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Alberta Business Who's & Who & Directory

COMPILED and EDITED by:
Lorne V. Silverstein

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1985-86

423, Lethbridge, Alta. T1J

1959; Sales Manager, Oliver
Director, Barton Fertilizer Sales
District, Administration,

Alberta Aviation Council;
District Columbia District,

Sc., P.Eng.

100 - 39 Ave., Edmonton, Alta.

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Warrant at discharge; Director,
Alberta C.A. Pitts General
District President and Chief
District President and Director, Lake
District 1981; present position from

Alberta; Association of
Standards Association;
Fair Golf and Country Club

Interests:

golf, boating - (also author of various technical reports and contributor to "Heavy Construction")

Home:

5039 - 154 St., Edmonton, Alta. T6H 5P1 (403) 436-7276

BATIUK, John S.

Member of the **Legislative Assembly of Alberta**, P.C. (Vegreville), 503 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alta. T5K 2B6 (403) 427-1842

Born:

Mundare, Alta., March 20, 1923

Married:

to Rose, and children are Dennis, Marlene, Sylvia and Eleanor

Career:

member of Mundare School Board, 1954-58; member of Lamont School Division, 1958-67 (also Chairman, Vice Chairman and Finance Chairman); member of Municipal District of Lamont, No. 82, 1963-67; Reeve, County of Lamont, 1968-72; Chairman, A.S.T.A. Zone 3, 1968-71; President, Elk Island Region School Authorities Association, 1970-71; Member, Provincial Economic Council of Alberta, 1970; Director, Mundare Seed Cleaning Plant, 1964-74; first elected to the Alberta Legislature in 1971 and re-elected in 1975, 1979 and 1982; in 1979 appointed Vice Chairman, Alberta Grain Commission and Chairman, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village Advisory Board

Associations:

Director, Beaverhill Pioneer Lodge, 1964-74; Member B.P.O.E., Mundare (Exalted Ruler, 1965); Life Member, Mundare Recreation Centre; Life Member, Mundare and District Agricultural Society; Mundare Home and School Association; Farmers' Union of Alberta

BAWDEN, Peter Colwell

Chairman, **Peter Bawden Drilling Ltd.**, 600, 300 - 5th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alta. T2P 3C4 (403) 265-1511

Director:

Boeing of Canada; Jannock Limited; Procor Limited; Barclays Canada Ltd.; Safeway Stores, Incorporated; Air Canada

Born:

Toronto, Ontario, 1929

Married:

to Margaret, and has six children

Career:

Member of Parliament for Calgary South, 1972-79

Associations:

Toronto Club; Calgary Golf & Country Club; Eldorado Country Club (Palm Springs, California); Mid-Ocean Club (Bermuda)

Interests:

golf, fishing, hunting, tennis, skiing

MEMORIES of MUNDARE



A history of Mundare and districts

sity of Alberta in 1945-46. He taught in schools within the boundaries of the Lamont School Division for eighteen years. During this time, through Summer School courses and correspondence, he acquired his Bachelor of Education Degree. He held the position of Assistant Principal in Mundare for several years. He played an active role in the B.P.O. Elks holding the office of Exalted Ruler. He married Vicky Pipella on October 22nd, 1949. After moving to Edmonton he has been engaged in teaching Junior High School for the Edmonton Public School System.

Batiuk, John and Rose

John Batiuk, son of Stefan and Catherine, was born in Mundare on March 20, 1923. He received his schooling in Mundare and in 1941, at the age of eighteen, he acquired and worked the family farm where he presently resides. In 1946, John married Rose Hrabec of Haight, Alberta.

During his lifetime, John has played many important roles in the community. From 1954-58, he served on the local school board. In 1958, he was elected to the Lamont School Division, holding the positions of chairman, Vice-Chairman and Finance Chairman. In 1963, he was elected to the Council of the Municipal District of Lamont. Upon the formation of the County of Lamont in 1968, John was chosen Reeve and held that position until 1972.

During those years he served as Chairman of Zone 3 of Alberta School Trustees Association 1968-71, Chairman of the Elk Island Region School Authorities Association 1970-71, Member of the Provincial Economic Council of A.S.T.A. 1979, Director of the Mundare Municipal Seed Cleaning Plant 1963-74, Director of Beaverhill Pioneer Lodge 1968-74, Member of the Mundare B.P.O. Elks serving as Exalted Ruler in 1965, Member of the Farmer's Union, life member of the Mundare Recreation Centre and life member of the Mundare and District Agricultural Society.



Back row: Dennis, Sylvia Zacharkiw, Marlene Solowan, Eleanor, John and Rose sitting.

In 1971, John was elected to The Alberta Legislature on a Progressive Conservative ticket to represent the Vegreville Constituency. He was re-elected with an overwhelming majority in 1975 and again in 1979. Of the many accomplishments in the Vegreville constituency during his term in office, some significant things in the Mundare District are the acquisition of a 44 bed senior citizens lodge, 8 self-contained units for senior citizens, a new 30-bed hospital, a pilot project of a reverse osmosis Water Treatment Plant, a second in Canada, as well as upgrading and paving of major primary and secondary roads.

Rose, busy with the task of maintaining a home and raising a family, has also taken an active role in the community, belonging to the Order of Royal Purple and holding the office of Honoured Royal Lade in 1972; the Mundare Recreation Centre Ladies Aid, being the Vice-President at present; and serving on the Civilian Committee of the Mundare Air Cadets.

John and Rose were blessed with one son and three daughters.

Their Children

Dennis was born on May 13th, 1947. He received his education at the Mundare School. He attended the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta graduating with a Bachelor of Education Degree in 1971. He has taught in Mundare, Fort McLeod and is the Principal of Heisler School. During his teaching years he has achieved his fifth year through summer school. On October 11th, 1968, he married Arlene Butuk. They have one daughter, Shauna Charlene.

Sylvia was born on October 12th, 1949, in Mundare where she completed her high school with honors. During her school years she won several awards and scholarships because of her accomplishments. In 1971, she graduated from the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education Degree with Distinction. She



Frank Daskewich, Bob Lesoway, John Batiuk.

had taught in Chipman School since and in 1979 was appointed Principal of the Chipman School. On July 10, 1976, Sylvia married Harold Zacharkiw. They have one daughter, Jody Lynn.

Marlene, born on February 18th, 1956, received her elementary, junior and high school education in Mundare. In 1974, she graduated from Grant McEwan College and is an accounting clerk with an Edmonton firm. On July 19th, 1975 she married Ron Solowan and they reside in Edmonton. They have one daughter, Heather Leigh.

Eleanor was born on December 30, 1961. She completed her high school in Mundare receiving the highest grade twelve standing in the Diploma Program. She has taken an active role in the Mundare Air Cadet Squadron serving for five years, holding the position of Sergeant. She attended Alberta College, graduating as a legal secretary in December, 1979.

Batiuk, Peter and Melania

Peter Batiuk, born July 11, 1877, at Stojanow, Kamionka Strumilowa, Poland, was fortunate to attend school in his homeland. This later proved a great asset in the new land.

Due to lack of employment, much poverty and oppression in Austrian occupied areas, there was a great exodus of people to Canada where rich soil held promise for those who could endure the hardships. Among those who decided to leave was Peter Batiuk. This was no easy decision, for it meant breaking ties with parents, relatives, and friends, to face the unknown.

After weeks of rough travel, the ship arrived at the port of entry in Eastern Canada, on April 18, 1901. Peter was ready to start a new life - harsh, but one that promised



Back row: Mary, Kate, Pearl, Sadie. Front row: Matt, Melania and Peter Batiuk. Jessie is missing.

freedom and opportunity. Peter Batiuk was fortunate to get employment in a coal mine near Kenora, Ontario. Working conditions were difficult, but there was work and wages. Later he moved to Western Canada and worked at Canmore, Alberta. Though work was harsh, he found some time for pleasure. He climbed one of the "Three Sisters" mountains in the Canadian Rockies, and signed his name in the book that was provided for those persistent enough to reach the summit.

On June 23, 1907, Peter Batiuk married Melania Pidmurny. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Tymochko, O.S.B., in St. Peter and Paul Church, Mundare, Alberta. Their witnesses were John Pidmurny, brother of the bride, and Steve Eschak.



Peter Batiuk's children and grandchildren.

Obituaries

BATIUK, John S.

March 20, 1923 - August 1, 2005

John Batiuk of Mundare, Alberta passed away peacefully on August 1, 2005.



John will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by Rose, his wife of 59 years, and their family: Dennis (friend Darlene) and his daughters Shauna and Tara (friend Darren); Sylvia (Harold) Zacharkiw and their children Jody and Trevor (friend Tiffany);

Marlene (Ron) Solowan and their children Heather (Greg) Scheller and Jason (friend Pam); Eleanor (Randy) Cowan and their children Stephanie and Kevin; sisters Nancy Kureluk and Pearl Hawrelak; brother Ed; brother-in-law Lollick Filipek; many family and friends. John was predeceased by his parents, Stefan and Catherine Batiuk, and siblings Mike Batiuk, Anne Sheptycki, Marie Yurkowski, Ethel Bohaychuk, and Barbara Filipek.

A Prayer Service will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mundare, Alberta where a Divine Liturgy will be held on Monday, August 8, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Basilian Fathers officiating with interment to follow in Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Cemetery A. In lieu of flowers, donations to the "Mary Immaculate Hospital (Mundare) Foundation" will be gratefully accepted.

Vichnaya Pamyat!

**Autumn Rose Funeral Home Ltd.
Vegreville, 780-603-5800.**

d'Alb. et l'univ. d'Oxford, Angleterre. M. le 24 juin 1959 à Dorothy Audrey, fille de Bryce Harold Minns d'Athabasca, Alb. Un enfant: Brian William. Un fermier. RCAF deuxième guerre. Prés. Légion can. succ. Athabasca. Conseiller de ville d'Athabasca et conseil de la paroisse All Saints. Mem. Légion can., Unifarm, Syndicat nat. des fermiers et vice-prés. club Lions 1978. Élu pour la première fois é.g. 1971. Réélu é.g. 1975, 1979 et 1982. Nommé Orateur suppléant le 24 mai 1979 et le 10 mars 1983. Parti pol.: P.C. Rel.: anglicane. Adresse: C.P. 930, Athabasca, Alb. TOG 0B0

BATIUK, JOHNS S. (Vegreville). B. March 20, 1923 at Mundare, Alta. S. of Stefan Batiuk and Catherine Napora. Ed. at Mundare schools. M. July 16, 1946 to Rose, dau. of Dmytro Hrabec of Holden, Alta. Four children: Dennis, Sylvia, Marlene and Eleanor. A farmer. Mem.: school bd. 1954-58; Lamont School Div. #18, 1958-67; mem. Municipal Dist. of Lamont, No: 82, 1963-67; reeve Cty. of Lamont #30, 1968-72; Chairman Alta. School Trustees' Assoc. 1968 to date. Pres. Elk Island Region School Authorities Assoc. since 1970. Mem. Prov. Economic Council of Alta. since 1970. Dir. Mundare Seed Cleaning Plant since 1964; dir. Beaverhill Pioneer Lodge since 1964; mem. Mundare B.P.O. Elks, Exalted Ruler 1965, Mundare Home and School Assoc., Farmer's Union and life mem. Mundare Recreation Centre. First elected g.e. 1971. Re-elected g.e. 1975, 1979 and 1982. Party pol.: P.C. Rel.: Catholic. Address: P.O. Box 146, Mundare, Alta. TOB 3H0

BATIUK, JOHN S. (Vegreville). Né le 20 mars 1923 à Mundare, Alb. Fils de Stefan Batiuk et Catherine Napora. Fit ses études aux écoles à Mundare. M. le 16 juillet 1946 à Rose, fille de Dmytro Hrabec de Holden, Alb. Quatre enfants: Dennis, Sylvia, Marlene et Eleanor. Un fermier. Mem. comm. scolaire 1954-58, Lamont Sch. div. #18, 1958-67; mem. dist. municipal de Lamont, no. 82, 1963-67; préfet comté de Lamont #30, 1968-72; prés. assoc. des comm. d'école 1968 à date. Prés. assoc. des autorités scolaires de la région Elk Island depuis 1970. Mem. conseil économique prov. d'Alb. depuis 1970. Dir. Mundare seed Cleaning Plant depuis 1964; dir. Beaverhill Pioneer Lodge depuis 1964; mem. Mundare B.P.O. Elks, Haut souverain 1965, l'assoc. d'école et de logis à Mundare, syndicat des fermiers et mem. à vie du Centre de loisirs de Mundare. Élu pour la première fois é.g. 1971. Réélu é.g. 1975, 1979 et 1982. Parti pol.: P.C. Rel.: catholique. Adresse: C.P. 146, Mundare, Alb. TOB 3H0

BOGLE, HON. ROBERT JOHN, B.A. (Taber-Warner). B. Aug. 29, 1943 at Calgary, Alta. S. of Robert Bogle and Phoebe Alberta Orford. Ed. at

ANDERSON, DENNIS L. (Calgary Currie). B. Aug. 16, 1949 at Edmonton, Alta. S. of Lester Fred Anderson and Amy Mary Caron. Ed. at William Aberhart and Cresc. Hgts. H.S., Calgary Broadcasting Arts, Mount Royal Coll., Calgary, Univ. of Calgary, Southern Alta. Inst. of Technology. M. Aug. 21, 1971 to Barbara Lynne, dau. of Jim and Lyla Lupasko of Calgary, Alta. Pres. Communication Film Radio Production Co. Various exec. positions, Can. Mental Health Assn., environmental groups, Gov. of the Glenbow Museum, Trustee of the Alta. Environmental Research Trust, former mem. of the Calgary Bd. of Ed. First elected g.e. 1979. Re-elected g.e. 1982. Party pol.: P.C. Address: Legislature Bldg., Edmonton, Alta. T5K 2B6

ANDERSON, DENNIS L. (Calgary Currie). Né le 16 août 1949 à Edmonton, Alb. Fils de Lester Fred Anderson et Amy Mary Caron. Fit ses études à William Aberhart et Cresc. Hgts. H.S., Calgary Broadcasting Arts, Coll. Mount Royal, Calgary, univ. de Calgary, Southern Alta. Inst. of Technology. M. le 21 août 1971 à Barbara Lynne, fille de Jim et Lyla Lupasko de Calgary, Alb. Prés. Communication Film Radio Production Co. Plusieurs postes exc. avec. assoc. can. de la santé mentale, groupe d'environnement, gouv. du musée de Glenbow, admin. de l'Alta. Environmental Research Trust, ancien mem. de la comm. scolaire de Calgary. Élu pour la première fois é.g. 1979. Réélu é.g. 1982. Parti pol.: P.C. Adresse: Édifice de la législature, Edmonton, Alb. T5K 2B6

APPLEBY, FRANK PIERPOINT, B.A. (Athabasca). B. Dec. 23, 1913 at Stocks, Alta. S. of Ernest William Appleby and Fanny Mary Tench. Ed. at Smoky Lane, Alta.; Vegreville, Alta.; Alta. College, Edmonton; U.B.C.; Univ. of Sask.; Univ. of Toronto; Mount Allison Univ., N.S.; Univ. of Alta. and Oxford Univ., England. M. June 24, 1959 to Dorothy Audrey, dau. of Bryce Harold Minns of Athabasca, Alta. One child: Brian William. A farmer. RCAF, World War II. Pres. Athabasca Branch Can. Legion. Served Town Council of Athabasca and All Saints Parish Council. Member: Can. Legion, Unifarm, National Farmers Union and V.-Pres. Lions Club, 1978. First elected g.e. 1971. Re-elected g.e. 1975, 1979 and 1982. Apptd. Deputy Speaker, May 24, 1979 and re-apptd. March 10, 1983. Party pol.: P.C. Rel.: Anglican. Address: Box 930, Athabasca, Alta. TOG 0B0

APPLEBY, FRANK PIERPOINT, B.A. (Athabasca). Né le 23 déc. 1913 à Stocks, Alb. Fils d'Ernest William Appleby et Fanny Mary Tench. Fit ses études à Smoky Lane, Alb.; Vegreville, Alb.; Coll. d'Alb., Edmonton, U.C.-B., univ. de Sask., univ. de Toronto, Univ. Mount Allison, N.-E. univ.

1986

Mr. Speaker, in reading through this I find that the MLA Task Force on Agriculture is: Co-chairman, Marvin Moore, Co-chairman, James Miller; Gordon Stromberg, Rudolph Zander, John Batiuk, Allison Fluker, Frank Appleby, Donald Hansen, William Purdy, Leslie Young -- they had better save themselves because it's a long list Mr. Speaker, and they'll be played out -- Julian Koziak, Pon Ghitter, Catherine Chichak, Jack Cookson.

Mr. Speaker, in order to help cut further with incidental expenses, there is an MLA Task Force on Decentralization of Government Operations. Allison Fluker is the chairman, Donald Hansen is on this one, James Miller, Marvin Moore, Gordon Stromberg and Frank Appleby.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there must be another Order in Council because they have left out the hon. Member for Calgary North Hill, Roy Farran, but there must be another one because I believe he is on some task force on taxation, and so it goes, but in reading through this list, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be something missing. We don't see the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, nor any of the hon. members from this side of the House, the Social Credit Party. Mr. Speaker, this is nothing but a political tool, and I say if the Tories are going to have their members running around the country gathering information for their Tory caucus I suggest that they get it out of the funds from Bay Street in Toronto, because that's what they are doing, they are gathering this information for their own use. And if they want it for their own use -- they say it's for the betterment of the people of this province -- I disagree, I disagree with the principle. I say that if they are going to do that they can come up with their own money because I don't want it taken out of my pocket because I am a taxpayer of this province, and I object very strenuously, Mr. Speaker.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the hon. members across the way are fine fellows. We don't disagree with that, but I don't agree with people who are dipping into public funds.

Now, they may be close within the light of the law, but it is immoral; Mr. Speaker, I say the morality is wrong because the intent is wrong. And I would like to say once again to the hon. Premier, I have great respect for the hon. Premier because he is the leader of the people of this province, and I would say to him that if he wants to do this with honour, we'd be very glad if he'd withdraw the task forces and withdraw the Order in Council. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for being able to address this Assembly.

MR. BATIUK:

Mr. Speaker, may I now speak or did you maybe want to take a vote on the amendment? This is the first kind of amendment that I've ever heard in my life.

MR. SPEAKER:

Would the hon. member please continue with the debate.

MR. BATIUK:

Mr. Speaker, sir, I rise to speak on behalf of the Vegreville constituency which I represent. The constituency of Vegreville located east of Edmonton, comprises approximately 2,400 square miles; it is a predominantly rural constituency, situated in the rich agricultural region. It is a region that has, over the past number of years, been distinguished several times by the selection of "master farm" family awards. The urban areas of my constituency are small villages to the largest centre a town with a population of 4,000.

Mr. Speaker, as the past speakers have, I would also like to congratulate you on behalf of my constituency, on being the unanimous choice for your high office. I believe that your abilities and capabilities warranted this selection. I would like to congratulate all the members of the Legislature, both on this side, and on the other, for being elected on August 30th. You are the people who have been selected to represent your constituencies and at the same time as a Legislature to try to make Alberta a better and happier province to live in.

I must congratulate and also commend our hon. Premier. He has also won an election, and I believe because of his appeal to the people of this province, many of us, if not all of us, had much easier sailing during the campaign. I also would like to commend him on one particular issue that I believe is going to make history. In 1965 the Conservative party in Alberta was almost a dead issue. Yet, within six years, he was able to revitalize the party and form a government of it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend all those who have already made their maiden speeches or debates on the Speech from the Throne. I have found most of the presentations informative; there were a few that were amusing, and a few that were confusing. I was indeed dismayed to hear the hon. Members for Drumheller and Clover Bar today, and the hon. Member for Hanna-Oyen yesterday, be so concerned about the remuneration that was paid to those on the task force. There are several reasons. There is no indemnity paid for that; it is just mere expenses and after what happened last September 9th, when the government that had set guidelines of 6 per cent for the teaching staff in Alberta raised their Deputy Ministers by 35 per cent, these task forces were set up, so that we'll be able to save some of that money to pay for those expenses. The reason for the task forces is that this is a team of 48, and the elected people are going to be working for those who elected them. Furthermore, when you look at the payments that will be made to these task forces which have replaced the commissions that have been paid by the previous government, with all but of a quarter of a million or half a million for each particular commission, there is going to be a considerable saving to this government.

As I have mentioned, these speech presentations were indeed very gratifying. When the hon. member for Calgary Mountain View spoke yesterday, his presentation attracted me very much. As he continued to speak, I kept thinking of an incident that happened in one of the churchyards here in Edmonton a couple of years ago. The parishioners of that church had the habit, when they left the church, instead of going home, they gathered in the churchyard to chat with their friends, their neighbours, their acquaintances, and on this particular Sunday it was no different than any other. While they were chatting, the minister too, after he unrobed himself, came and joined the group. While they were conversing, the minister said to the group he was with: "how did you like my sermon this morning?" One of the ladies said "It wasn't bad Reverend, but it did remind me of a steer with real long horns, a point here, a point there, and lots of hull in between."

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Vegreville constituency over the last number of years have become increasingly disgruntled with their government. Dissatisfaction was limited not only to the main concern of agriculture, but it was expressed in other areas as well. My many years in the public service as a school trustee and municipal councillor, have made me aware of the dissatisfaction of the people and more often than not, I agreed with them. Due to my position, I was made aware of the discrepancies and injustices prevalent in the normal functioning of the previous government and that is why I sought office on the provincial level, so I could express my views against the government's deceitful and misleading tactics and practices, particularly in the Department of Highways.

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Mr. Speaker, when one considers that ours is an increasingly mobile society, we must consider the condition of our roadways as of prime concern. I would like to draw the attention of this House to Highway 16 east. As part of the Yellowhead Route, this highway is considered as one of the busiest, but it can also be considered as one of the most dangerous. I would refer to a section between Mundare and Vegreville where the road is narrow; it has no shoulders, it has sharp curves, and extremely deep ditches. Mishap after mishap, fatality after fatality -- the condition of this road has been critical for a dozen years, and yet the only action that has been taken on it is that it has been surveyed for improvement, and every so often the pegs have been exchanged for new ones, to show an appearance of a bustling activity. Yet to date, there has been nothing accomplished. You may wonder why, Mr. Speaker. It is the common knowledge of the people of that area that the road was going to be rerouted, even though opposed by the entire area. It was said that the road would not be routed with the popular will of the people and residents were told that if opposition continued, there would be no improvement and this is what has materialized.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that when a major highway is going to affect the entire life of a community, then the people of that community should be given a chance to voice their opinions and concerns. I think it is folly that an entire town is going to suffer and be disgruntled just because one particular person is going to insist that his advice be followed to the exclusion of advice from all others.

Mr. Speaker, even of more concern to my constituency is the grid road system. Back in 1966, the hon. Minister of Highways had directed all the municipal districts and counties in this province to form study areas for the sole purpose of establishing the need and the location of a grid road system, otherwise known as a network of major secondary roads. After this had been done with an expenditure to the municipal districts and counties of nearly half a million dollars, this plan lay dormant for the last five years. Until last year, the government made an allocation of \$8 million towards the grid road system.

Mr. Speaker, back in 1966 the approximate cost of a grid road system in Alberta was slightly over \$400 million. Now, if \$8 million is going to be an annual allocation, I suggest that it's going to take over 50 years for a grid road system to materialize in this province. I wonder how many members in this House would be able to hold out that long to enjoy a grid road system in Alberta. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there never would be a grid road system on a piecemeal job such as that. I believe that if this government sees the need of a grid road system, then every effort should be made that this be acquired, not in 50 or 60 years, but in the minimum length of time, even if it means the financing of it over the next 15 or 20 years. This way, the people that are going to be paying for it are at least going to have a chance to benefit from it to some extent.

I would also like to direct to your attention, the distrust of the people in the constituencies northeast of here towards their previous government. Back in 1970, the Department of Highways had announced its intentions to build a bridge to replace the Wakan Ferry. After there was a considerable amount of controversy, the hon. Minister of Highways called a public meeting for Smoky Lake, for the sole purpose of receiving petitions and briefs and hearing suggestions as to where the location of the bridge should be. Several hundred people attended that meeting in Smoky Lake. However, very shortly after, it was discovered that four days prior to this public meeting the Department of Highways had the County of Lamont heavy equipment working at the place selected for the bridge and where it is being built at present -- working on the approaches. This shows that the selection was made before that meeting. I think that when the hon. minister said that the choice of the location of

the bridge will be the people's decision, I think he spoke well, only he omitted telling which people's decision.

Mr. Speaker, it is situations such as this that have aroused the legacy of distrust of the people towards their government. The people at present are viewing their government with suspicion and extreme caution. This is the legacy of distrust the present government has inherited, and we must dispel it quickly if we are to regain the cooperation and confidence of the people of this province in this legislation -- in order to provide a more meaningful, responsive and helpful government.

I might also mention a contingency grant road in the province there in the county of Lamont which was started back in 1964 and to those of you who may not be aware what a contingency grant road is, the previous government had been making an allocation (and for the last three years it was \$50,000 to each municipal district and county) for the building up of a main road. And as long as that \$50,000 lasted the construction carried on, whether it was a mile or two or six miles. The County Council of Lamont had wished that they could get a contract such as this. They saw the hardships that the farmers were facing, so they felt that if they could acquire a contract like this, they could maybe make a few dollars and reduce the mill rate by one or two. The County Secretary and myself as County Reeve, had been delegated to go to the Department of Highways with the hope of acquiring this contract. However, our mission was fruitless and discouraging. The district engineer told us that we should not be going into any business like this; that our equipment was far too old, and several other things. This discouraged our council, and we never again tried or looked for a contract such as this. However, that same year, upon investigation, I found that the county just directly south of us had received a contract from the government and for \$50,000 they built four miles; they gravelled it and they had \$9,000 left. In the county of Lamont, the contractor that built it built two miles of road and gravelled it, comparable road that the county otherwise did. So it shows you that there is enough reason to be suspicious.

However, it is worthy to note how inconsistent the policy of the previous government has been, when one county could receive such contracts and others couldn't. It would also be worthy to note, Mr. Speaker, that when the County Secretary and myself as the County Reeve, approached the District Engineer, the reception that we got from him was not fit for a dog. I might say that this particular person still holds that position, so it clearly shows what kind of reception the previous administration were affording, and the treatment they were giving the people of this province. I still know that there are others who feel the same superiority and I would only hope that when the Provincial Treasurer is bringing down his budget there will be a comparable amount for housecleaning materials!

Mr. Speaker, may I indirectly deal with the problems of roadways and two other related issues. One is insurance rates which are considerably higher for young men under the age of 25. We are well aware that these young people are using our highways more than ever before and we are also aware that these young people are more knowledgeable about driving conditions. Some of them may be just starting on a career of their own, some of them may be completing an education, and some of them may be starting a household of their own. These are the young people who can ill afford the higher insurance rates, yet the insurance companies are discriminating against them.

I believe that the rates of insurance for the young men under 25 should not be any higher and should only be increased when their proven negligence results in accidents.

Another issue that I would like to bring up is the suspension of a driver's licence for traffic violations, particularly suspension of

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licences for drinking violations. I know this is in the Criminal Code. However, there is a concern on the provincial level because I am aware that many people are dependent on their vehicle to maintain a livelihood, and the suspension of their licence would definitely disrupt that livelihood and force these people to social assistance or welfare. Thus the people of the province and the government would be saddled with an extra burden. I suggest that if people are being charged with this, perhaps they should have their drivers licence limited. The suspension should be limited so that they may use their vehicle for work. This way they would be punished if they could not use it for pleasure. This way they would be able to maintain a livelihood and at the same time, not rely on the already overtaxed government social assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the major concern of my constituency is still in the area of agriculture. Over the past years the farmers have been facing increasingly difficult times and many of them have been forced to leave their land and go into the urban centres to look for employment. Along with them, many businessmen from the smaller areas have also been forced to go along with the farmer. If one would only look, or spend an afternoon driving through the countryside one could see to what extent farm abandonment has reached.

One of the main reasons for the plight of the small farmer is the failure of the marketing boards, and through them the failure of the former provincial government to create markets for the disposal of the produce of the smaller farmer. These boards have failed to stop or curb the overproduction of large egg farms or hog ranches. Yet it is these large operations not only within our province, but outside the province, that have flooded the Alberta market and have made it virtually impossible for the small farmer to sell his produce. For that reason he has had to disband his small scale operation. Yet it was this very small scale production that served to tide the farmer and his family over the hard times when the crops were poor or perhaps couldn't be sold. And now, even that has been taken away from them. No wonder they have to leave and move into the urban centres.

I believe that the high-handed action of the previous government has not served to create confidence in the rural community. I know for a fact that district agricultural offices throughout the province have served the farmers well, and many times have assisted in various facets of farming. Last year the town of Two Hills was notified that a new district agricultural office was to be built. When the townspeople, consisting of the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce, saw that this building was going to be located in a disadvantageous location they made representation to the official responsible, and they were bluntly told that if they didn't like the location they could get by without the building. There was no further representation.

Many times the farmers have to pay considerably more for services, and I would refer to a section of The Municipal Act which forbids rental of municipal machinery to farmers even if it is standing idle. Yet these farmers through taxes have paid for that machinery. I know of a particular incident right within my home area where the equipment was standing idle because of a rain. A farmer a quarter of a mile away had requested the use of a bulldozer to backfill a basement around a house he was building. He would have needed that machine for half an hour, and at government rates it might have cost him ten or twelve dollars. The road foreman could not go just because of the stipulations in The Municipal Act. This particular farmer had to hire a construction outfit 27 miles away. They brought the machine by lowbed, and they billed him \$80. This is just one example of how many times the farmer pays extra for services which could be alleviated. And you wonder why the farmer is so deeply in debt.

I would like to mention the assessment. Here again I believe that there is discrimination. Over a year ago the government or legislation had provided that summer villages -- the owners of summer cottages -- be exempt from a portion of their tax, which is two-thirds of their tax, because these summer villages are used only one quarter of the year. I don't oppose the idea too much if someone has a cottage or a house along the lake front where he can take his family occasionally, but I do when you see that these aren't houses or cottages; some of these people have mansions worth \$20,000 and \$30,000. If they can afford that I think they should be able to afford to pay their full tax. Otherwise I would go along that they be exempt, but maybe the farmer too should be given a concession. He seeds his land in the middle of May; he reaps his crops by the middle of September. The following eight months his land stands under four feet of snow. Maybe he, too, should pay only a portion of his tax.

Mr. Speaker, we all enjoy favourable weather conditions. Warm and moist weather makes our crops grow, the grass grow, pastures grow. However, it is these favourable weather conditions that sometimes create hazards, and I want to draw to your attention something right within my constituency in the Bruce area two years ago when a tornado hit. Many of the farmers suffered extensive damage. Some of them suffered a total loss. Yet the government assistance was non-existent because the government felt that there was no necessity for assistance. Now I just wonder why these farmers have to be singled out and suffer under weather conditions over which they had no control.

Along with this I would like to call attention to the crop insurance policy which aims at reducing benefits to farmers if it is felt that their yields are lower, due to mismanagement. With that I can go along. However, in this particular area of Bruce there was a tornado followed by hail the following year and again by a frost. These people had a reduction in their benefits, and the policy even had a provision whereby after three years of benefits they could be banned from subscribing to insurance. I think this is unfair, and that this government should look to reviewing the crop insurance and trying to make it much more fair to the people.

Just the other day the hon. Member for Highwood mentioned that almost all the people in Alberta have telephones. Well, there are many more because I think on the program this year 9,000 will be getting rural telephones. I can agree that the communication process in this province has been enhanced. However, a time has come when telephone service must be improved, and here again I have to refer to the rural areas where many of the rural people because of the boundaries set in, must pay long distance telephone tolls to phone to their neighbour across the road.

I believe that telephone boundaries should be done away with and the area exchange should be used. This way anybody in one telephone exchange could, without paying long distance tolls, use the exchange bordering his own, without any extra cost. This way it could be of much more advantage to all of them, and I'm sure that even if there would be an increase of half a dollar to a dollar a month per subscriber in Alberta, it would be well worth it.

I know we all realize that our telephone rates in the province have been and still are low in comparison with other areas. However, everybody doesn't feel about it that way because just recently a Texan was visiting in Edmonton and he wanted to phone home so he went to the AGT information desk and asked the receptionist how much it would cost to phone home. And after she looked on the schedule she said, "\$3.65." This Texan said, "Oh my God, \$3.65 that's a lot of money. Back home in Texas for half a dollar you could phone all the way to hell and back." The receptionist said, "Yes, but that's a local call".

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Mr. Speaker, another area of vital concern to us, and to me as a rural representative, is that of education. The increased demands on our schools have created difficulties and problems for us in many areas. The school foundation program which had been set up to assist in the financing of education over a decade ago, has not served us properly over the past few years. While tax allocations have been the same, the grants coming back to our schools have been smaller because they have been distributed in proportion to the school population. And since there has been a relatively steady decline in the rural population, this means that we are receiving less, yet are expected to improve our educational facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it should be a basic ideal of the 'now' government that all children, regardless of where they live, should have equal opportunities to develop their capacities, even though it is generally agreed that children coming from the rural areas suffer set-backs because they do not have the materials that children in the large urban areas have. There are indications that there are many brilliant young students coming from the rural areas, yet their talents may not be recognized or developed as readily as they would be if they were in a city school, and I believe that the parents in rural Alberta must have the assurance of wide educational opportunities for their children.

Mr. Speaker, one of our platform priorities was to remove that portion of the education tax from the residential property tax. This has been received with approval and is looked upon with keen anticipation. I believe that some segments of the population have already fulfilled this obligation of paying for education, particularly the senior citizens. They have paid, not only the education for one generation, but for two generations, and some of them are on the way to paying the cost of the third generation. These are the people who maybe find it hard to exist on their life savings or on their pensions without being asked to pay additional tax for education. Since there are many senior citizens in my constituency, I am sure that this will be accepted well, and will be a benefit to many.

Another two issues that I would like to bring out, that have been brought to me on numerous occasions, are a few of the sections in the Municipal Election Act. Section 10 of the Municipal Election Act provides for anyone who has been resident in a municipality for one year, regardless whether he has ever paid taxes or not, to be eligible to run for council. Yet Section 11 signifies that if anybody is in arrears of \$50.00 or more he is disqualified as a candidate. I think that this is unduly harsh. Somebody may have been paying taxes for many years, but because of some difficulty is disqualified from running. I think that some of these people may make good councillors and I believe that being a taxpayer he would have a vested interest and maybe would make a better councillor than one who is not a taxpayer.

Another issue I want to draw to your attention is a situation that arose in the town of Holden this past year, where the mayor and three of the councillors were unseated from office due to a conflict of interest. These are the men that had borrowed money from the local bank and loaned it to the town for an addition to their recreation centre. And knowing my constituency as well as I do I believe that these people did very well by doing this, because Holden is one of the urban centres in my constituency with one of the poorest recreational facilities. I think that these men deserved gold pins for all the work that they put in, yet because of a technicality of the Municipal Act they were unseated. I think that the punishment was far too severe. They will not be able to seek re-election for two terms, which will be six years. Yet compare that with just two years ago when two members of the legislature were unseated right in Alberta for a similar conflict of interest, and were able to seek re-election almost immediately. Maybe there was no

other choice that these gentlemen had, other than to be unseated. However, maybe it's a point for us to look at. It's high time that we had some of the antiquated laws changed under which the government has been operating for many years.

Mr. Speaker, more and more of our tax dollar is being spent on social assistance and welfare, and in the rural areas fewer people are contributing a greater portion of this. I think that social assistance is a blessing, when definitely needed. But the programs and policies which have been used in the past channelled people into welfare. I know in particular, of one family where a man, a wife, and six children had received benefits up to \$5,600 a year, tax free, without working. And yet on the other hand, any man with a family of exactly the same size, earning \$4,200 or more must pay income tax. Many times some of these people, once they go on welfare, find it much more comfortable to sit there rather than put out their efforts to seek employment. Many of them start considering social assistance is a right, and I say, Mr. Speaker, that this is a luxury that this province can ill afford.

Mr. Speaker, up to now I have been discussing what many would consider practical affairs, issues that affect mostly the financial way of life. But, I feel that our government must give serious consideration to the cultural values of the people, and give recognition to the arts and crafts of different nationalities.

Here I wish to direct the attention of the hon. members to the Heritage Park near the entrance of Elk Island Park on Highway 16 East. Even though this is not directly located in the Vegreville constituency, it holds a considerable amount of interest to the Vegreville constituency and constituencies all over the province. First it will be a means of attracting people to that area, and second, there are many people who have valuable and precious artifacts that they are willing to donate to the park for display, and in this way they would have an vested interest in its success. But, perhaps most of all, the park will help to preserve a way of life, a heritage from the first pioneers of that area. It will stand as a tribute to the hardship faced by the first Ukrainians who pioneered that area. It will tell the story of their work, their customs, their culture, and music.

I would also like to bring to the attention of members of the House, who may not be aware, that William Eleniak, the first Ukrainian immigrant to reach Canada, back in 1891, settled, farmed, and resided until his passing a few years ago, just a couple of miles away from this Heritage Park, and I'm sure this will stand as a tribute to his descendants which number in the hundreds or maybe even in the thousands.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the House that the cultural group in Vegreville is planning to hold a cultural festival this year. Now, if this should materialize, this will be the first time in the history of western Canada, any place west of Winnipeg, that such a cultural festival will be held. So I am going to mention that, since it is a part of our history, if these organizations come to our government, I would urge that our government give recognition and support, maybe both moral and financial.

Mr. Speaker, in addressing the House I have ranged over a wide variety of topics that are of direct concern to the constituents of the Vegreville constituency. I would like to thank the hon. members for giving me their attention and also I would like to leave these issues that I have brought up as a challenge to the government, and it is my hope that that challenge can be met to the satisfaction of the people. Only then will the government of the people have succeeded. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

March 14th

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