeting Alex and talking a little bit. He was the one who actually mentioned about being part of the family and his dad in politics. And Alex was one who enjoyed politics, but I think Alex also derived his abilities in veterinary medicine obviously from his dad. He was an excellent veterinarian in our area, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my brother and I who have a mixed farming operation had the privilege of calling on Alex for his services over the years. And I know that the people in the community of Wawota and surrounding area really appreciated the work and the commitment that Dr. Alex McIsaac made to his community. And we know, Mr. Speaker, that he certainly represented his father well.

And it was an honour to get to know Alex somewhat, Mr. Speaker, and just to hear him talk a little bit about his dad. And I would like to extend my condolences as well, not only to the McIsaac family but specifically to Alex and his family as they mourn the loss of a father and a special friend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he

made to his community, his constituency, and to the province. Joseph Clifford McIsaac.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, to request leave to move a motion of transmittal.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly I move, seconded by the Government Deputy House Leader, the hon. member for Regina Dewdney:

That the resolutions just passed, together with the transcript of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased, be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader, the member for Moose Jaw North, seconded by the member for Regina Dewdney:

That the resolutions just passed, together with the transcript of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased, be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 12

[The Assembly assumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 12 — The Planning and Development Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to

rise today and provide a few comments on Bill No. 12, The Planning and Development Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is to establish a system for planning and development in the province for municipalities and northern admin districts. This is quite important for the northern admin districts because it was definitely not in the combined Act that we went through last year or the year before.

This Bill also identifies provincial interests that guide provincial and municipal planning, and is supposed to enable co-operation between municipalities, planning districts, and other jurisdictions and agencies in the delivery of planning services and infrastructure development.

I guess one of the things that come to mind is what precipitated the introduction of this Bill? And those are some questions that we have and we'll probably address some of that later on.

But I'd like to make just a few brief comments on the minister's remarks on the second reading of the Bill. And in it he talked about building communities that make Saskatchewan the best place for young people to live, work, and build strong futures. And very laudable, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't agree more. But it begs the question: if we're doing that, what in this Bill is going to enhance people to stay here and live and work and build strong futures, when we know the record of this government right now. We've lost something in the neighbourhood of 37,000 people in the last five to six years and 18,000 in the last two years, Mr. Speaker. And we have a Bill out with all of these remarks that this is going to help build futures for these people and yet they still leave the province.

Also in the comments, the remarks from the minister, he talks about quality and adequate health care and human services. Well this is a statement obviously just put in for rhetorical purposes because we know over the last period of time what we're seeing in health care services in this province. And we talk about adequate health care. What does the minister mean?

I mean we look at one point where we're talking about hospital closures — temporary closures albeit, but on a regular basis — and I think we're up to about 10 or 12 or 14 now of hospital closures. And yet we have a feel-good speech here that says, communities, we want to develop communities with quality and adequate health care and human services. It's saying one thing and actually another is being done within the province, Mr. Speaker.

Also the minister talked about extensive stakeholder and public consultations. We know the government's record on consultations. We've addressed that on numerous occasions in this House in the last few years. We see that consultation to this NDP government sometimes means talking to their seatmate or talking to their party president or something and that constitutes consultations. And so there's an awful lot of issues here when the feel-good part of the speech is talking about consultations. We question whether there's been adequate consultation in this process.

We also know that the consultations with the last Bill, the planning and development . . . The Cities Act, that it actually had to be pulled because there was so many amendments to the

Bill that the Bill had to be pulled and reintroduced. So that makes us very suspect as to why there's a rush sometimes to put these Bills forward without proper consultation.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, I think all of the questions that we will have on this Bill, we'll be able to discuss in committee and ask questions in committee. So at this time I would recommend that Bill 12 be forwarded to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 12, The Planning and Development Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 12, The Planning and Development Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 12 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried, therefore this Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 39

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Addley that **Bill No. 39 — The Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to join in to the adjourned debates on Bill No. 39, An Act to Recover Damages and Health Care Costs from Manufacturers of Tobacco.

This piece of legislation is a piece of legislation that other provinces have seen prior to our province. Other provinces have

passed this legislation and it really does go to the whole issue of tobacco use and some of the damaging effects that tobacco use has on our populations. It allows the governments to pursue tobacco companies and to sue them on behalf of their citizens and the Government of Saskatchewan, for example, to recover some of the expenses and costs that are incurred because of tobacco use.

Tobacco use is a very, very costly substance — not only to purchase, but after, of course after people have smoked for a number of years, some of the health related costs. Every year approximately 1,000 people die from tobacco related illnesses and diseases in Saskatchewan. Health costs are about \$145 million a year which are associated with tobacco use.

We've seen pieces of legislation come before this House before regarding tobacco use and one such Bill a couple years ago was eliminating smoking in public facilities. And, you know, it did have some effect definitely on some of the rural establishments, some of the bars in rural Saskatchewan. But the whole intent of the Bill was certainly not to hurt those facilities, although some of those no doubt were affected. But the whole intent of the Bill was to try and reduce and denormalize the use of tobacco in our society by making it, I guess, more difficult for people to smoke — not being able to smoke in public facilities. And certainly I think it has had some impact.

But you know, when you look at the numbers of people smoking, we still see a large proportion of our young people smoking and how important it is for education to get to those people. And perhaps some of the proceeds, if a lawsuit is laid against the tobacco companies and revenue generated, much of that revenue I would hope would go towards education.

Because if you're going to change the attitude and habits of people, legislation is only one small part of it. Legislation without education usually is not very effective. Education without legislation at times may not be effective. So the combination of the two, we hope, will be effective. Because as I said we have a disproportionate amount of our young people using tobacco products still, and the consequences are not good for our health care system.

There are other areas too, you know. And some of the issues that came to play when we passed the legislation banning smoking in public places, some of the issues that came to play were jurisdictional issues that really were very . . . quite frustrating for members on our side. Because when we debated that Bill, at that time the government had said that all the work had been done.

There was the First Nations-run casino in Yorkton who at that time was a non-smoking facility. And you know, we listened to the government and . . . Well unfortunately probably is not the proper term. But in this case we were believing the government that proper consultation had taken place and that the First Nations were in agreement with this piece of legislation and would be following along with this piece of legislation.

After the legislation was passed, unfortunately we found out that consultation maybe wasn't done nearly as well. And in fact the one casino that was run through the First Nations, that was non-smoking to begin with, reverted back to smoking.

And you know, so it was a piece of legislation that overall I think has done some great good. But it really missed the mark, for example, in the First Nations community on the whole issue of tobacco use. And there's much ground to be made up there because we know that the smoking rates in First Nations communities are higher in general than what they are for the rest of the population, and as a consequence so are the costs that we see in the health care system.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is an issue that any time that we can support a Bill that is looking at denormalizing the tobacco use, which as a consequence will hopefully reduce the number of health care costs that we see because of tobacco-related illnesses, we would be in favour of. And certainly in this situation we would be in favour of this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

[16:15]

I know there has been some talk, as we were debating the Bill, about the government likes to throw out the fact that we had received money in donations from tobacco companies. But what I will say in that case is that, you know, if it helped me get elected to support a Bill like this, then I would thank them for that because that's exactly what has done. If that money allowed me to become elected so I could support a piece of legislation like this, then I would welcome it.

Well the members are laughing and are commenting. Because really you know it's really quite interesting. So let's take that one step further. Then the donations that that party received, the donations that that party received from marijuana lobbyists, does that go then to move them in the direction of legalizing marijuana? Here on one hand you've got a government talking about denormalizing the use of tobacco — you have the government talking about denormalizing the use of tobacco — and then accepting money from a lobby group to look at passing legislation on normalizing marijuana. Now that is so hypocritical.

So it's really funny how there's certainly a lot of hooting and hollering from that side when I brought that up, but what they fail to realize is that here on one hand they're passing legislation with one hand to denormalize tobacco use, and on the other hand they're taking money from lobbyists for marijuana use in cafés and wherever else is . . . according to the federal leader. And it's really quite ironic that they would be doing that.

And they're laughing from their seats and that's perfectly fine. What they fail to realize is the hypocrisy that that shows from that NDP government, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would move to move this Bill to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly . . . Order please. The question before the . . . Order please. Order please, members.

The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 39, The Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt

the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — Order please. To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Healthy Living Services.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 39, The Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 39 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill 39 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 5

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cline that **Bill No. 5 — The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise to speak to this Bill, Bill No. 5, An Act to amend The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill changes the law so that a levy is assessed on all oil and gas wells and upstream facilities, not just inactive wells which was the case in the past. This is considerably more onerous on oil producers, oil and gas producers, and particularly those smaller companies with lower-producing wells, Mr. Speaker.

A flat fee is one thing on a well that produces 30 barrels a day; it's something else on one that produces three. And this Bill doesn't appear to take that into account, Mr. Speaker. It's not only more onerous on the small oil and gas producers, but it's considerably less onerous on government.

And even though amendments have been made to this Act before, as the minister has alluded to, they have not ever been fully proclaimed to this point. And now having not proclaimed amendments that have been previously made, we're changing some of the conditions again so that the level of confidence in the industry is likely to be faltering, Mr. Speaker.

It's very reminiscent of the Bill that the Alberta government has passed regarding their orphan wells in very different circumstances, Mr. Speaker. They do not have a large number

of small producers left in Alberta, and they tend not to have low-producing wells like we do particularly in the Southeast in this province. It appears to be sort of the NDP version of Alberta envy and looks very much like the Alberta legislation, although the circumstances are not the same.

It does work in Alberta but with our smaller oil companies, and many of them with low-producing wells, it will be very difficult for those companies to carry on and certainly to keep all of the wells in production that are now in production with an additional levy imposed on them. This Bill may in fact create a number of orphan wells right off the gun, Mr. Speaker.

We believe that the Bill needs further consultation with stakeholders, including small producers, and small producers particularly with low-producing wells; with larger producers; with agricultural landowners as well, Mr. Speaker. We know that there will be support for it and there will be opposition to it and it seems like an ideal situation for public hearings. And we believe also that more consultation is needed by the government with oil and gas companies in particular and this would also be facilitated by public hearings, Mr. Speaker. And accordingly I would move that the Bill go to committee for further review and discussion on the basis that I have received assurance from the minister that he and the government will support public hearings on this matter between now and the beginning of the spring session.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 5, The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2006 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: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 5, The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 5, The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill No. 5 stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 32 — The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to join in the adjourned debates regarding Bill No. 32, an Act to amend the superannuation amendment Act and to make consequential amendments to The Provincial Court Act.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to review the process and how this Bill came to being. It's important to review the actions of this Assembly over the last 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, indexing of pensions has not been guaranteed by this Assembly since 1965, some 40 years, and most of the lifetime of most members of this House. Increases have been done on an ad hoc basis. And it hasn't worked all that well over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there's been times when the government has chosen to provide an ad hoc increase. But there have been times when superannuates, pensioners, have received a zero per cent increase as well. That talks to the failings of not having legislation in place that guarantees that incomes will keep up with inflation.

Indeed pensioners, superannuates in Saskatchewan, have been falling behind for the last 40 years. So, Mr. Speaker, what do they do? They come to their legislature to seek redress, to talk to the elected members of this House. Mr. Speaker, they met with the government members and they met with the opposition members. They met with us many, many times. People like Alf Zimmerman and Jack Shepherd and others from across the province have to be commended for their tenacity, for coming here time after time to make their points.

Mr. Speaker, when they met with government members, what did they get? Very little results. They're the first to say they met with them time and time again and never were their questions answered. So, Mr. Speaker, like many groups across the province, what did they do? They met with the opposition. They hoped that we would take their questions, their concerns, to the floor of this legislature and hold this government to task. And that's what we did, Mr. Speaker.

But we challenged them. We said, if you fill the galleries, if you bring your people here and fill the galleries, we will ask the questions. And, Mr. Speaker, what will happen? Either the government opposite will answer those questions in the House or they will have to answer in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker — in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker.

So we asked the questions in this House. We took their concerns. After several meetings with that government, we took their concerns to this floor in the legislature. What did the government say? Well they said that, you know, they just said,

the opposition doesn't know what they're talking about. They wouldn't answer. But, Mr. Speaker, we hear that time and time again from this government. There's no basis to that whatsoever, but we hear that from this government.

But this time the pensioners, the superannuates, they wouldn't leave without an answer. So they filled the rotunda and they challenged the Premier to speak with them, to meet with them. Well, Mr. Speaker, they had no choice. The Premier agreed to a meeting. He said that he would have a meeting in two weeks with that group.

Well several months passed by. Still no meeting. We were just ready to ask the question, what happened to the meeting? And indeed, indeed they did have a meeting. They did have a meeting. They did have a meeting, Mr. Speaker. I understand from them that the Minister of Finance was in attendance, the Premier was in attendance. The Premier said he listened to their concerns and that he would ask the Minister of Finance to consult with the group, to begin a negotiation to come up with . . . [inaudible] . . . He told them . . . he asked them to do that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what happened? What happened in that case? Were there any negotiations that took place after that one initial meeting? From what we're told . . . And I wasn't at the meeting, I wasn't invited to be at the meeting by the Premier or the Minister of Finance, although I would have been there if I was invited. But what happened, Mr. Speaker? No consultations. None whatsoever after that initial meeting. The Minister of Finance didn't listen to the Premier. He didn't ask the group for their opinion. So what happened, Mr. Speaker?

Well when they met with us, we talked to the members. We talked about the need for a competitive, a competitive, legislated increase. We talked about . . . and members on this side of the House, we looked at Manitoba and what Manitoba did. They provided 67 per cent. We said that should be a minimum. We recommended on this side a band between 67 and 80 per cent. But in light of the financial situation of this government, it should have been towards the higher end of that level.

But indeed, indeed, Mr. Speaker, the point of the process is that whatever the number is, it should be a number that was a result of consultations. The opposition made our suggestion, and it was higher than what the government had to put forward. But whatever the number, it should have been done in consultation with these individuals, and that's the real concern that we have here with this legislation. It's a step in the right direction, but once again we see a government that fails to communicate. They fail to consult. And it's a real concern, Mr. Speaker.

It's a concern because those individuals didn't have the opportunity to tell the Minister of Finance and the Premier about what high property taxes have been doing to their standard of living. They hadn't had a chance to talk about the effects of inflation on their purchasing power, the effects of inflation on the price of their groceries and the price of gasoline, on the price of the home heating costs and their utilities.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a point in our history when something has to be done. This government over the last 40 years — and the NDP has been in power for almost two-thirds of that time

— has neglected this group. It's something that certainly, certainly has to be done. And in light of the significant royalties that we have, the mountain of money that we talk about that the government has, it's time, it's time for them to do something about it.

[16:30]

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that we've had a chance to debate this legislation. And I'm pleased that we've had a chance as an opposition to represent this group, to allow them to come to their Legislative Assembly, to ask questions on their behalf, and for them to get their meeting with the Premier even though they had to challenge him in the rotunda to ensure that that meeting took place.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're all benefiting now from new rules in this Legislative Assembly, rules that I think make us more effective members of this Legislative Assembly, and we are wanting to take advantage of those rules in this case. If ever there was a time to make a case for a group to be able to come before the Legislative Assembly, come before the committees of this Legislative Assembly, this is the case.

So, Mr. Speaker, when this Bill moves to committee, I will be moving a motion in a committee to allow superannuates to be able to make public presentations — the superannuates from the Public Service Superannuation Plan, the Power Corporation Superannuation Plan, the Liquor Board Superannuation Plan, and the Saskatchewan Transportation Company Superannuation Plan as well as the Anti-Tuberculosis League Superannuation Plan.

We're going to allow this Bill, Mr. Speaker, to go to committee at this time. We ask that the government members, with their majority on that committee, allow that to happen. I must say that I did speak to the Minister of Finance, and he is agreeable to that, and I commend him for that decision. I look forward to that discussion . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well there's been precedents set where things that have happened in committee have been changed, but I don't think that this is going to be the case. I take the minister at his word, and I'm sure he will consult with his NDP colleagues on the committee.

And we look forward to hearing from these individuals across Saskatchewan, many who don't have the ability to come to this legislature as often as they would like. We hope that we would be able to give them ample time to put their presentations together and to make the presentation. These are people that have built this province. They're people that have served this province and have served this legislature very well, and I think it's only fair that that be done.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I recommend that Bill No. 32 be forwarded to the Committee of the Economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 32, The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2006 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: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I would welcome the opportunity to move that Bill No. 32 — a Bill that for the first time in 40 years provides for statutory indexing of superannuation benefits — that this Bill, The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee of the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 32 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred. That is, Bill No. 32 stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 22

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 22 — The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to make some comments regarding The Legal Profession Act. This Bill at first blush appears to be some routine housekeeping. Unfortunately it's a sort of a sad end to an NDP policy of hurry up and wait.

A year and a half or so ago, they introduced a Bill, and we passed a piece of legislation which updated a number of provisions within The Legal Profession Act. And one would have thought at that time that they would have dealt with all the issues that were necessary to update and comprehensively deal with this matter. During the course of that Bill's passage through the House, we contacted benchers and people with the Law Society, and they were quite surprised that the two significant provisions of this Bill were not included in the original Bill — for what reason no one knows.

So now a year or so later, we're going through the same process again: having to have yet another Bill pass through the House; go through the consultation process and all of the work that is necessary for people in legislative drafting, the members of the legislature, and certainly the members of the Law Society. And

I don't think there was any real reason it was there because they were fully expecting the amendments that were in the legislation to have been included at that point in time.

Mr. Speaker, the two significant portions of this legislation deal one with trust funds or remnants of trust funds and the other with solicitor-client privilege where there's disciplinary proceedings against a lawyer.

Lawyers in this province deal with very substantial amounts of other people's money. Where that money is held for any appreciable period of time and where there's significant amounts of money relating to any particular client, the funds are usually invested by the lawyer with the interest accruing to the client. The rest of the money remains in an intermingled trust account and in ordinary . . . [inaudible] . . . small amounts of money or comparatively small amounts of money for short periods of time. But because of the volume of work that lawyers do, many lawyers pass many millions of dollars per year through their trust account on an annual basis.

The funds that generate interest on that account cannot of course accrue back to the lawyer. And what has happened with those funds is they are remitted directly by the financial institution to the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, which is a separate entity from the Law Society but controlled by the Law Society.

That entity uses those funds for things such as libraries in the courthouses. It uses it for . . . Some money goes to legal aid in this province, and some of the money goes to various public legal education initiatives that are conducted by the law foundation.

This particular amendment deals with monies where the lawyers are unable to locate the clients who properly own the money. And what the purpose of this Act is, it will allow the monies to be turned over to the Law Society who will hold the funds and then, if somebody at some later time comes along seeking the funds, the funds can be returned to them. At the present time the funds go to the province and go into the General Revenue Fund.

And what these funds are, are usually relatively small amounts of money that would come from a small repayment of an interest, some . . . or something to a client, return on a retainer, and they're often cheques of 8 or \$10, \$50, that were not cashed by the clients. The clients move, and the lawyers are unable to locate the clients. And at the end of a period of time — two or three years — the lawyer will, after their efforts to find the proper owner of the funds, will turn the funds over to the Law Society who, until recently, would have turned them over to the General Revenue Fund.

And so this will allow those funds to be used by the Law Society, who will in turn maintain records. And if owners come forward at some point in time they will be able to return those funds to them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's a routine type of amendment. That's something that exists in other provinces, and I don't know why it wouldn't have been dealt with when the first amendments to The Legal Profession Act came through earlier in this session.

But we are dealing with it now, and the minister should, when he wants these things to go through, make sure that he flags them for his House Leader to ensure that they go through. The minister has tried to leave the impression with members of the Law Society and with other members of the public, that for some reason this Bill is somehow being held up by the opposition.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to put it forward today, and put it forward for the record, that the opposition is not in anyway holding this Bill up. And it is at the opposition's request that it's on the list to be spoken to and sent to committee today. So I want to make that abundantly clear.

And had the minister wanted to move it forward, had the minister contacted us or contacted . . . But, Mr. Speaker, our plan is that we want to follow the normal tradition where Bills are introduced in the fall, voted on in the spring session. And if there is a exceptional or a compelling reason that it would not happen that way, we would certainly want to accord the people that were requiring Bills to be passed.

I take some issue with the minister telling people that for some reason we're holding it up, when it is following the normal path. And if he wants to deviate from the normal path, then he should be putting that forward.

Mr. Speaker, the other half of this Bill deals with solicitor-client privilege during a disciplinary proceeding against lawyers. It will prevent a lawyer from preventing or precluding a disciplinary proceeding from going ahead by saying the information in his records are privileged and are subject to solicitor-client privilege. It effectively waives solicitor-client privilege during a disciplinary hearing. And obviously the benchers and people dealing with that hearing would be bound by privilege as if it was their own solicitor-client file.

Mr. Speaker, we're quite prepared to allow this Bill to be moved to committee at this point in time and certainly support the purpose of this Bill.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 22, The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2006 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: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 22, The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 22 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Therefore Bill No. 22 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 20

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 20 — The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition very much supports the purpose and intent of this Bill. We have had some consultation and discussion with members of the law enforcement community, and it is their belief that this is a significant and important tool. And we want to give them every opportunity and every resource that we possibly can to enable them to better further their ability to fight crime.

When this Bill was initially introduced we were troubled by some of what we thought were shortcomings in this Bill. It deals with gunshots and apparent stab wounds and gives some protection to the members of the medical profession who would contact the police if there was an issue with somebody complaining that their privacy rights were violated. It also imposes on those same people an obligation to contact the police if someone presents themselves with an apparent gunshot or stab wound.

Our concern initially, Mr. Speaker, was what happens if there was another type of injury, injury caused by a blunt instrument or some other type of injury that wasn't specifically a gunshot or a stab wound. In our province, traditionally the most common type of murder weapon is a stabbing. Gunshots are somewhat further down the list. But there also are a significant number of murders and assaults in our province that are occasioned by blunt instruments — baseball bats, sticks, whatever else.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of our consultation and discussion, we were informed of a circumstance in Moose Jaw where somebody arrived at the emergency ward with a dead body. They placed the body on a gurney and turned and casually walked out of the emergency ward. The staff at the hospital were troubled by what their obligations were, what their duties of privacy were with regard both to the deceased individual and to the individual that brought in the victim.

Mr. Speaker, the issue that they raised was, they posed a hypothetical. They said, what would happen if the two individuals had come in that had gotten apparently in a fight and both of them were injured; one of them expired shortly after the arrival at the hospital, and one of them was being treated on

an ongoing basis. It would have left the health care providers in the hospital in the incredibly difficult position of treating somebody that they knew was very likely responsible for the death of a person, and in their possession was the deceased person that was there.

And their concern would be if that hypothetical were to happen, what would their obligations be, what would their rights be, and where would they go?

[16:45]

Anyway, that was sort of our initial consultation and initial discussions. And we were thinking, this is a Bill that should possibly be expanded. There should be some other consideration given to those things.

In the course of our discussions, we received communication from a number of people working in the health care field and also with . . . from the Privacy Commissioner. They raised a number of very serious concerns. And some of the concerns were that the privacy concerns of the victim would be violated and it may be a significant disincentive for a person that's a victim of a crime to seek medical attention.

And many cases, especially in cases of domestic violence, it's the perpetrator of the injuries that would often carry or transport the victim to the hospital to seek medical attention. And part of the concern that arose was, would there be a lesser of a likelihood that a person may seek medical attention? Or that the perpetrator would transport or seek medical attention on behalf of the victim? So it was a troubling aspect for us.

They also raised the concerns about the safety of the people that were working in the medical unit, whether they would be subject to threats if the people said, do not call for the police, do not . . . we don't want to go any further with this. And we felt and feel that it's an Act — although we very much support what the Act is trying to do — we have some issues and we feel that possibly there could be a suitable balance struck or some safeguards built into it.

One of the suggestions that the Privacy Commissioner put forward would be that, where an individual's rights to privacy were somewhat violated because of the operation of the Act, that they be given a notice afterwards that the information had been released or that they get some other backup.

We would very much like to have public hearings on this Bill and feel that it would be appropriate for us to hear from the Privacy Commissioner, from members of the law enforcement community, and also health care professionals. We want to ensure that the Bill gets proper and appropriate discussion, so that we are not back here seeking to amend or patch up something where we've done a poor job on it initially.

I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill is something that is a political issue. This is a practical issue for the benefit, health and safety of all of the citizens of this province. And we want to ensure that the Bill gets appropriate consideration. And to the extent that we can protect privacy, we very much want to do that. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, we want to give our law enforcement officials and police officers every bit of help

we possibly can.

Further concerns were expressed regarding whether our local police officers were subject to The Health Information Protection Act, that they were not specifically made subject to that, and it may require some consequential or companion amendments to be made to other pieces of legislation to maximize or give protection to the citizens that would be subject to this Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are at this point in time quite prepared to allow this Bill to go to a committee. We have had some discussions with the members opposite regarding holding public hearings, and we look forward to discussions in committee that we would be able to flesh out the details of how the public hearings might take place, and would look forward to hearing from members of the law enforcement community, the health care community, and in particular the Privacy Commissioner, and anyone else that feels they may have an interest in it.

These are the type of things that legislators are supposed to do on a broad basis, and we're supposed to do these things and set aside political differences. And I look forward to working with the members opposite, and it's my hope and expectation that as we work this way through, that they set aside large "P" political and partisan issues and look forward to doing what is right and what is best for citizens of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 20, The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting 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: — The motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I move that Bill No. 20, The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 20, The Gunshot and Stab Wounds Mandatory Reporting Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. Bill 20 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and

Infrastructure.

Bill No. 6

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Addley that **Bill No. 6 — The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 6, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Amendment Act, 2006 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: — Motion is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall Bill No. 6 be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Healthy Living Services.

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 6, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 6, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Therefore this Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, noting that much progress has been made this afternoon, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:50.]

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Premier

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Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Pat Atkinson
Minister of Advanced Education and Employment
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Public
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Hon. Joan Beatty
Minister of Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

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Saskatchewan Inc.
Minister Responsible for Information Services
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