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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Saskatchewan | 17e | 1re | Discours du trône | 28 juillet 1971 | Stephen Worobetz | Lieutenant Governor | Saskatchewan New Democratic Party |

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It is my privilege to welcome you to the First Session for the Seventeenth Legislature of Saskatchewan.

You come together saddened by the untimely death of the Leader of the Opposition and former Premier, the Hon. W. Ross Thatcher, P.C. I ask you to carry on the work of the Government in the same tradition that was pursued in the vigorous dedication by the Hon. Mr. Thatcher during his more that 25 years of public life.

Free access to health care is given high priority by my government. The imposition of deterrent fees on

persons requiring treatment in or out of hospital has proved to be a hindrance to health and on onerous

burden on our citizens. You will therefore be asked to approve legislation abolishing all deterrent fees in the field of health care.

Free access to medical and hospital care is particularly important to our older citizens. Therefore, legislation to abolish medical and hospital premiums for every resident 65 years of age or older will be

placed with you.

You will be asked to approve changes in the Mental Health Act which will have the effect of removing provisions enacted April 15, 1968. These provisions place on the families of the mentally ill serious financial burdens not placed on the families of those suffering from physical illness.

The continuing farm income crisis is a matter of deep concern to my Government. My ministers have taken certain steps to assist farmers, notably by extending retroactively to January 1, 1971, the payment of hog premiums.

As a further step, legislation will be introduced to protect farmers unable to pay their debts from seizure of their farm land and machinery.

My Government has observed with serious misgivings the stagnation of the national and provincial economies, accompanied by a drastic increase in unemployment. In Saskatchewan, the lack of jobs, combined with the oppressive effects of legislation which is harshly discriminatory against working people, has resulted in an unprecedented exodus of our work force. Thousands ofJuly 28, 1971workers and their families have left the province.

My Ministers have already moved to increase the number of jobs by setting up a task force on job creation which is undertaking a crash review of government projects to identify those which can be accelerated or set in motion before winter.

As additional steps, you will be asked to restore free collective bargaining in Saskatchewan by the quick repeal of the Essential Services Emergency Act, and to reduce the hours of work.

Certain other maters, including an enquiry into the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages, will be placed before you for consideration.

I leave you now to the business of the Session, with full confidence that you will favourably discharge your duties and responsibilities.

May Divine Providence continue to bless our province and guide this Legislature in all its deliberations