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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Honourable Dan D'Autremont Speaker

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Improving the Lives of Working People

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to remind the legislature and all of Saskatchewan about our shared history, when Saskatchewan led the nation through such events as the Estevan strike of 1931, the Regina riot, The Trade Union Act of 1944, the creation of leading health and safety regulations in the '70s. And it goes back even further than that: one of the earliest collective actions in Saskatchewan was the Cumberland House strike in 1777.

What's awe-inspiring about each of these is that by working together we've continuously led the nation in improving the lives of everyday working people. Working people in Saskatchewan had the vision to imagine and the will to fight for a world where they could be safe, be home to spend time with their families, and live on a fair wage where they could give their kids what they didn't have. They didn't think this vision was important just for themselves, but also for their co-workers and their neighbours. Some people died in fact because of their stand against exploitation. The irony here, Mr. Speaker, is that we're seeing it slowly erased, little by little, which leaves me wondering why we have to once again fight battles already won years ago.

Why is this government choosing to leave our children a Saskatchewan that will offer fewer rights than we've had? That's not the Saskatchewan our children deserve. One day, Mr. Speaker, this government will be remembered for the deliberate erosion of rights that were recognized by previous governments who care about middle-class people. Clearly this government doesn't care about the middle-class people. Thank you.