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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
THIRD SESSION—TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
Seventy-Fifth Day

July 12, 1989

The Assembly met at 2:00 o'clock p.m.

On the Orders of the Day:

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Devine, seconded by Mr. Romanow, by leave of 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.

(LESTOCK) **FRANK MEAKES**, who died July 8, 1989, was a Member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1964 and again from 1967 to 1975. He represented the constituency of Touchwood. Mr. Meakes was born on February 20, 1917, at Punnichy where his parents had established a farm. He eventually took over the Meakes family farm and raised pure-bred shorthorn cattle. In 1943 he married Mary Luthi of Punnichy who predeceased him in 1965. As a young man during the Thirties, Frank Meakes became interested in the Co-operative movement. He was president of the Lestock Co-op for many years and a founding member of the Lestock Credit Union. He also served on the board of his local Saskatchewan Wheat Pool committee. In 1962 he became Minister of Co-operation and Co-operative Development, a post he held until 1964. As an elected member, Mr. Meakes was noted for his devotion to parliament by his near perfect attendance record in this Chamber. He served this Assembly as Deputy Speaker from 1961 until the time he was named to Cabinet. After retirement, Mr. Meakes continued to be active in the communities where he lived. He is survived by his second wife Margaret.

Mr. Romanow: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to join with the Premier in seconding the condolence motion, although it gives me no particular pleasure to have to do so in the case of Frank Meakes.

MR RAY ROMANOW SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME
PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Speaker, I joined the Legislative Assembly first in 1967 when Frank Meakes had already been what I would describe as a veteran of this House at that time. And coming in as a very young man, inexperienced about the ways of the legislature, I was rather mystified, as I'm sure some new members on both sides of the House might be, about what it is that this institution, this great institution, is all about, how we conduct the business, and even apart from the process of conducting the business, a very difficult question period which is part of the process apparently, Mr. Speaker, and the hard debates which we have . . . more than that, what this Assembly means in the context of society and men and women governing themselves, and the pursuit of social and economic objectives, and movements of equality of opportunity. Those were difficult questions for me to sort out in 1967, and Frank Meakes was one of the very first friends that I made in the legislature at that time. Because Frank having been, as I say, here before, but I suspect even more so because of his lifelong interest in the parliamentary process, was able to give us — me and others — the necessary direction, the necessary guidance to try to make a contribution to the political process of this great province of ours, Saskatchewan.

For those of you who didn't know Frank Meakes, he was in some ways like all people, I suppose, somewhat paradoxical. At times, and I would suspect most of the time, he was a mild-mannered, soft-spoken politician who really would not make his voice heard loudly in debate, certainly not as loudly as it seems to be taking place in this legislature in any event since 1986, or perhaps even before that time.

But nevertheless, he always was heard and spoke frequently on very many of the key issues which affected not only his constituency but the issues of the province.

His concerns ranged all the way, obviously, about the plight of the farming community and farmers, to the plight of the poor, the working poor, the position of native people in the province of Saskatchewan. There's a large representation of native people in the Touchwood, as it then was, area.

This was a person who, while he may have seemed to be somewhat mild mannered, it soon came to my attention he was in fact, as I say, a bit of a paradox; mild mannered but very determined, very vigorous and dedicated as a person in pursuit of these various causes.

Once Frank Meakes was able to assess the various pros and cons of an issue and came to a conclusion on the side of the issue, he stuck to his position and stuck to that position very tenaciously indeed — stuck to it tenaciously. And as a result, paradoxically somewhat, this mild-mannered, gentle man, because truly he was that, almost got the impression of being an outspoken MLA, an outspoken spokesperson of the Legislative Assembly. He was outspoken because, as I say, once he made his decision it was a decision with which he would stick for quite some time, and, as a result, the impression that indeed he had these strongly held views which he did have.

Frank Meakes was also a kind of a person that I had admiration for from another dimension, another aspect. If you take a look at his personal curriculum vitae, you see that Frank was educated formally to grade 8, and then he took grades 9, 10, and 11 by correspondence classes, back in another time. That's as far as his education went.

Correspondence classes, of course, provide an opportunity for equal access to education, but I think all members would agree that the ideal situation would be to attend a formal class-room setting. But if you looked at it at first blush you would say, well what can a person with, by today's standards, not a large, extensive formal education have to say about the important issues of the world. That was a big surprise when you listened to Frank Meakes.

Frank Meakes was indeed a very well-read and very well-educated person. This was a person who read right through life, right to his dying hours, I'm sure to his dying days; a person who was active not only beyond reading but in the promotion of books, the library system. He was given an honorary recognition by the Saskatchewan Library Association for his contribution of libraries.

And I've always felt that formal education — some of us have gone through it, some of us haven't — really isn't the mark of an intelligent person. It may be the mark of a well-educated person — I say "may" be the mark, but it's no guarantee of that either. The mark of a well-educated person, in my judgement, is the degree to which that individual has that level of sensitivity, the antenna which are out there bristling, able to receive the various communications of issues coupled with, as a mark of intelligence, reading, reading, reading, and reading.

And Frank was a reader. Frank was well-read. Frank was intelligent. Frank was truly an educated man. And I think that that reading brought about that civility, that gentleness of which I've referred to earlier — realizing that as one progresses in life through maturity and as one reads, that very rarely are issues simply cast in black and white terms; that there are many, many greys in life. And in fact sometimes life itself, both in terms of political issues and social concerns and personal concerns, is made up of a set of greys.

Frank was an individual who gave through his educated mind, through his principles, and through the sensitivities that I've referred to, the kind of leadership which, when I entered in 1967, I decided I would try to emulate. I don't think I've succeeded anywhere near, but I said to myself that I would try to emulate that goal.

Of course, his leadership talents were quickly recognized, as the Premier has pointed out in the introductory motion. Frank has always been a leader in his community, coming from the community and going back to the community as we buried him yesterday, as you know and you were there present, Mr. Speaker, a service which one of my colleagues, my whip and colleague from Quill Lakes described to our caucus today as a fitting service, in a fitting burial site, for a true son of the Saskatchewan soil.

Frank's leadership was known by that community, and I think that the way, in a sense, the funeral service and the day yesterday, as I reflect back on it, took place, is a kind of a metaphor for what his life was all about. He believed so strongly in community control and community participation that that sense, that trait, thrust him very quickly into a role of leadership.

His curriculum vitae here again is far too numerous to list, but his activities in the Saskatchewan Farmers Union in the early days of protest, the farm protest; president of the Lestock co-op association, also a question of leadership at the community level; the Lestock wheat pool and credit union committees. These are well-known, all well-known. He was a director of the Round Plains Telephone Company, and municipal councillor, a school trustee. In fact, mayor of Lestock, I think, Mr. Speaker, was also one of Frank's latest — after he was out of provincial politics — contributions to the community.

That really is a very eclectic, a very comprehensive and engaging, interesting set of activities for community functions. And I found that the fact that he maintained this love for community after the retirement from political life in 1975 — he served with me from '67 to '71 and then in '71 he was re-elected and was part of the Blakeney team which formed the government of that day to 1975.

Sometimes it's the habit of politicians, once we are defeated or retire, that that's it for political activity.. No so for Frank. The abiding, never-failing concern and belief that communities working together can effect change for the betterment of all people was a characteristic and a quality which can only be marvelled at, and I think was reciprocated by the local respect which he attained, judging by the tremendous contribution that he has contributed and made to the legislature and the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

The Premier has indicated his various contributions, which I will not speak at length about, but are there and speak for themselves. He was first elected, Frank Meakes was, in 1956, and served until 1964 when he was defeated when the late former premier Ross Thatcher entered the legislature. And then he returned in 1967. Premier Thatcher was still the premier of the province of Saskatchewan.

I very often think of those days because, as I said in a few of my remarks earlier here, that was the time when I entered the House. And I don't wish to diminish any of the contributions of the colleagues in this House, but it seemed to me that that period from '67 to '75-78 — certainly I'll speak from '67 to '71 — was a period where the legislature was at its most dynamic best.

The debate was very pronounced and sharp, but the debate was also very high-minded, very stratospheric in its dimensions. There were heavyweights in the political legislature in the province of Saskatchewan at that time. And if you think of the cast of characters: Ross Thatcher and Davey Steuart and Woodrow Lloyd and Allan Blakeney and George Willis and Bill Davies, and one could go on — Alex Cameron from Maple Creek. These people were men and women with politics on their minds, but more than politics — politics is the vehicle to achieve ideas, and the debate was very much on ideas.

In 1967 when he re-entered after the defeat — which is also an unusual thing for a politician to embark upon. Once you're defeated you sort of think that that is the decision of the public — it certainly is for the moment — that perhaps you should not proceed further. But Frank's sense of community and commitment prompted him to seek the nomination again and he was re-elected again.

That period from 1967 to 1971 was one of the most exciting I've ever experienced in political life. And I include the period when I was a part of the government, from '71 to '82. I think we did some tremendous things. We made some mistakes, that's for sure; every government does.

But the debate on the big issues, some of which are repeating themselves today — I don't want to make this obviously a political address — but some of them really are repeating themselves in variations today. Because as they say in that old poem when the walrus was speaking to the carpenter, or vice versa, said, there ain't nothing new under the sun — that's badly paraphrased — in reality, there isn't very much new under the sun.

And the basic themes about role of government and economy, the extent that it should or shouldn't be involved, diversifying the provincial economy, job loss, population loss, those were the issues of '67 to '71. They've been the issues actually of all of Saskatchewan's history. And Frank Meakes's guiding light in the caucus — I'll say a word about that before I take my place — in the caucus and outside the caucus really was something which I will never forget.

Of course, as we know, he served on a variety of committees of the legislature. He was the deputy speaker of the Assembly, and I say this to you, sir, and to all former speakers who are here and deputy speakers, perhaps on a day like today this is a job which is probably the most difficult job in the Legislative Assembly.

I think that when strong-willed men and women meet and clash in a competitive, adversarial format, which is what the legislature and the parliament is, the task of providing decency and civility and ensuring the rules are being administered and yet all of the objectives being achieved, is a situation which I would not envy you, sir, in occupying, and I sure didn't envy my colleague, the member from Westmount in occupying.

Frank Meakes, however, brought to that debate his commitment to the ideas, but he also had those senses of civility and gentleness about it which sometimes I think we all miss a little bit in this period of 1990s. The Deputy Speaker's role, and having fulfilled it I think very competently, is a tribute to not only the man's capabilities but his reverence for the institution that we have here.

Of course he served as minister of co-ops for a two-year period prior to the defeat in 1964. He then went on to the various local activities that I've talked about, and I will not discuss again at length, and made a distinguished contribution throughout the entire period.

I guess I'd like to say two other points, make two other points about Frank Meakes, drawing on his life to see what lessons can be learned by those of us who are left behind. And these are not original thoughts, Mr. Speaker, the ones that I am now going to say, because I've discussed this with a number of friends and colleagues and associates of Frank's as we tried to talk about what his life meant and what ideals he held, but I shared the views.

I think there are two principles which became very important to me, watching Frank Meakes operating in this House and in this province. One was his abiding belief to the end that people working together can help people — the sense of community that I've talked about — which was reciprocated by him being selected as a leader in so many community functions.

I think that if you examined the extreme hurdles and obstacles that we have to face in this province in trying to build a society here in this province, the hurdles are obvious — harsh climate and large distances and small population, and relatively little political clout in the Canadian configuration of things. The notion of communities banding together to help themselves where necessary was a logical one. Frank was very early on that belief.

From the farmers union through to the co-op movement through the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation), the New Democratic Party, to his capacity as mayor of Lestock, he believed that men and women working together can effect change, that we're not simply pawns of larger forces beyond our control, whether those forces are national or international.

And frankly, Mr. Speaker, I happen to subscribe to that view. I think all of us do in this House. I certainly hope that all of us do, because if I didn't believe in that, if I believed that there were forces — there are some of course which are serious — but essentially forces which prevented us from a measure of control over our individual lives, to free us up to be individuals, to do our own things — some people said a few years ago or today — if I didn't think that we could do that and that we could do that in a collective community sense, I think I'd be out of politics.

There's no sense in being in political life for the title or for the pay or for the excitement and the friendship of all of the members opposite or on this side of the caucus. It simply isn't worth it. You have to be in the game because it is the very essence of the democratic system that men and women working together can effect positive change. And Frank Meakes embodied that throughout his entire life, was rewarded — if elected to office is reward, but I think it is reward — rewarded and reciprocated in kind by believing in that very distinctly.

The second general principle which strikes me about Frank Meakes, before I take my place, is the question of the roles or the functions that we fulfil in political life, each and every one of us. In our caucus, Mr. Speaker, we have 26 members. There are 38 in the government side. I'm sure that that's the case with theirs. They haven't invited me to their caucuses to be absolutely certain of what I'm saying here as being accurate, but in any event I'm sure that that takes place in the government side as well.

Caucus members come from all over the province, with all kinds of backgrounds and various personalities. We contribute not evenly, or uniformly — perhaps I should put it that way; evenly I think we do to some extent, but not uniformly — in all of the functions of caucus and government that might be expected by the public at large.

There are some of us who perhaps have a talent to analyse the issues and the problems of the day and to provide solutions. Others of us may have the ability to sell, if I may use that word, the solutions on behalf of a political party. Others might have the capacity to compromise, to accommodate, to convince, to heal the various differences which exist in any caucus.

Others — and there aren't many of these, Mr. Speaker, and I'm now referring to Frank Meakes — have a very valuable other function to fulfil, and that is to play the role which I can only describe as the role of the conscience of caucus — that person within the deliberative body of MLAs who are down here doing the people's business, that role within caucus and outside caucus which is a role determined to make sure that the caucus remains true to its principles and to its ideals.

I don't think I'm a conscience of caucus in my political years, and I know how difficult that is sometimes to have somebody in caucus raising fundamental principles which make it difficult to accept for pure, short-run political gain.

And sometimes how difficult it is in that message of conscience which MLAs provide to be able to accept that perhaps the anger which one exhibits to the opposition side, or however the debate is carried out, shouldn't be done so. Because as conscience of the caucus, you're conscience of the democratic system which says that at the end of the day debate has to be conducted with civility, with respect, and with gentleness, and with principle.

As much as personality might enter into the debate, conscience of caucus, conscience of legislature, that is a tremendous contribution to any political party, to any caucus. That is a tremendous contribution, Mr. Speaker, to this institution. It is a tremendous contribution to government and society in Saskatchewan and in Canada as a whole.

Frank Meakes was a conscience of caucus, who with his mild-mannered and gentle approach, gentlemanly approach in the old-fashioned sense of the word, was able, coupled with his commitment to community, to achieve what most of us in three lifetimes could never, except dream of, achieve.

Well those are the two lessons from Frank's life. There are many that I could draw on, but those are the two that have stuck to me, and the two that I will try to, as I think of Frank Meakes, try to follow and try to instil in my colleagues and my relationships and associations, because I think for all of that we will be the better for it.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me conclude on an extremely personal note. I saw Frank Meakes about, I guess, a month and a half ago, or two months ago now, for the last time when he came to my office to discuss with me a number of issues. One of the issues was the question of the privatization of SaskEnergy, and as you will know, Mr. Speaker, at that time the debate and the controversy surrounding the walk-out, surrounding the issue itself which is even more important.

Frank also came to talk to me about politics at the local level. I'm not so sure, sir, that you wanted to hear that, but nevertheless he did. He came to talk some local politics.

I will remember him as I remembered him back in 1967, so animated. He was so excited. He was so clear in what he thought we should be doing. He was preaching the virtues of community in the context of the political actions which he was recommending. He was . . . it was almost like having him back in caucus because he exhibited that kind of enthusiasm and that kind of interest, while at the same time being as sharp and as relevant as I ever remembered him from the times when I served with him in the House ending prior to 1975.

I didn't know that a few weeks afterwards he fell ill, and then as unexpectedly I found out on the weekend that he was suddenly taken from us with his death, the heart attack which caused his passing.

Well, I'm going to remember the happy times with Frank Meakes, of which there are many. I'm going to remember those principles of which I've talked about, and I'm going to remember the funeral service yesterday in a beautiful country setting, peaceful and cheery, and based on tradition in history as it was with the old stone church 101 years old in Saskatchewan, and the location. I'm going to remember that because I'm going to say to myself: it was the final last tribute to one of the true gentlemen of this House and of my experience.

And I pass on my regrets and condolences, and that of my wife, to Frank Meakes' widow, Margaret, and to his numerous extended family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of serving in this legislature with Mr. Frank Meakes for some period of time. I entered the legislature in '64. At that time Mr. Meakes was not here but he re-entered the Chamber in '67 upon being re-elected to represent the constituency. And I must say that over the years that I knew Frank, prior to that and since that time, I've always appreciated his counsel and his contribution to the party, to myself, to the province. It was universally a good contribution, and I appreciated it very much.

If you knew Frank Meakes, you would know that he is a man of many dimensions, and I use the term "a man of many dimensions" advisedly, because I know if Frank could hear me, he would be chuckling at that one. The dimension of Frank Meakes that I'm talking about is his intellectual dimension, and not necessarily his physical dimension.

Over the years that I knew Frank, he provided, as my leader has said, excellent counsel; he was the conscience of the caucus as it was required from time to time. And in this very Chamber, Frank Meakes was an outstanding proponent of the parliamentary democratic system. He's a strong believer in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, that association which allows parliamentarians from all over this great Commonwealth to intermingle at conferences and seminars to exchange their ideas. I know that Frank Meakes took part in some of those seminars and exchanges, and I felt that he represented Saskatchewan well at any of those that he did attend.

In the context of farming, as Frank Meakes was a farmer and as I . . . my background is a farm background, I think I can get a situation which is analogous to the Frank Meakes situation: if you have milk, the cream comes to the top. And that's what Frank Meakes was in our society — he was the best that came to the top. He was involved in many organizations: co-operatives, farmers' organizations, co-operatives of all kinds, farm organizations; he was involved civically as councillor and eventually as mayor, as well as being involved in this Legislative Chamber. And Frank always rose to the top, and therefore he certainly would be qualified as the cream of our society.

The Indian and Metis people of Saskatchewan will be aware of the fact that they lost a strong supporter of their causes in Frank Meakes. I know that in caucus from time to time, and elsewhere, he quite often spoke out on behalf of their issues and made his voice heard.

I thought, as we went to the burial site yesterday, that it was a beautiful day, and as we pulled up to the site it was the old, stone church south of Wishart. The cemetery is surrounding the old church, and over the entrance to the cemetery is a sign which indicates that the cemetery, and I gather the church, was there since 1888, which made it 101 years ago.

And I thought to myself at the time that that bit of information I picked up somewhere along the way in schooling about the wonderful one-horse shay that lasted for a hundred years and a day. Well I suppose none of us can hope to attain that in complete good condition, and Frank was certainly no exception to that.

We all have our problems which detract from our maximum ability we attained in our life. We age, parts fall off, and things like that, and the result is that we come to our end. But I thought it was very fitting that Frank came to his end at that old churchyard, the stone church cemetery, on such a beautiful day and with so many friends about.

I want to pass on my sincere condolences to his wife and the family. I certainly grew to appreciate Frank Meakes over the time that I knew him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wish to join in today's expressions of condolences to the Frank Meakes family and his many friends. Though I did not sit in the legislature with Mr. Meakes, as the buddy MLA for Last Mountain-Touchwood, assigned some responsibilities by the Leader of the Opposition for that constituency, I have more than a passing interest in the affairs of that particular constituency.

And I was always . . . I shouldn't say always. In the early stages I was somewhat surprised at the political weight that Frank Meakes carried in that constituency, particularly amongst members of the New Democratic Party. And I say I was surprised, not in any way because I want to detract from Frank Meakes, but there is also another retired MLA, more recent. Of course I'm speaking of Gordon MacMurchy, who also can be described as nothing short of a political heavyweight, and yet despite that Frank Meakes was not overshadowed by Gordon MacMurchy. They were seen as equals, both to be respected, both to be admired, both to be looked at with a great deal of pride. So people respected what both those individuals had to say.

Last Mountain-Touchwood is one of the constituencies that is somewhat famous within my party for always bringing forward very good resolutions to our annual convention, good resolutions that we should be thinking about and debating. And so it has a very strong history within the party. And one of the tests for resolutions in that constituency has always been: what would Frank Meakes think of it. Would Frank agree? And because of the very nature of the man, if Mr. Meakes thought the resolution was reasonably good, chances are it was very good.

He was a part of a group of men and women who strived to make our communities and our Saskatchewan and our world a better, fairer, more compassionate place to live. He was part of that group of men and women who lit the political torch for the CCF-NDP. He is part of that dedicated group of men and women who have passed the torch on to us. I can only hope that we can carry that torch in a manner that Frank Meakes would have approved of.

Frank Meakes was respected and liked, interested and interesting. He earned his stripes honourably and he will be missed. I offer my condolences to his family and friends.

Mr. Koskie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join with others, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and other members to express also my condolences to Mrs. Meakes and other members of the Meakes family. I can only say that in attending the funeral yesterday for Mr. Meakes, I think the large attendance at the service was indicative of the respect which the community felt towards Mr. Meakes.

I want to say that Mr. Meakes was not a large man physically, but in my view, he carried within his body a big heart that he demonstrated throughout his entire life his devotion to his community and to this province. Others have indicated his involvement locally and also his record here in the legislature.

I think it was perhaps most adequately summed up, the type of man he was, by the former premier of Saskatchewan who gave a brief eulogy at the grave site as he was laid to rest. And in his comments, Mr. Blakeney indicated, as has been indicated by the Leader of the Opposition, that one of the great strengths of Frank Meakes is his unbending faith in people being able to do things and solve problems.

And he worked endlessly with his community, his people, and likewise when he joined the legislature he continued to respect the views of people. And as Mr. Blakeney indicated, he was often the conscience of the caucus in that he repeatedly indicated and asked, when any important decision was being made, how it would indeed affect the people of Saskatchewan, adversely or otherwise.

I want to say that certainly we are going to miss Mr. Meakes. We will miss his wise counsel that he continued to give up until his death. We will also miss his unbending commitment to our political movement. He gave us much during his lifetime, and I think that those that remain can take some solace in that, during his lifetime, Frank Meakes gave his best to his community, to his province. And certainly, in laying to rest, certainly we can say that he was a true and faithful servant of the people of Saskatchewan.

In closing, I just want to pass on the words for his friends and family, which I think are appropriate to Mr. Meakes, and these are the words, Mr. Speaker:

For though you have left our time and place,
Your deeds shall carry you far,
Until you meet your Pilot face to face
Now that you have crossed the bar.

Thank you.

Mr. Lyons: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with other members of the Assembly in expressing the condolences to the family of Frank Meakes. And I rise, and members who have served in the legislature with Mr. Meakes have spoken eloquently of the role that he played in the internal life of both the legislature and the caucus. I want to just say a few words on behalf of those who knew him, not as a colleague but as a friend.

I first met Mr. Meakes in 1969 when I moved to Saskatchewan. I, at that time, was involved in organizing with the New Democratic Party, and a conflict arose in the course of that organizing between the youth and the party. And Mr. Meakes was a member of the committee that was struck, including the late Woodrow Lloyd and Mr. Meakes, and I believe it was the former member from Last Mountain-Touchwood as well, who were on that committee to deal with the problem.

And through that process, I came to realize that Mr. Meakes was more than sympathetic to the hopes and aspirations of the young people who were, at that point in time, making demands within the party, and the fact that Mr. Meakes supported those particular ideas and demands. And out of that developed a friendship, until his passing, between myself and Mr. Meakes. And we'd talk once or twice, or sometimes three times a year, either at political conventions or just over the phone, and discuss political activities and what's happening in the province and those kind of things.

And through those discussions and meetings, it became clear that Frank Meakes could be seen in one of three roles. One, the first role, as other members have alluded, was the role of the conscience of the party and the voice of the common people of the province. And Mr. Meakes, not through any pretensions or not through any notion of self-importance, but basically through an understanding of what affected people at the local level and at the community level and at the provincial level, always spoke on their behalf. And for that he won many, many legions of friends.

As well, there was another dimension to Mr. Meakes, Frank Meakes, and that is the dimension of the intellect. Mr. Frank Meakes used to read a great deal and would discuss the ideas from his reading with his political friends and political colleagues, and through that reading was able to put what was happening politically in Saskatchewan and in his local community within some kind of overall theoretical context.

And thirdly, Mr. Frank Meakes was known as not only a conscience of the party and as a spokesperson for the common people, but he was known for his ability to withstand the kinds of political pressures that are exerted on all of us. He had developed a set of principles which he used on a day to day basis to guide him in his affairs both within the legislature but also with his other fellow human beings. And in that sense Frank Meakes is a friend. He's a friend to many, many people in this province, and he'll be missed by many, many people in this province.

And I remember, in fact, that the last time I talked to Frank was at the last convention of our party, and he said . . . He was asking me how things were going in the legislature and how I liked being an MLA and so on, and in the conversation he came up with a phrase which I think I will carry around with me for a long, long time, and that phrase was, "You know, you can never do too much for people, but you can always do too little."

And I think to me that sums up the kind of person that Frank Meakes was, is that he always knew that to act as a servant of the people, that required sacrifice and required hard work. And that when you forgot that, when you did too little for people, that the people themselves would react to that. And I think one of reasons why Frank had so many friends, there were so many people at the funeral, why he will be missed by so many people across Saskatchewan, is that he in fact did a great deal for a great many people. I know that he'll be missed by many, many people in this province.

Mr. Speaker: — Before we put the question, I would wish to ask leave of the House to make a few brief remarks about Mr. Meakes, who in fact was my MLA for a good number of years.

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Tusa: — I too wish then to express my condolences to the recent demise of Mr. Frank Meakes, the former member for Touchwood constituency.

During the time I taught adult education in the community of Lestock, I had the opportunity to become well acquainted with Mr. Meakes. After classes it was not unusual for us to have discussion, usually with other regulars at the local coffee shop. As is the case in rural Saskatchewan, these sessions were stimulating and animated, but always friendly. Also he informed me of his role as deputy speaker while he was a member, which provided us with a topic of interest to both of us.

We shared anecdotes about events that had occurred in the Chambers, but in a serious vein we agreed on the paramount position played by the Legislative Assembly in fostering and nurturing our democratic traditions.

In closing, I wish to express my personal condolences to Mrs. Meakes and family members, whose lives he touched in a very personal way, and who I know will miss him.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Mr. Speaker, with leave of the Assembly, I'd like to move a motion regarding these resolutions which we have just passed.

Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the member from Quill Lakes:

That the resolutions just passed, together with a 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.

Motion agreed to.