

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Friday, June 6, 1975

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have some 16 students of Grade 7, 8 and 9 standing, of the Sansome Junior High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Shurraw. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

On behalf of all the honourable members, I welcome you here.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Member for Riel.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. DONALD CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I'm not too sure who to direct this question to, but I'll try the Minister of Education. I wonder if he could advise whether the University of Manitoba, or the Department of Education, or some other agency of government has been in negotiation with the Arctic Institute of Canada with regard to possibly locating its facilities in Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education)(Burrows): I'll have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker. I did have some correspondence on the matter some time ago, and I believe there was an interest expressed at that time in making use of some of the facilities presently existing at Fort Churchill, but I could not advise the honourable member this afternoon just at what stage this matter is at, at the present time, negotiations if any, or even interest, if any.

MR. CRAIK: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister, while inquiring, could inquire or confirm that the Arctic Institute has, although it was to have resumed its location in Montreal has decided to move to a location recently somewhere in Western Canada.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I'll take that as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Now that the teams are off the ice and into the committee rooms in the off-season, can the Minister advise when he expects a report from the committee which is working under him in the investigation of hockey violence in Manitoba, particularly in minor hockey levels, and does he expect to be communicating with that committee on a regular basis between now and the next session of the Legislature?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. RENE TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs)(Springfield): Well, Mr. Speaker, I've had two meetings with the said committee, which is not under me but is a committee that decided to meet with us and discuss problems pertaining to foul language and violence in hockey, and there is ongoing discussion and reporting pertaining to reasons why this is happening. Action is now being taken on certain recommendations that had been made at the committee level, and hopefully we can see the benefits of same in the next session.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. As the evidence and the decisions accumulate, will the Minister be making a public statement on the subject incorporating the decisions taken and the steps planned for next winter?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd be happy to sit down with the honourable member or any other member of the House that's interested, to be briefed pertaining to those experts in the field that have made recommendations and those recommendations that have been accepted. Briefly I can indicate, Mr. Speaker, that the problem seems to lie mainly with officials, coaches and spectators.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the loge to my left, where we have a former member of this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Len Barkman. We welcome you.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

ORAL QUESTIONS cont'd

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Education. Several days ago the Minister took a question from me to ascertain how many university students are still looking for jobs and to find out how serious the situation is. I wonder if he has that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I will attempt to provide the honourable member with a reply to this question possibly Monday or Tuesday.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether we could call the adjourned debates on second reading on Page 2. But, sir, if I may just draw attention to the Votes and Proceedings that has just reached our desks in connection with a committee meeting on Monday evening. I believe there was an undertaking given that McKenzie Seeds would be considered by the committee on Monday. It's not noted but, as far as I'm aware, that understanding still stands.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 37. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition. (Stands) Bill No. 44. The Honourable Member for Brandon West (Stands) Bill No. 46. The Honourable Member for St. James. He's not in his seat at the moment. Bill No. 48. The Honourable Member for Morris. (Stands) Bill No. 56. The Honourable Member for Pembina (Stands) Bill No. 28. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

BILL NO. 28 - THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY presented Bill No. 28, an Act to amend The Employment Standards Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, for some number of years members, or some members of this group, and others from other groups, have advocated that the standard workweek before the requirements of payment of overtime be reduced. I believe it was in 1973 or thereabouts a reduction was made, in one area, of the requirements of the standard workweek. At that particular time the standard workweek for females before the requirement of being paid time and a half was 44 and for males 48, and at that time it was generally considered and agreed that we should have uniformity in the workweek for both sexes, and there was a reduction from the 48 hour in respect of males before the requirement time and a half to reduce that figure to 44, which is the way the legislation stands at the present time. Previously we had been working, or asking for, demanding, requesting, a reduction to the standard workweek of 40 hours after which time and a half would be paid,

Last year a Private Members' Resolution was introduced by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia expressing the same thoughts that there should be the reduction to the 40-hour workweek. If I recall correctly at that particular time, in replying to the Member for Assiniboia whose resolution naturally had to be couched that the government give consideration to the advisability of making change, I gave assurances that the matter would be given serious consideration by the government.

I am pleased, and I'm sure that my friend from Assiniboia is pleased, Mr. Speaker, as indeed a lot of workers in the province will be pleased, that we have the legislation before us which will establish the 40-hour workweek before the requirement of overtime pay.

I might say, if memory serves me correctly, Mr. Speaker, the 40-hour week prevails in the federal arena, the Province of Saskatchewan, the Province of British Columbia. There may be one or two others that have certain areas to which the 40-hour workweek, but the standard workweek I believe is only prevalent in the federal and the other jurisdictions that I have referred to. So that is one of the purposes of this Bill No. 28, Mr. Speaker.

The other deals with the question of equal pay. Unless anyone gets any misunderstanding.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . on this, this is really a tidying up of our legislation. At the present time we have an Equal Pay Act standing alone and the purpose of having the equal pay function brought under the Employment Standards Division is to attempt to start - really it's the first start of an attempt to have greater consolidation of all of the labour legislations into one documentation, and this was the area that we felt in the department that this could be achieved rather rapidly, because the same personnel in the Department of Labour, namely the inspectors in the Employment Standards Division, are used in the area of dealing with the enforcement of the Equal Pay Act.

There is one, however, difference that I should draw to the attention of the honourable members. At the present time, under the Equal Pay legislation, there is reference to a referee coming in on disputes, first of all. That has been eliminated as a step, but insofar as the objectives are concerned they remain the same. And the board referred to in the second, dealing with definitions, the same board is under the Payment of Wages Act which can be a part of the Labour Relations Board dealing with the enforcement of payment of wages, and we discussed that the other day.

Honourable members will note in the commencement of the Act, that this Act, with the exception of certain sections, comes into force the day it receives the Royal Assent, and Sections 3, 4, and 5, just to name them rapidly, come into effect on proclamation.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, that refers to the effective date of the actual 40-hour workweek coming into effect, and the reason it is on proclamation, Mr. Chairman, rather than on the Royal Assent is because, when we reduced the standard workweek for the males from 48 to 44, it meant that it was quite possible for a considerable number of employees to have a reduction in their actual take-home pay, because there wasn't any provision to prevent that. The reason for proclamation is that we are giving consideration to an adjustment in the minimum wage in Manitoba, and with the reduction from the 44-hour to a 40-hour, if it came into effect before any change in the minimum wage, it could conceivably be that a considerable number who are just at the minimum wage could in effect have their salaries reduced by the equivalence of four hours' wages.

So, as I've indicated to the House previously, we are giving consideration to adjustments in the minimum wage. We've also given a reasonable commitment to the industry, and particularly the garment industry, that we would give some lead time before there was changes in the minimum wage. We felt that it would only be fair to hold back the penalty clauses as a result of the 40-hour week until we had had an assessment and established a new minimum wage in the province.

That, Mr. Speaker, briefly outlines the purpose of the bill and the contents. I'm sure that honourable members will here recognize our objectives, and I ask for their support in this continuing of progressive labour legislation in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brandon West, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 58. The Honourable Minister of Education to introduce it.

BILL NO. 58 - PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT AMENDMENT

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows) presented Bill No. 58, an Act to amend the Public Schools' Act, for Second Reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, while we are proceeding with the overall, the major revision of the Public Schools Act, at the same time also dealing with the whole matter of education and finance, but in the meantime there is need for some revisions to existing legislation to meet changing needs, to clarify some conflicting sections, and to include in the Act certain provisions pertaining to the election of trustees for a three year term. Briefly the changes are as follows, Mr. Speaker:

The definition of resident pupil presently contained in the Act does not meet with the present conditions and situations. Lowering the age of majority to 18 while maintaining the right of persons to attend school until age 21 has created a confusion over resident status.

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . Previously a person was not an adult in his own right until age 21, therefore as long as he had the right to attend school his residence could be linked with that of his parents. Today however a person is an adult at age 18, and it's felt that at age 18 it ought to be his place of residence and not that of his parents which should determine his residential status. The members will note that in addition to this age qualification one must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant to qualify as a resident pupil.

We have also removed the former qualification dealing with average school tax since it was ambiguous and difficult to establish. This is the section, Mr. Speaker, which gave a student the right to enroll in another school division without the payment of additional fee provided that the parent's owned property within the school division within which the child was to enroll, and that provided that the tax paid was equal to or in excess of the average school tax that was paid in the school division. Well, I suppose in a one-room school district, or any smaller unit, it may have been a somewhat simpler matter to calculate the average tax paid by any taxpayer, but how do you average tax between Eaton's and the Bay and any number of resident property owners?

There is a provision in the existing Public Schools Act dealing with the right of the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg School Division to enter into joint-use agreements concerning land and buildings. And this was quite satisfactory for the period of time while the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg and those of the Winnipeg School Division were coterminous. Now however it's no longer applicable. The recommendation is therefore that the section allowing for joint use presently in the Public Schools Act be repealed and that another be substituted which would apply to all school divisions and their municipalities, and this revision would provide for a school division and a municipality authority to enter into agreements concerning construction, maintenance and joint use of facilities on land owned by the division or the municipality, because there may be instances where it may be to the greater mutual advantage to construct a facility on property owned by a municipality, that the existing section only deals with property owned by the Winnipeg School Division. So this would really do two things: 1. It would make it applicable to all school divisions and municipalities to enter into joint-use agreements on property owned by or respecting property owned by either school divisions or municipalities.

At the present time, Mr. Speaker, the public Schools Act requires school boards to seek Ministerial approval before hiring as a teacher a relative of a member of the board - I believe, wife, sister, daughter, son, parent. Now this undoubtedly had some relevance a few decades ago when Manitoba had over a thousand small school districts. However since the adoption of the divisional system and the resulting development of larger school boards and effective local supervisory personnel, the requirement no longer seems relevant. And in addition it often proves confusing in a situation where the spouse of a teacher may wish to run for office as a trustee. The teacher may be an individual on staff and the wife or husband of that teacher may wish to run for the board and they subsequently become elected, so that here you end up with a situation where prior to the election the teacher was entitled to teach but because the wife or husband of the teacher becomes elected to a school division board, and to a school division board of the division within which the spouse is employed, suddenly that spouse becomes ineligible to continue being employed as a teacher. It does not seem right to deny either the teacher the right to tenure or the spouse the right to run for office, and much better to leave this matter to the wisdom and discretion of those immediately concerned.

A further amendment contained in this bill, deals with pupils attending courses in technical or vocational training. The description of the courses in the present legislation is much too narrow in its exemption from liability coverage, and it's not nearly broad enough to embrace the many related or semirelated courses now offered outside the classroom in which there may be an element of risk. I emphasize that this does not in any way limit a pupil or his parents from seeking redress in case of accident or injury. It simply updates a provision which has been part of the Act for many years.

A further amendment contained within the bill, and this deals with arbitration proceedings. Many years ago, Mr. Speaker, when collective bargaining first became a part of the Public Schools Act, the government accepted the responsibility of paying the costs involved in boards of arbitration convened to settle disputes concerning collective agreements. Now this may have had relevance in Manitoba in many small school districts, but has little or no relevance

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . in a day when both teachers and trustees are experienced veterans at the bargaining table, and much better that both sides to the agreement should share equally in the costs of their own arbitration. It will not be a heavy load in any one division or divisional association, but the cumulative load on the government is considerable.

A further amendment contains - it may appear to be rather lengthy but I think it can be dealt with quite briefly. The changes in election patterns and procedures brought about by the Local Authorities Election Act, have made it necessary to alter certain provisions for initial meetings of school boards, annual meetings in years when there was no election, and election of chairmen, etc. This section also places in the Public Schools Act the necessary provisions for three year elections in Winnipeg, Brandon, and other school divisions who may wish to adopt the three year term of office.

Then, continuing with the bill, a couple of other amendments, one of which deals with a section that was introduced four years ago in 1971 in order to protect the rights of pupils who wish to attend the regionary secondary schools which were then being opened, and to permit school divisions to co-operate in the provision of education for pupils requiring special facilities etc. And our experience has been that the original wording was sometimes confusing, sometimes limiting, and the change, I'm certain, will correct the situation.

The final one, Mr. Speaker, is what is frequently referred to as mandatory legislation, and in keeping with its stated policy of providing quality education for all persons in Manitoba, by this amendment the government is serving notice that it holds school boards responsible for the education of all resident persons within a school district area or division who have the right to attend school, and who may require special programs. Now heretofore school boards have been responsible for only those children classified as mentally retarded, and this left children with emotional, social, visual, hearing, and other disorders, without legislative protection. However, because of the financial implications of this amendment and because of the need for long-range planning and consultation, and because the work of the Task Force on Children with Special Needs has yet to be completed, this particular item will not come into force with the rest of the bill, and I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that this will require an amendment to one of the sections in the bill, because the bill presently reads that it'll come into force on the day that it receives Royal Assent, but the Royal Assent to this bill would have to exclude, or not apply to the amendment that I'm presently referring to, because it will not come into effect upon Royal Assent, but rather will come into force upon proclamation at date to be decided by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Now it may be asked then why we introduce it now, and we do so because we want to serve notice well in advance and allow adequate time for preparation, because, Mr. Speaker, it's all well and good to speak of mandatory legislation for the provision of education to all children of school age, but at the present time, the school divisions themselves are not prepared, are not geared up to either, on their own accord to offer the variety of educational programs that may be required, nor are they even prepared and ready to provide such education programs through some co-operative arrangement with another school division. In many instances a variety of co-operative arrangements may have to be worked out. So this, Mr. Speaker, is still being worked on by my department and my Task Force on Children with Special Needs, and until such time as we are in a position to administer a program that would enable school divisions to do what this legislation calls for, it will not be proclaimed.

Now, there may be other questions that honourable members may have and I'd be pleased to answer them at the close of the debate on this bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I'd like to introduce some 30 students up the gallery from Hartney School. They're from Grade 9 standing, under the direction of Mr. Deydey and Mrs. Maguire. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Arthur. We welcome you.

The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Urban Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'd like to refer Honourable Members to Page 33 of their Estimate Book. Resolution 75 (a) - Fire Prevention - Salaries. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to put a few questions to the Minister, if I may, with regard to fire prevention in this province. We received a copy of the annual report of the Department of Labour the other day, and I've had the opportunity of making a cursory glance of the Fire Prevention Division. In the fire losses in dollars, Mr. Chairman, it looks as though we're rising to a condition where something should be done, or something should be said as to why the rising cost of fires throughout the Province of Manitoba are increasing at such a rate. In 1969, the cost to the province was something in the neighbourhood of \$7 million; and in 1970, \$7.9 million; 1971, \$9.9 million - these are round figures, Mr. Chairman - but in 1972, sir, it leaped to \$14 million; and in 1973, it's gone up another million, \$15,147,000. I mentioned to the Minister earlier that I would hope that he would be able to tell us as to what the costs were in 1974. Is there an increase over that \$15 million? If there is, I'm sure he views this with alarm, as I'm sure the people of Manitoba do, Mr. Chairman.

I have knowledge of the fact that the fire inspectors, certainly in the last 18 months, have intensified their efforts to encourage communities to improve on, certainly public buildings, and I think this was brought about by an item that the Minister mentioned the other day where a rink caved in and while no life was lost, it was something tragic because it was somewhat a new building. I know in my own particular area that the fire inspectors have certainly been much more aggressive in the last 18 months than they were before. Aggressive in this way, that previous inspectors were satisfied with many things, but in the period I am referring to things have been asked for that many of my constituents have wondered sometimes, but nevertheless they have complied to the best of their ability with the law in spite of the expense.

But there was one thing, Mr. Chairman, that occurred to me and that is our secondary school in Swan River, that is some three or four years old and cost several millions of dollars, and I believe I've mentioned it to the Minister before, he can correct me, but what I couldn't understand about it was that that construction was comparatively new - it's a tremendous building - and in the last eight or nine months it's been inspected as it is annually, or periodically I should say, and the local educational people have had to spend, or been expected to spend some \$47,000 for bringing that building up to standard, which in the first place, Mr. Chairman, was approved by the department all along the line. It was one of those buildings that the Federal Government have put a great deal of money into. It seemed to me rather peculiar that at such an early date that that kind of money had to be spent to meet the needs of this man, who I don't question, he is obviously there to do a job and he did his job. Maybe the Minister could tell me why that was necessary.

And then another rather important thing, as the Minister will recall that I was a member of the Northern Task Force, and in recent months and recent years we've had some deplorable tragedies through fires in Indian reserves and settlements where maybe people are living. It was my privilege in recent weeks to attend the Indian-Metis Conference here in Winnipeg, and one of the outstanding arguments was the matter of fire, and fire prevention on Indian reserves. I'm sure the Minister will agree with me that he has seen some frightening things on the TV and in the newspapers, and some of the conditions under which these people live on these reserves. My point in bringing this to his attention today is to ask him if the inspectors that are showing such aggressiveness in rural Manitoba - which is all to the good. I think it is well worthwhile - I'm asking him if they are showing the same aggressiveness on Indian reserves. Are they looking at some of these homes, some of these shacks, and some of these buildings where these people meet on the Indian reserves? Are they condemning them, and in condemning them bringing them to the attention of the proper authorities in the department, to see to it that some assistance is given to give them the type of buildings that they ought to have?

And I think it's very important at this particular stage for the Minister to give serious

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(MR. BILTON cont'd) . . . consideration to this situation. We have many Indian reserves in Southern and Central Manitoba, but our problem is in Northern Manitoba where equipment is not available, and from what I can gather, Mr. Minister, the people are not knowledgeable in what they should do under a given circumstance. I'm asking him to try and possibly, if he hasn't already got one, probably he can tell me about it, develop a program that will bring peace of mind to these people in remote areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Chairman, as the Minister knows last year we brought to his attention the problem of the fire hazard in high rise apartment buildings, and subsequent to that the particular fire problem being faced in lower rise, older apartment blocks and rental properties in the City of Winnipeg, and I take note with real satisfaction the Minister's willingness to respond in the establishment of the special task force.

What I would like to raise with the Minister at this time is some questions surrounding the kind of other activity that the government may have, or should have been undertaking in the meantime, in terms of providing at least some initial protection while this task force is undertaking its review. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, to emphasize the seriousness of the question I just would want to put on the record the resolutions that I received from the Broadway-Assiniboine Residents Association at its last meeting on Monday, where it was resolved by the Residents Association that the city should limit the height of buildings in this area to a maximum height reached by a fire ladder. Mr. Chairman, I understand that in the discussions that went on at the Residents Association - and I should mention, Mr. Chairman, that this is an association of residents in the immediate vicinity of this building, that they are the people who occupy the area in the Broadway-Assiniboine area of the city. Again it is dominated by the extreme concerns, particularly held by older people, and by others, about the inadequacy or fear that they have about fire breaking out in the apartment blocks, and with the increasing awareness coming from statements made by fire protection officials that there really isn't an awful lot they can do beyond the 12th storey. I think that this has greatly increased concerns.

So one of the questions that I would like to ask the Minister is whether as a transitional measure the government has developed any further protections in the senior citizens buildings being constructed by Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. I think since our last discussion plans have gone ahead on at least two or three new kinds of senior citizens high rise apartments in the City of Winnipeg, and I was wondering if, for example, there has been a requirement for smoke and heat detection equipment on each floor which would be activated if there was - not just a sprinkler system, but an actual heat and detection system that would be plugged into the alarm system so that if there was any kind of increase in the temperature on each floor that this would immediately set off an alarm system. I believe Mr. Chairman, that this is now a standard requirement in many of the senior citizen buildings, for example, in New York City where they have run into some serious high rise fire problems.

The other kind of question, Mr. Chairman, would be the terms of reference of the committee or task force that has been set up. I think we did express some concern about who was on it, and what the terms of reference were, and to what degree there would be consultation with a range and variety of individuals involved in the question of design for fire protection. I think in particular it struck me again with some surprise, as I did over the research, to discover that virtually no school of architecture or engineering includes in its curriculum, and that included our own university, any real design-training in fire safety and protection in the newer forms of apartment buildings. In other words we are designing a number of both apartment blocks and office buildings without having the designers themselves being trained fully in the range of criteria that should be used to provide for proper fire protection. And I'm concerned about this and wondering if there has been any discussion with the design schools - even interior design - because I discovered again with a little research that one of the major causes of fires in high rise buildings is the style of furniture that's being used. The fact that we include air-conditioning, which becomes an immediate conduit for any kind of extension of a fire problem, the fact that we use overstuffed chairs and wooden desks, and all the rest of it, becomes the major cause of some of the high rise fires that have occurred. And this again goes back to basic problems of, not just of the prevention itself, but it goes right back to the initial design of the buildings and the requirements to be put into it. So, Mr. Chairman, again we want to underline our concern.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . But secondly, we would like to hear from the Minister perhaps a more detailed explanation of the terms of reference of the committee, who the committee has met with, if there have been any kind of preliminary results that they are able to transmit, when we might expect the report of the committee, and what contemplated action the Department of Labour would see ensuing once the report is issued in terms of actual changes in laws, regulations, or standards, that would affect the question, both of fire protection and fire detection within the buildings that are already in existence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think before I mention the few concerns that I have with regard to fire protection and the carrying out of fire protection in the province, I would first of all, and I'm sure I'd have the support of the House in saying, "Hats off to the volunteer fire departments in rural Manitoba." I think that many of us don't take, or do take for granted very often the type of time and effort that is donated by many of the voluntary people, and if it wasn't for them I think there would be many lives and many dollars lost in Manitoba.

The problems of rural Manitoba when it comes to fire fighting I think are possibly known by the Minister, but I would like to at this time point out several.

First of all with the escalating costs of inflation we are experiencing real real difficulties in purchasing equipment. The equipment for instance, the Town of Steinbach bought a pumper last year in excess of \$40,000. And that, Mr. Chairman, is not an extremely big unit; it pumps over 1,000 gallons a minute. It's something that will service the town for a considerable amount of time. But this is the first time they've bought a unit in the last 20 years, and the other one was quite old.

But I'd just like to point out what is happening to the smaller villages such as Niverville who require adequate equipment also, but when you have to pay \$40,000 for a pumper and your assessment base is only \$2.5 million, that means that you're looking at almost a 20 mill levy to buy one particular pumper.

Also I'd like to point out to the Minister and ask the Minister if he couldn't make a submission to his fellow colleagues and ask that they remove the five percent sales tax off fire-fighting equipment. You're looking at a life-saving, a property protecting type of service, and when you have a smaller municipality that has an assessment base as I mentioned from \$2 million to \$2.5 million, the sales tax alone on a pumper like that is one mill, represents one mill in that particular town. I think that these people in these areas, and these slowly developing urban areas, the people want the best type of protection they can for their constituents.

The other question that I would raise, and I mentioned it last year and I think the Minister's department is starting to act on it, and I would like to ask some particulars with regard to the rural training schools being established throughout the province. I wonder if the Minister could give us any guidelines for:

- (1) Funding of these provincial schools.
- (2) Where they will be located.
- (3) The facilities that will be required for the establishment of these regional training schools, and also the areas that have been designated as regions for fire training schools.

I think it's an important aspect of training, the volunteer firemen giving them a basic course in firefighting, whether it be training in the line of nozzle training or mask work, but I think that this possibly could become a vital part in trying to upgrade the volunteer forces in rural Manitoba.

I would again like to ask the Minister to seriously consider making the presentation to his colleagues to remove the five percent sales tax on that. I know it's a small gesture, but it's something that I think the government should be doing away with - as I've mentioned the fire-fighting equipment is a life-saving and also a dollar-saving thing in our communities - and I would ask the Minister to see if he couldn't do something along that line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add one or two words to those of others from this side who have spoken on this particular resolution, and ask the Minister whether he has been in receipt - and I'm sure he has - of some representations from various groups with respect to the merits of introducing early-warning fire-alarm systems in heavily populated areas of the urban communities of the province. And whether he is giving any

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . consideration with his colleagues to making it easier for those kinds of systems to be installed, both from a physical and a financial point of view. I believe all members of the Assembly have had representations, written representations on this subject made to them by the Canadian Society for Fire Detection and Life Safety, and I know that many members of this Assembly, the Member for Fort Rouge for one, the late former Member for Wolseley, Mr. Claydon, and others on this side of the House have spoken up from time to time about the urgent need for proper fire detection and fire warning systems in certain heavily urbanized, heavily, densely populated parts of urban communities, particularly central Winnipeg.

The submissions that have been made to members of the Legislature by organizations such as the one I've just referred to ask whether the government would give consideration to perhaps removing the sales tax from certain fire alarm systems that could be installed in these densely populated residential areas, rooming house areas, and the like, provided the systems installed met necessary standards. The suggestion seems to me to have some merit to be deserving of some consideration by the government as a means of anticipating the danger that exists in such neighborhoods and of eliminating it insofar as it's possible.

I would also be interested in the Minister's comments with respect to the fire situation in Winnipeg generally over the past year, and of course in rural areas too, but specifically Winnipeg, where the number of reported arsons in the current year, the first quarter of the current year, is up some 50 percent over the first three months of 1974. In his capacity as commissioner and supervisor of the welfare of Manitobans in this area, the area of fire and fire protection, I would be interested in the Minister's comments as to what the department, what his office is doing in this respect in concert with the Fire Department of Winnipeg and other fire prevention officials. It's my understanding that there have been arson teams formed, I think largely through the Winnipeg Police Department, to fight the increasing incidence of this kind of crime.

The human factor is the one that we're most concerned with here rather than the financial, however, and hopefully the whole system of fire warning, fire alarms is being upgraded to protect the human factor in all incidents of fire, arson and otherwise, accidental and otherwise. The protection of the financial aspect which is offered through the work of specific anti-arson teams is highly desirable and highly laudable, but hopefully we're all going beyond that aspect of the consideration to the danger to human life itself and the activities necessary in that area.

Can the Minister give us some indication as to his attitude on the availability of home early warning systems, and on the advisability of perhaps making it easier for such systems to be installed throughout the rooming house districts of the community in particular.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I thank the members who have asked questions in respect of this important matter and I appreciate that it is a matter of great concern to all Manitobans. Now I want to say, first of all, that I think that the Member for Swan River is in a bit of an unfortunate position, as I am sometimes, in that report that we received from the Fire Commissioners Department is about a year behind times, that is looking at the chronological aspect. I made enquiries into this, it doesn't seem that there's much that can be done due to the assessment through the various fire insurance companies as to their losses and the like. However, I must say to the committee that the department and the, in this case the fire commissioner, and I consultate with each other quite frequently and he brings me up to, as close to date as possible.

Now when I introduced my estimates there was some statements that I felt that I could make but other matters prevailed and included in those general statements was one answer to the Honourable Member for Swan River as to the total value of loss in the calendar year 1974. He referred to 1973, when it was approximated \$15 million, the figure for 1974 has increased to a figure of about \$22 million. Now we must of course realize, Mr. Chairman, when we look at the dollar figure that we have to take into consideration this is based on valuation of loss in relation to today's real estate costs. And I'm sure my honourable friend would realize that the value of his home in Swan River may or may not have gone up considerably. If it didn't as far as my honourable friend is concerned, I'm sure that generally speaking the total value, sale value or replacement values of property has escalated tremendously, in some

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . instances almost double, over the last two or three years and that is reflected in the figures of escalation of costs. Then there's also a factor, and I can't give the precise answer to it, that there is a greater incident of fire, either because of an improvement in the recording system or simply because there's more fires, which has some bearing on the point raised by my honourable friend.

I think that I should before going further trying to answer some of these questions, indicate to the committee I'm pleased that joining my Deputy and my Director of Research is the Fire Commissioner of the Province of Manitoba, Mr. Gus Thorimbert. He is the gentleman that keeps me informed rather fully as to what is going on in this particular area in the province.

Now certain questions have been raised, I'll try to answer them, but I think first of all, Mr. Chairman, it would be advisable if I were to make one or two comments on some of the precise information that I have before me.

I indicated the property loss figure of 1974 of approximately \$22 million, is the figure up until the end of 1974. I have more up-to-date information insofar as fatalities. There have been 14 fatalities so far this year; which would mean that if the trend continues, an estimated 35 fatal deaths for the calendar year, about half of what occurred last year. Now of course when we're talking about last year, we have to recall one or two major fires, Haslemere Block and the likes of that that occurred, and certainly we are keeping our fingers crossed that there is no repeating this year.

I want to indicate in a formal statement, Mr. Chairman, mention of the action that I have taken in the appointing of a Fire Advisory Committee and a special consultant to undertake a complete assessment of the incidence, causes of fires in the province and ways in which the problem of uncontrolled fires might be dealt with more effectively. I have been very much concerned, a concern which I have made known previously, with the increase which has taken place in the loss of life and property, as well as a high degree of incendiarism which has occurred over the past several months. While it is of little consolation to us here in Manitoba, it is understood that the trend regarding fire losses which occurred in Manitoba has taken place much in the same way in other jurisdictions across the country; it's not just peculiar to Manitoba.

In Manitoba last year there were 72 deaths resulting from fire, many of them caused as a result of incendiarism; the most notable example which I referred to was the Haslemere fire, 9 persons having lost their lives. Premeditated and deliberate setting of fires is of course virtually impossible to guard against and frequently results in the most difficult type of fire to fight, because of the opportunity for planning and the deliberate action involved as opposed to accidentally caused fire. The loss of life in '73 was 35, which was by comparison the lowest of the past four years; while a loss of 72 during 1974 was the worst in the ten-year period since 1964.

Since 1971 the number of fires which have occurred have increased on a progressive scale. There were 3,457 in 1971; this was increased to 5,726 in '74. Correspondingly, the dollar loss has increased and I've referred to that from the table. It is because of what is happening in our province as a result of the uncontrolled fires that we set up the Fire Advisory Committee and asked it to study the situation thoroughly and to advise me with respect as to what is taking place and how we might best deal with this most serious problem. And this is an indication to the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

Shortly after the committee was appointed, they recommended to me that I appoint a qualified consultant to engage in a more detailed and concentrated study regarding certain matters in the field than the advisory committee itself was able to do. I expect to have the report of the consultant and the recommendations of the fire advisory committee by the fall - another answer to my honourable friend from Fort Rouge - and I can assure you that whatever can be done within the bounds of reason will be undertaken in order to reduce as much as possible the loss of life and property caused by fire. So far in 1975 there have been 14 fatalities. If this indicates a trend, it could mean 35 for the year.

I have also, and will now refer to the terms of reference to the committee, and also a list of the personnel serving on the committee - the terms of reference to the advisory committee re fire service training.

The advisory committee shall provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister of Labour on the following matters: (a) The type and extent of training which would be provided

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . by the office of the fire commissioner and community colleagues;
 (b) Methods of training to be adopted and the staffing and implementation of training programs;
 (c) The need or otherwise of a fire academy and its location.

Honourable members may recall a year or so ago I thought that I had a location for a fire college in the province, namely the school at Brandon that was formerly used by the Department of Indian Affairs, but we were not successful in our endeavours in obtaining that building

Item (d) The extent and methods of certification to be provided to course participants;
 (e) The need for and promotion of advanced courses as may be deemed necessary; (f) Such other matters as may be pertinent to the whole question of training with the sanction of, or at the request of the Minister. And (g), Any other matters relating to fire prevention and fire protection that may be deemed advisable.

Now the personnel of that particular committee, Mr. Chairman. The advisory committee is chaired by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour, Mr. J. A. King. Representing the insurance companies in the Canadian Underwriters' Association, is Mr. Al West of Winnipeg, Mr. J. C. Gilmore, City Treasurer of the City of Winnipeg, is on the committee. One of the more prominent members, may I suggest, is the Fire Chief of the City of Winnipeg, Mr. Cam Shewan. Mr. E. Polnick the Fire Chief of the City of Brandon, representing the Manitoba Fire Chiefs Association. My honourable friend from La Verendrye mentioned volunteers. On the committee is Mr. P. Enns, Fire Chief of the Town of Winkler, representing volunteer fire service. Mr. Bill Laird, the President of the Manitoba Professional Fire Fighters is a member of the committee. Mr. J. Greenaway, Senior Consultant, Instruction, Planning and Evaluation of the Community Colleges Division is on the committee, as is the Fire Commissioner of the province.

And now, again, I give you the terms of reference re the study of fire services in the province . . .

MR. BILTON: Would the Honourable Minister permit a question?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I notice in those names that the Honourable Minister read out, I don't see anyone north of Neepawa on that committee. Is there any reason for that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAULLEY: No, I would say to my honourable friend there's no precise reason for that, Mr. Chairman, because the appointees that are on the committee are represented either by brackets of the Fire Underwriters, for instance, the Fire Chiefs Association, both volunteer and through that . . . So they're represented through their organizations, not directly.

Then the terms of reference re the study of Fire Services. There are six general terms of reference:

To examine and report on the increasing incidence of all types of fires and the increasing loss of life due to fire in the province.

To obtain and analyze fire loss data from other provinces and relate them to the same factors in Manitoba.

To examine and analyze the causes of fire, with special attention being paid to the increase in incendiarism and make recommendations as to the ways which the incident of fire may be effectively reduced.

To examine and report on the extent to which substandard or unsafe housing contributes to the cause of fires and loss of life.

To examine and report on the problems of fire protection and fire fighting in the province, noting any special problem peculiar to rural Manitoba.

To assess effectiveness of the overall fire prevention and fire fighting programs as they presently exist and to recommend ways in which they might be improved.

Those are the general terms of reference.

My honourable friend the Member for Fort Rouge wonders whether or not I have recently received any report from the consultant insofar as his activity in the fire services inquiry. I read now a brief report from Mr. Claude Wright, Professional Engineer who we engaged as our consultant to the department in these important areas:

"This is a brief report on the progress of my work as a consultant on the Fire Prevention and Protection in Manitoba. In studying the fire problem, initial attention has been directed

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . "toward an examination of the increasing incident of all types of fires and the increase of loss of life due to fire in the province. By relating statistics to all possible factors it is hoped to determine the cause or causes of the increasing incident of fires and thereby develop recommendations which would enable those in authority to take corrective measures.

"On January 29th last, a questionnaire was sent to 142 fire chiefs within the province, together with a letter, a copy of which is attached. When these questionnaires have been completed and returned they will assist us to make a detailed study of the effectiveness of fire prevention and protection in Manitoba. To date" - and this was at the end of March - "to date 44 completed forms have been reviewed and in view of the small number of follow-up, a follow-up letter has gone out to the chiefs requesting they give the matter their early attention,

"In February last, a meeting was held in Brandon discussing fire problems with both the Brandon Fire Chief and members of the Fire Commissioners' office located in Brandon. In March, the Fire Commissioner and Mr. Wright met with the Fire Marshal of Minnesota in St. Paul to discuss problems in connection with any terms of reference as it relates to Manitoba.

The fire chiefs were holding their annual meeting in Brandon, and Mr. Wright was going to take part in discussions which would provide an opportunity to discuss the rising incidence of fire and fire service. And then the report goes on to talk of future activities. And then, more recently, I'm informed by Mr. Wright that the protest is going on. It wasn't too long ago, I would suggest, (When was that meeting the joint chiefs in the western part held a conference with the - that discussion that took place with the possibility of setting up regional . . . - that was in Brandon, wasn't it?) Excuse me for the cross discussion.

I'm knowledgeable of the fact that in order to have a more complete co-operation and understanding of our objectives with the various fire chiefs and departments, a meeting was held of a regional nature in Brandon in May, at which discussions took place of many of the problems that are being met or encountered by the various communities, including the purchasing of fire equipment and the sharing of fire equipment in communities. The Member for La Verendrye mentioned a pumper, a pumper somewhere to the degree of \$40,000. He was relating it to a mill, I believe, and also relating it to the return to the treasury as the result of the sales tax. And the purpose of the type of meeting that was held is to see whether or not there isn't some possible way, in some of the towns at least, of a greater degree of sharing of equipment in the areas so that it won't be necessary for individual communities to have to absorb the costs of pretty expensive equipment. And that is the reason that we're holding these meetings.

I had the opportunity of going up North - I believe it was to Snow Lake - to participate in the opening of the new fire hall in that community, which was quite a nice deal. I didn't get there on time, Mr. Chairman, due to having to land in Winnipegosis as a result of weather conditions, and we were stymied there for almost half a day. But anyway, I point out that just as an incident of what is happening in Northern Manitoba as well, that there's a greater effort being made . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: If I may interrupt the Minister, it appears that he is answering the question generally. But before he does, I appreciated his report; and he talked of some 70-odd deaths last year and some 40 deaths this year thus far from fires. Am I right?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, if it came across that the member thought I said 40, it's 14.

MR. BILTON: Well even at that, Mr. Minister, I'm sure you'll agree that this is appalling. I was wondering - you may not be able to answer the question - but I wonder how many children, unattended, were in that number that have been reported.

MR. PAULLEY: You mean in this 1975 list?

MR. BILTON: The 1974.

MR. PAULLEY: The Commissioner will try and get those figures for me, Mr. Chairman, The Honourable Member for Swan River - and we'll try and get that figure - the Honourable Member for Swan River made reference to a school in Swan River wherein considerable expenditures were required to update the fire and safety provisions in the school. I had quite a conversation between the Commissioner's office, the school boards and the Council of the Town of Swan River in respect of this, and it was recognized the necessity of the expenditure.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) The complaint basically was, why weren't we told about this at the time of the building of the school? Well there has been an updating two ways. There has been an updating in the requirements of fire protection in public buildings - and my honourable friend mentioned that it seems that more attention is being paid now to inspections - and this goes for schools and hotels and hospitals and the whole gamut. I want to say that that comes about as a result of a more detailed investigation into the incident, coupled with of course the fact that the staff of the Fire Commissioner's office has been increased and will continue to be increased to allow more people to make more inspections, and this is one of the reasons. But the outcome of the incident, as I recall it, at Swan River was relatively amicable. There were a considerable number of items that were marginal that at first, when they were drawn to the attention of the board, should have been done immediately, but a continuing program of upgrading has resulted, I believe, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Now, if I may, I believe I have the figure now. The question raised by my honourable friend, the incidence so far this year, two children - fatalities in fire - that were unattended, this year. Last year, two. In 1974.

Now, the honourable member, I trust that I've explained the situation prevailing at that school. He raised the question of the interest being exhibited by the Indian and the Metis groups in fire on Reserves and the like, and I've had a fair amount of correspondence between particularly the Native Women's Association, I believe it is, drawing this to my attention, and I'm hoping to meet with them before too long so that we can have personal conversation as to their problems. Their documentation was good, and certainly was not ignored, and more consultations will take place. And it is a great problem. It is a great problem as far as housing accommodation, as far as fire-fighting equipment and the like, particularly on the reserves, which I'm sure my honourable friend will recognize basically is the responsibility of the federal authority and not the provincial authority except, as I understand it and the Commissioner will correct me if I'm wrong, unless there's a fatality as a result of fire, and then the Provincial Fire Commissioner's office acts in the capacity as investigator as to the cause on behalf of the Federal authority. But we have some hope.

MR. BILTON: Is the Minister telling us that there's no co-operation between the Provincial Fire Commissioner's office and that of the Indian Department in the overseeing of these Indian Reserves and these dwellings and homes and so on?

MR. PAULLEY: No, Mr. Chairman, I'm not saying that at all, and if my honourable friend had just allowed me a few more moments, I would be able to inform him more precisely of the type of co-operation that is going on between the federal authority and the provincial authority. As a matter of fact, there was a rather intensified study undertaken by the federal authority into fire protection and the possibility of the incidence of fire on the reserves over the last couple of years, and the person that conducted - or one of the persons who conducted the survey was the former Fire Commissioner, Norman Campbell of Manitoba, and that report is in the process of being considered and action taken. Also others have been involved in it.

Another activity that is going on at the present time indicating the sharing between the federal and the provincial authorities is, honourable members will note, in the estimates for the Fire Commissioner's department, under Fire Prevention, Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement of \$59,000, and this is for the precise involvement between Manitoba and Canada into a more comprehensive involvement into fire protection on the reserves. There are provisions for some capital expenditure for fire-fighting equipment and fire prevention devices, and the likes of that, under the new agreement, or a recent agreement entered into between Canada and Manitoba. So more intensified interest is being shown in the area of the reserve. I believe we also have, at the present time, requisitions in for one or two additional fire inspectors in order to help us extend the involvement by way of inspection into these various areas. I think that generally deals with the questions raised by my friend from Swan River.

The few points that were raised by both the Honourable Members for Fort Rouge and Fort Garry dealing with the question of high rise apartments and fire warning devices and the like, the Member for Fort Garry asked me whether I had received correspondence in connection with this by people who are concerned and are reasonably elderly, about fire devices and escapes and the likes of that. The answer is yes, I have, and they have been acknowledged, and where they were under local authority, as indeed fire inspection generally where there is no fatality, it is under the responsibility of the respective municipal government. And I've had

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . great co-operation, as I'm sure the Fire Commissioner has had, with the Fire Chief of the City of Winnipeg and they also, in concert with our more detailed investigation into fire prevention and the like, are having a similar study in an attempt to upgrade or at least provide whereby the building by-laws may be able to be amended or make it a greater requirement for upgrading fire safety and fire concerns of many of our older buildings. There are some legal problems, I'm informed, in being able to simply walk in and say that you have to do this, you have to do that, and I'm sure that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge knows that, while a considerable number of homes are being occupied that should be vacated, the fact of the matter is - and it's unfortunate that this has to be said - that there is also a lack of places for the people to be able to be domiciled. That's no excuse for not having adequate fire protection and I'm not trying to duck the issue on that basis.

A question was raised about the question of early warning devices, and there's quite a difference of opinion as to the usefulness or otherwise of such things as smoke detectors that would give early warning, because of the fact that it, in some people's opinion, creates a sense of false security to the inhabitants in the building. There are those who figure simply because there's a smoke-activated warning device in the ceiling that they don't have to worry about it if it doesn't go off. Sometimes it doesn't go off, and the Canadian Safety Council have seen fit to reject a considerable number of devices that have been put on the market because of that. As a matter of fact, I don't know if my honourable friend the Member for Brandon West is aware of an incident there in Brandon, and I'm not pointing and picking out Brandon by any means, but I did receive information that a fire warning device was being sold that was not approved either by our Fire Commissioner's office or by the Canadian Standards Association, and there was quite a lot of fervour raised by one or two because it appeared as though democracy was being thwarted in that the bureaucrats had said, "That's got to come off the market." So I'm only using it - Brandon - because that was where it happened, and I recall a certain radio program that made remarks: "Here's those damn bureaucrats down on Broadway depriving a guy of an honest living," when all that was being done was to attempt to take off of the market a warning device that people thought would give them the protection or warning that they needed, which would have unfortunately given them a false sense of security.

Now when we talk about building construction, high rise apartment or low rise apartment buildings, one of the biggest difficulties is encountered in the fire-fighting areas - not the building itself, but what goes into the building. We all know that many of the materials that are used in furniture construction are very flammable, and buildings are built, some having sprinklers and other devices, using non-flammable materials, and lo and behold the furniture comes in made of foam rubber and other materials, and vinyls, that are very flammable - and bingo, we've got a greater incidence of fires.

A MEMBER: A blazing inferno.

MR. PAULLEY: A blazing inferno is correct. So that's my comment, I would suggest, insofar as early warning devices are concerned. Unless we're absolutely sure, or as sure as we can, that they're approved and authorized, a false sense of security arises.

Five percent sales tax? Yes, I will inform the House that I've had representation after representation from the various communities, various fire associations and chiefs, asking me to see what I can do to consider the removal of the five percent sales tax from the cost of fire-fighting equipment. All I can say to my colleagues, I have drawn it to the attention of the Finance Department and the matter is under consideration. That's about as far as I can go.

A MEMBER: Oh brother.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh brother, that's right. But I don't know, Mr. Chairman, whether I've omitted reference to many of the points. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye did raise a question about rural training schools. The answer is yes, there are training schools going on - true, not in the sense of training facilities such as a college or the likes, but they're going on. The Fire Commissioner is travelling from time to time to various areas. I had an invitation just yesterday or the day before to go to Boissevain to attend a fire-training school there. I was at one at Brandon; I've been at a number of them, and they're very useful. As far as the funding is concerned, that is a matter that I'm sure when the advisory committee makes its report to me, together with the consultant, I'll have more precise information and recommendations.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I have generally answered questions as I noted them. If there

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . are any more, I would be pleased to try and answer them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for his extensive answer, but I'm afraid he still doesn't answer the question. He defined for us the terms of reference of this committee, but I'm still not satisfied that under those terms of reference there appears to be a special consideration being given to what is in effect a brand new fire problem, and that is the problem of high rise buildings, those which are above 12 storeys, which are a very recent phenomenon - they've only been with us probably in this city for about the last eight or 10 years. They require, from my assessment, a totally different scale of responses to the problem, ranging all the way through design, through the forms of fire fighting, the question of the kind of practices that go on in high rise office buildings and in apartment buildings, such things as fire drills, and the kinds of warning systems, and the kinds of rules and regulations that are required to be posted; and the Minister didn't really tell me whether singularly as part of this committee or in combination with other jurisdictions in Canada, whether in fact there is a specific emphasis or examination being made of the overall problem of fire safety and hazards in high rise office and apartment buildings, and whether in fact we will be not only undertaking a general review of fire prevention in the Province of Manitoba in fire training, but in fact be looking at that specific problem and in fact look at specific kinds of test projects. Because again, it's my understanding that if we look at the experience in some American cities, that the only way to get proper answers is to in fact undertake a series of experimental projects.

That's why I ask specifically if the Government of Manitoba, which in itself is one of the biggest builders in terms of its own housing construction program, is prepared or willing to specifically undertake some of the assessments and testing of different kinds of equipment, different kinds of procedures, different forms of, to give an example, fire safety elevators, the way in which the ventilation corridor systems should be used as stairwells, the use of voice communication systems - a whole range of different techniques that should be examined, tested, determined of the costs and the benefits and the feasibility of them, and whether in fact the Government itself, as part of its re-examination that is going on, is in fact using that kind of prototype or type of examination so that we can get some decent answers, because I think it's important to mention, Mr. Chairman, that this is not a problem that's just static. I know that we're not building any apartments in Winnipeg right now, and that's a problem we'll have to deal with with the Minister of Urban Affairs, but 50 percent of the housing that will be built in this city over the next five, ten, 15, 20 years, will be high rise buildings, and I would project, for example, that while we may have about eight or 10 senior citizen high rise towers at the present moment, in ten years we will have 25 or 30, and therefore the possibility of some form of major fire occurring, the mathematical possibility, just increases multifold.

It would seem now is the time to get those kinds of answers, and I still haven't heard from the Minister that that is a specific area of investigation, of examination, that covers the full range all the way from training and education of architects and designers through to the specific construction of these buildings, through to the kinds of rules and regulations that require certain kinds of fire drill practices, down to the question of the actual format that's followed when a fire breaks out and is dealt with. That is the kind of answer we'd like to have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether or not the honourable member listened when I listed the terms of reference, and while he may be correct, in order to make him correct, that there was no specific reference to high rise apartments, surely that is included in the overall investigation and to the incidence, causes and prevention of fires. Now I had the honour of being with the Association of the Fire Chiefs of Canada at their annual meeting here not so long ago, and one of the matters under discussion was the question of high rise apartments and the relationship to fire. There were panels of the fire chiefs, the fire commissioners from across Canada at that convention on this precise problem. And it is a problem. At the present time, the National Research Council, in conjunction with the fire chiefs and the Fire Commissioners Association of Canada, are looking into this problem; and so I want to say to my honourable friend, in all due respect, that it's not a peculiar problem of only his concern; it's going on with all of us that are concerned with the incidence of fire and proper construction of buildings.

As a matter of fact, at the convention that I referred to there was a chap, an inventor

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . from Vancouver, who had on display a sort of an internal-operated fire escape that you could go down storey by storey over the 12th floor level, that he's been working on for some considerable time, and it hasn't been accepted as yet. In co-operation, as I say, with the National Research Council and the various Fire Chiefs departments also under the National Building Code, in which we are participant, investigations are continuously going on. That's the only answer I can give to my honourable friend - there's a co-operative effort going on. It's true that high rise apartments are being built to a greater degree than they ever were before, there's no question or doubt, due to some degree to increased land costs, but I can assure him that it's not a forgotten matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 75 (a). The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Just a matter of clarification, Mr. Chairman, I wonder - coming back to the rural training schools - is there a policy being developed by the department at the present time i. e. the training schools? I understand that different areas in Manitoba have been asked to submit requests for training schools, and there has also been certain facilities stipulated if they want the particular school in their area, and I'm wondering if the Minister could elaborate a little more on that, because I've had several conversations with people in my area who have been asking questions about it. I understand that possibly Winkler has been designated as one of the areas and that there have been approaches made to Steinbach, and I wonder if the Minister could elaborate on that a little more, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, had the honourable member listened - maybe I should send them a copy of the terms of reference to the advisory committee re training service, fire service training. One of the items for consideration of the advisory committee is the methods of training to be adopted and the staffing and implementation of training programs, so we are involved with the advisory committee - and I'm not trying to slough off to a committee what may be considered as my personal responsibility, but one cannot operate alone. That is one of the areas, and then also where they should be domiciled is also a matter that's being given consideration. I say to my honourable friend, as far as the town of Winkler is concerned it's one of a few areas in that general district that is under consideration as being the headquarters for the training area. It doesn't necessarily mean that it will be Winkler. All I can say to my friend is that yes, we are having this, and these are some of the terms of reference to the advisory committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: If I understand the Minister correctly, the, this advisory committee is sort of sending out feelers and asking for response from the different agencies involved, with the different municipalities and urban municipalities involved, for input into developing a policy that the government will be undertaking?

MR. PAULLEY: No, they will not be developing the policy. That policy will be developed in the Fire Commissioner's office and my own, as far as the actual policy, but the reason the questionnaires are being sent out across the province is to assist the consultant to the committee to have local opinion before policy is really arrived at. And that's the objective of it, and I quite frankly think that that's a proper method of having the preliminary, at least, assessments made. If we don't ask opinions, well then we tend to become dictatorial, and that's not our intent at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: I thank the Minister for his remarks along that line. It was my concern - I wanted to know if the Minister and his department was in the process of developing a policy or if there was a concrete policy already. Those are the questions that have been asked of me and that's the question I asked of the Minister, and I would at this time encourage the lines along which the Minister's department is going right now. I think, as I mentioned before, it's a very good thing as far as rural Manitoba is concerned if we can set up these schools and train our voluntary people to be better equipped to handle any emergency situations that crop up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 75 (a) - passed; (b) - passed; (c) - The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, this is a new item in the estimates this year. It didn't exist in the estimates for last year, the Canada - Manitoba Northlands Agreement. I

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . wonder if the Minister could take one minute and explain it to the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Maybe, Mr. Chairman, I could take less than one minute and ask my honourable friend if he would read Hansard, because I did refer to the agreement as being a co-operative undertaken under the Northlands Agreement between the federal and provincial authorities to provide greater fire prevention facilities to share in the cost of, under the agreement - I believe it's a 50-50 agreement - to share in the cost of provision of what is deemed to be fire-fighting equipment, to try and share and to try and have greater impetus in fire inspection, particularly on the reserves, and the reason for the joint action is because it was deemed that the expertise insofar as fire inspection, fire facilities, is vested in the Provincial Fire Commissioner rather than in the Federal, and the reason it's under the estimates of the Department of Labour is because under the terms of the agreement it will be operated through the Fire Commissioner's and the staff will be provided and trained through the Fire Commissioner's Office.

MR. SHERMAN: And that applies to remote rural and northern areas generally, or is it just to Indian Reserves? Is it to all - is it to remote areas generally?

MR. PAULLEY: Generally speaking, it will involve the remote areas. The answer to that is yes. It's not our objective just simply to take the boundary lines around the reserve and say, "well then, you get around over the boundary line, that's none of our business." It's our business at the present time in any case, but in this way where there are straddling communities, straddling the reserve and the non-reserve, the Indian and the Metis and the likes of that, they will all be given consideration; and our objective is not where they are or who they are, but the fact that they're human and that their commodity (sic) should be upgraded in this particular area, and this is our joint venture with the federal authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 75 (c) - passed; 75. Resolve that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$230,000 for Labour. Passed.

Resolution 76, Research. Salaries - the Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I do have a couple of questions of the Minister at this time and I promise that I won't be long and won't keep him too long on this particular question, but I would like to know what is the Minister's intention and what will he do with respect to the Woods Review Committee, which has made recommendations, and particularly with the public sector. Will the Minister be bringing any legislation with respect, maybe not this session but next session, and I think that we should know - will he keep the Woods Committee again in operation, or will he be establishing some sort of a zone study within the province again this year?

The other point that I wish to raise with the Minister at the present time is in respect to any kind of research that is at the present time being done in respect to Manpower, and I'm sure that the Minister is aware that in the last several months unemployment in the United States has been rising, and it's over 9 percent at the present time, which I understand is the highest it's ever been in some 30 years. This must be certainly something that we just can't overlook, and if this is something that is happening here I believe that the Minister should definitely have some kind of research, some kind of manpower study, and see what kind of action he can take if our unemployment does start to rise in, say, the next several months. We cannot afford to wait until that thing happens, because then when you start to implement any kind of plans and course of action, it takes some several months, at least six months, to implement anything. So I think it's not good enough to say, "Well we haven't got the problem here; we're just not doing anything about it." I think there should be some kind of --(Interjection)-- Well I feel that - I don't know what the Minister said, something from his seat: "I haven't heard . . ."

MR. PAULLEY: I said you haven't heard from me that it's no problem for us.

MR. PATRICK: Oh. Well I didn't say that the Minister said that, but I said we can't assume that there'll be no problems. I feel that the Minister has to be keeping a very close watch on the situation, and I think that there should be some kind of manpower studies done at the present time so that he can have some course of action if the situation gets more serious. So I do feel that there has to be some kind of research done in this area, and perhaps the Minister has got something going at the present time and maybe he can tell the House what it is.

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . The other point, I would like to hear what his intentions are as far as the recommendations of the Woods Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: The first point I wish to touch on is the recommendations of the Woods Committee. I indicated to my honourable friend in the committee, I believe it was yesterday, that notifications had been sent out to those who had been recommended as being members of the continuing committee of advisers to the Woods Committee, being representatives of educational facilities, industry, labour, and others concerned. So, as far as the recommendations of the Woods Committee, the ongoing committee in concert with the various areas to whom the recommendations were directed, will continue to research in those respective areas. And it's ongoing. As I indicated, the notice of the first meeting, I believe, is going to be sent out early next week and the committee will meet very very shortly just to do precisely what I'm sure that the Honourable Member for Assiniboia has in mind. So it's going to be a continuing review of the recommendations.

My honourable friend made reference to some recommendations when we were discussing the matter of the position of his Leader and conciliation services and the like. We won't go back into that really, but this is an indication. I'm trying to indicate that it's that type of thing that will be given a continuing investigation through the research facilities and the committee, and as far as the contribution, financial contribution, it's not delineated, but Professor Woods has never really come in to complain to me that I've been so penny pinching, despite some accusations, that they haven't been able to function reasonably properly. They have now asked me if I can go so far as to supply, or get the Minister of Public Works to supply, some accommodation where the secretary and the chairman can have an office to continue the very thing that the member is suggesting. So that is going on.

The member also mentioned matters of research and manpower and the incidence of unemployment in the United States. I regret very much that such a wealthy country has made an announcement within the last couple of days of the incidence of unemployment there of 9 percent, which is the highest I believe in the last ten, fifteen years, or since 1940, that that is there. Certainly we're going to do our utmost to see that it doesn't happen here. But it can; and we're doing, through the process of research and involvement, intensified study into the manpower situation. We have a sub-committee of cabinet. It doesn't matter that it happens to be that I am the Chairman of it, but we have an involvement. Not just the Department of Labour; we are part of a team researching into manpower, the need, the availability and the programs for development if unemployment rises, and we have representatives of the Department of Industry and Commerce, Finance, Planning Committee of Cabinet, the Department of Labour, the Department of Community Colleges and Education. We're all combined in a united effort in this Manpower Committee to seek out the answers that I'm sure are in the mind of my honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia.

I might say that this committee meets regularly. We have some proposals that are in the formation stage at the present time, that if unfortunately unemployment increases in Manitoba, we can make recommendations to Cabinet as to start-ups. My colleague, the Minister of Corrections, announced the start-up of a new facility at Brandon. In some way that was related to the information that we were able to obtain, that there seems to be a bit of a rise, in the construction industry, of unemployment. That is one of the start-ups, and the degree of speed of accomplishing the building will, to some degree at least, relate to the incidence of unemployment. So I assure my honourable friend that this is the type of thing that's going on as far as research is concerned, combined effort.

Now as far as research in the Department of Labour is concerned, the item we're specifically dealing with, that's research, internal research for information and statistics of the incidents of the violation of the minimum wage and other points, legislation, that my colleague, the Director of Research, Mr. Cam Shepherd, works on constantly to feed me with information.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the research program in the department as it was originally envisioned, as I understand, was designed to initiate apprenticeship training programs to match up skilled trades, skilled craftsmen, with industrial needs. Is that not correct that basically the research concept, the research program, started from that initiative and that perspective.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, it's perfectly correct that in the original start-up of the research that was one of the reasons it was started up. We've advanced since then, both in - I believe the number in the research now has been doubled; I think it was from one to two, or something like that. But anyway, in addition to that, so far as the research and the apprentice, we've now changed our legislation and changed the format in the field of apprenticeship to the Apprentice and Trade Qualification Advisory Board. So much of that is now being done, but at the same time there is the involvement, as the honourable member refers, of the research section into apprentices. But it's also involved in the field of the Women's Bureau to some degree, and in employment standards in other areas as well, but it has expanded. But you're quite correct. Originally that was the start-up.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, is it still doing work in that field, within the original parameters for which it was established? And secondly, does its scope of responsibility go beyond that into research into labour relations techniques? Would that field come under the area of labour relations purely, rather than under research? That is, is the research division experimenting, studying researching, with new techniques in the whole field of labour relations?

MR. PAULLEY: . . . answer is - and I'll just confirm from my Director of Research - the answer of involvement, thinking of the Woods Committee just for a second, that the Director of Research is the Secretary of the Woods Committee which is investigating into all of these problems. There still is a relationship insofar as the apprentice training is concerned, but on a lesser involvement. So far as the field of labour relations, apart from the Woods Committee, the Research Department provides me with answers to questions that I raise - of course with the involvement of the Deputy Minister - questions that I raise as to legislation in other jurisdictions pertaining to labour matters and labour relations. So that's the general broad area in which they work, apart from those that I listed for the Member for Assiniboia.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 76 (a)-passed. (b)-passed. Resolution 76. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$162,900 for Labour. Passed.

Resolution 77 (a). Women's Bureau. Salaries. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I hope you will give me just a second to put on a badge that has received some notoriety across Canada, and the words on the badge, "Why Not?" And I'm wearing that badge at this particular time while we're dealing with the estimates of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labour, which we established a couple of years ago.

I want to indicate to the honourable members a fact that this year has been declared as the year of recognition of women as a vital force in the community and of nations across the world, and this is International Women's Year. And I would like to pay a tribute to the women for their involvement in the field of labour. In particular, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I inform the House that the Director of the Women's Bureau, Mrs. Mary Eady, is at the present time in Geneva, Switzerland, at the International Labour Organizations Conference, representing not only the Province of Manitoba, but as an assistant and adviser to the federal department as well. I will be receiving from her, information from time to time as to what is transpiring in Geneva at the convention from June 4th to the 25th.

I also want to indicate that we are, within the department, giving due recognition to the fact that this is International Women's Year, and in the process of publication at the present time is a document to be named The Women's Place in Manitoba Law. This is a comprehensive piece of literature that we hope to be able to distribute around about the end of June to the public, indicating what are the rights, privileges and opportunities of women in the law in the Province of Manitoba. Unless anyone feels that because it happens to be a women's bureau, that all of the participants are women, I want to say that with our summer students that we have engaged to help out certain surveys this year, there happen to be two men working in the Women's Bureau, to indicate that women haven't taken over absolutely and completely to the

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) degree. But they are going a good job. And the Women's Bureau in the province is at the present time conducting seminars, going out into the schools and they're trying to bring about a greater understanding of the problems of women in the work force. In Manitoba we have one of the greatest percentage participation rates of women in industry than anywhere across Canada. I think much of it is due to the fact that the governments of Manitoba have seen fit to encourage women - and industry - to become co-participants in matters and an involvement of women in industry. I wonder if the pages would mind distributing two documents that I have that I think will be of interest. I trust that there are enough to go around. If not, maybe they can be shared.

What we are attempting to do, in co-operation also with various groups within the province, is to attempt to co-operate with the Status for Women Committee, for instance, of Manitoba, in furthering consideration of the report which was received a few years ago, the Commission on the Status of Women. I think the percentage record indicates that, as far as we are concerned in Manitoba, our record is reasonably good in that we have established, to a great degree, the recommendations that were made by that Commission, such areas as recognition of the home workers under employment standards and a few other items, changes in our Equal Pay Act to make it more possible for women to receive equal pay with men.

I could go on for some considerable time, Mr. Chairman, indicating what is being done. I know that I could be criticized for what is not being done, but I guess that's the norm today and it's one that we have to accept. I know that one or two of the ladies that are involved in the status of Women Committee are disappointed because I didn't make available a considerable amount of money for their use just at the present time, and I do want to say, however, that the estimates reflect some increase of \$18,000, to indicate the greater impetus that we're putting into the activities of the women of the province. I don't know whether it would be a shock or not to some members of the committee to know that I have been designated as the Minister to co-operate with the Honourable Marc Lalonde to represent Manitoba on the Women's Committee. I regret to have to announce, though - I say this to my two honourable friends in the Liberal Party - that we haven't had a meeting yet to see what we're going to do completely insofar as Women's Year is concerned. However, we are going to have a caravan tour of the province under our joint auspices, to try and inform women as to their rights in the Province of Manitoba, and we're trying to induce industry and others concerned to go into hiring practices involving more women.

I had the honour, the pleasure of meeting with the General Manager of the International Nickel Company - this would be about two years ago in my office - Mr. Munn is his name - and he asked me what I would think as Minister of Labour if INCO started to hire women to work in the mining industry. I said, "Why not". I don't know if that's where the symbol came from or not, but I said, "Why not", and as a result, there are I think somewhere around about 20 women working at the present time at Thompson at INCO mine - not underground as yet because of some problems that they have. It's the understanding that there are no underground miners that are female at the present time. Maybe when our apprentice scheme gets into full effect in the mining industry, there will be.

We're also trying to encourage through the Women's Bureau a greater involvement in the provision of day care centres for working mothers. These activities are ongoing and the reports that come to me, generally speaking, are favourable and support the concept and there is the appreciation of the involvement of Mrs. Eady, the Director, and her staff. I might say that they're one of those groups of people that do not punch in and punch out as far as time is concerned - they're on the go from morn to night - and I appreciate their activities.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that's about all that I wish to say precisely at the present time. I want to just re-emphasize the importance of this being the year recognized as International Women's Year. We have representatives here in the Province of Manitoba apart from the Women's Bureau and an information van, as I said, will be travelling throughout Manitoba to participate in community activities, local fairs, etc., and materials included will be from both the federal and provincial sources - pamphlets, films, slides, speaking arrangements, and the likes of that.

I know there may be some further remarks on this, Mr. Chairman, but I leave it to my male members, fellow members - I've had the honour, some may not have had the honour, of being a member of the Assembly during which time we had some women members. I think

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) maybe it's regrettable - I shouldn't say I think it may be - it's regrettable. I might say as an old-timer, advisedly, that I miss them. I'm glad that I can say, however, insofar as the presence of women happens to be concerned, that the Speaker of the House saw fit a year or two ago to change the appearance of some of the page-boys, I suppose is the word I should use rather than page boys, in that we have had over the last couple of years or so very attractive young ladies assisting us in our daily duties.

So, with those few words, Mr. Chairman, I pay a tribute to the involvement of women in the international field - more and more they are taking a part in the affairs of the community. We in our department, as is evident, established a Women's Bureau which is doing a good job and no longer, no longer is, in my opinion at least, strictly a male domain.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Walding): The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I note the pamphlet that the Minister has circulated on the Women's Bureau with great interest. I also note that the staff, the office staff and the directorship cited on the back page does not contain the names of any male members although I take the Minister's word at face value - he said there were some summer students working there, male summer students working there, and that's very admirable and I wonder whether since there are summer male students working in the Women's Bureau whether the Minister has gone so far as to appoint any women, either summer or winter, to the Manitoba Labour - or consider appointing any women to the Manitoba Labour Board or the Labour Management Review Committee or the Provincial Apprenticeship Board or boards or agencies of that type in the administrative field of labour?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I'm very happy to be able to answer my honourable friend with a "yes I have". There are two women on the Labour Board as alternatives - one for labour incidentally, one for management, so we even have equality there. On the Minimum Wage Board appointed by the government, we have - on the Minimum Wage Board, we have two women. And my Director of Research informs me three to the Woods Committee have just been appointed through my letters that I referred to. Also, I may say that the Director of Employment Standards in the Department of Labour is of the female sex.

I might say, too, that in another capacity that I have, the Civil Service Commission, we've taken on staff as one of the senior officers just recently a Co-ordinator for Equal Opportunities for Women - it happens to be that it is a female as well. We're trying as much as we can. Just recently a lady was appointed as a labour inspector in the Department of Labour in the Employment Standards area. This is not only going on in the Department of Labour, but it's going on in other departments as well.

I would suggest that while we haven't got what some might term "complete equality" in the male and female in the higher brackets in the Civil Service or the Department of Labour, we're getting closer than ever before, and there's no barriers any longer being placed, that we're knowledgeable of, to women being accepted into senior positions. It could conceivably be happening that some still are sort of reluctant to promote women because they are women, but I would suggest that is diminishing rapidly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, that information from the Minister is gratifying, I'm sure, certainly to all women and to all of us who are interested in equality and fairness. He mentioned there might be some reluctance on the part of some employees to meet the desired targets of equality that we as a province are aiming at, and I'm wondering whether in that respect the government has laid down or plans to lay down any guidelines for both the public and the private sector to achieve equality for women in the working force and how far we've got in terms of achieving the desired principle of equal pay for equal work.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to make a reference to the last statement. It isn't a question of equal pay for equal work, it's a question of equal pay for similar, substantially similar work, and that has been the policy of this government. I believe even during the term of the former administration, although we did change the Act somewhat.

What is confusing is when we try to get into statistics and into figures trying to equate equality, because there are more women, of course, in the area of the likes of the Civil Service than there are males and many are wont to sort of say, well, we've got 20 females obtaining so much in salary, and then, we've got ten men who get twice as much wages as the

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) 20 women and they use that statistically to say, well, that proves that there's inequality. And I reject that concept. I say that there is no barrier as far as the Civil Service is concerned, or as far as I'm aware, to the employment of any female in any job that is open - no barrier because of the fact of sex.

I find it - and now I speak as the Minister responsible for the Civil Service just for a moment - I find it regrettable that when we advertise for many senior positions, a dearth of applications coming from women. Most of the applicants for these jobs still are male and we don't have much choice. --(Interjection)--Well, yes - the Honourable Member for Morris says, "Let's force equality on them". --(Interjection)--Well, that could well be. But the point I'm trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that we are attempting to change the ratio. Not deliberately, because if we attempted to do that, then we would be accused of discriminating in favour of women. Well, they're nice, and my age doesn't prevent me from discriminating in their favour either if I can get away with it. But the point that I'm trying to make is that when we receive applications, at least up until just recently, there's not very many and of course, this, I think, reflects possibly back to the little historic facts of life that in many of the areas of senior categories there was a noninvolvement at the university and the colleges to the same degree that there is today. I think it will level itself off, but we have made a considerable number of appointments of the female sex in what one would term senior positions. Now we can't have a woman Minister of Labour because there aren't any women. Chances are with the activities that are going on in the female sector these days, if we had a woman member of government, she would be a Cabinet Minister, and I would trust it wouldn't be because since she was a woman, but women have the capabilities of filling these jobs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I think that we should be required to perhaps present a little bit more of a critical analysis of some of the Minister's statements that he himself seems to be prepared to offer. I think that his announcement that the Government of Manitoba fully joins in recognition of International Women's Year means that members of this House must respond in due kind, and that is to ensure that we give a proper assessment of what is taking place. I'm afraid, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister has attempted to paint a picture which shows progress, advancement, and achievement in this area and seems to indicate that the Government of Manitoba is doing everything under its power to push the question of women's rights and the overcoming of the inequalities along, and I would want to take issue with that statement because I don't think the facts bear him out. Not only is it expected, I think it's required, because I think that it would be a false impression and a wrong impression, to present that case at this particular time.

I would simply point to one basic fact, and that is that while there seems to be some general impression that women are able to acquire a better place in society, one simple statistic disproves that, and that is that the gap between incomes of men and women is widening, not decreasing and that is--(Interjection)--well, you see, the Minister says let's not talk about statistics. Well, I think there is usefulness to statistics. He loves to parade in this House monthly and tell us what a wonderful story on labour and unemployment statistics there are in the Province of Manitoba. We have attempted to show that perhaps those gross figures aren't totally accurate, that they don't portray softness and weaknesses in the areas. I think on the same basis that we must look at the questionable fact that in the Province of Manitoba - I don't single it out alone because I think it's true in every province - that the income position of women relative to males is poorer than it was ten years ago and that that should be no cause for satisfaction by members of this House.

I think one of the reasons for it, Mr. Chairman, is that it's been pretty well demonstrated that the whole idea of the equal pay legislation is pretty much useless when it comes to providing any protection or advancement of rights. I think that the Royal Commission in Ontario that just met - I think it concluded its hearings about a year ago - amply demonstrated that not only is the legislation itself almost useless in terms of providing for the proper protection, but the enforcement of such legislation is totally neglected, and that provincial and municipal governments who are charged with the enforcement tend to ignore it, and that there is virtually no efforts of enforcement of such legislation in these areas. As a result, the "equal pay" concept does not work. And I again must take issue in part with the Minister when he says we're doing all we should be doing, that we say to him: Well, is that so? Then

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) why is it not at this Session, rather than bringing in other equal pay for equal legislation work, that we would establish the fact that the ILO in its 1972 convention asked for the concept of equal remuneration with job evaluation, that we should adopt that convention as part of our basic requirement; and instead of doing that, there isn't a province of this country that's done it, nor has the Federal Government done it.

So here is an obvious step where the government could have taken a much more serious and probably comprehensive approach to the problem. It's had the opportunity since 1972. The Minister doesn't seem to be much interested in this particular topic because he doesn't seem to want to stay in the Chamber when we're discussing it, which I think may be a reflection of the actual attitude that is being displayed in this issue itself; that is, if you have to hear unpleasant facts, you just close your ears and close your eyes so you don't have to look at them or hear them. I think it's one of the problems, that this is an area where the government has failed, as has almost every Canadian government in any jurisdiction failed. So that in fact rather than bringing in a much more effective kind of piece of legislation, which would be the ratification of the ILO convention, we bring in another rehash of the equal pay kind of statement, which I think will probably have the same effect as the other, and that is that it will have no effect at all, or very limited effect.

Further, Mr. Chairman, I would want the committee to recognize that again last year we asked the Minister, or the government, if it was going to live up to the intentions of its words and its commitments, was it prepared to start showing some leadership by establishing the idea of setting action guidelines in the departments of government, so that not only would there be some general rhetorical commitment to the idea, but that in each department and Crown corporation and agency there would be certain guidelines and goals set for different departments in terms of righting the imbalance of male-female employment, so that not only would we be given certain examples, but in fact each department, each year, would, through the Civil Service Commission, be asked to measure up to how well it has achieved some standard and how well it has been able to provide for a kind of ongoing assessment of how well it's doing in balancing out what is a very serious imbalance. Because in the Civil Service of Manitoba the fact remains that I think - and the figures are coming off the top of my head, but I believe it's about one or two percent of the managerial professional group are women, while 80 percent of the clerical, lower, unskilled workers are women.

Now this is a total sort of topsy-turvy arrangement in that . . . while the Minister suggests that people aren't applying - he may well be right - but it may be that the applications are not coming in, but I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the applications in terms of an equal balance are not being sought, that they are not being actively pursued, it's just simply a basically passive attitude towards the whole problem rather than a constructive activist kind of program to try and achieve some better balance. And in fact this goes right back. I think if the Minister would refer back to some of the findings of his own Women's Bureau, it points out that right beginning in the high school areas, the whole concept of guidance counselling and career counselling and career orientation is totally stereotyped so that women are almost - you know, they become secretaries and nurses, and men become professionals and doctors and lawyers, and all the rest of it, and that there isn't that kind of ability to make sure that there is - going right back to the schools itself - the sort of counselling and channeling so that the career patterns would be more evenly balanced.

In order to achieve that, I think there has to be some kind of imperative acquired, some direct standard of measurement, and I think that one of the responsibilities which we asked for last year was, even on a trial basis, to take one or two departments and set up such an action program and assess it over a period, each year, or every six months, to see how the departments are measuring up to the standards set for them. And we believe, Mr. Chairman, that that would have established the kind of leadership that might have been there for transfer to the private industrial field. It would seem to me that the commitment we're making should be more than lip service. There should be actual, tangible kinds of requirements placed in action that will have some results, not simply to pass brochures around and to go and share them. I mean that's fighting a paper war, which I think has some effect but it's pretty minimal. I think it's a kind of a public relations puffery. The same kind of thing that I've heard, I think it was, I don't know, two of the honourable members opposite complained mightily, you know, that it's the oil companies who now advertise their commitment to conservation, and I suggest

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) Mr. Chairman, that we're getting the same kind of flim flam at this point, that we spend a lot of time advertising our commitment without really living up to the sort of direct, real action that would attempt to overcome some of the real serious disparities.

So I would really say, Mr. Chairman, that we are extremely disappointed in the report that the Minister gave in this important year called International Women's Year, in terms of the activity of government, because if he would go back to the same debate at the same time last year, certain requests were made and certain recommendations and suggestions were offered as to how in the intervening time a much more direct and tangible kind of effort could be made. And again it doesn't - you know, all we're again receiving is about the same kind of thing: a little bit more PR, a few more people hired, but nothing really done to make sure that it would become a high priority and a committed priority of this particular government. And I want to explain, Mr. Chairman. I'm not saying that it's the government of Manitoba that only is derelict in this area. I suggest that almost every provincial government, and the federal government as well, is derelict and is not moving into this area with the kind of dispatch that it should. I say this simply because the one recognition that should be made is that this is a problem of rights of people, and that there is clear and . . . The kind of evidence that is being produced in terms of the widening gap of income, if it happened with some other discriminated group there'd be great outcries and outrages. In this area, it seems that we have to rely upon a few select women's groups to make the outcry and outrage. It doesn't really seem that it has commanded much more than a general, you know, patting on the back and the patting on the head kind of attitude from the governments of this day, in terms of recognizing the problem and responding to the problem with the kind of action that would be commensurate with the severity and seriousness of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: At first, Mr. Chairman, I thought that I would just simply leave things go. I knew the type of ranting and raving approach that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge would make. I've heard it before; I'm sure that he's heard it before; and I join with him in his final remarks, particularly when he said that it's not only the Province of Manitoba and this particular department, but it also applies to the federal authority as well. I haven't heard him really, other than just passing phraseology such as that, be really critical of what is not being done in the federal arena, and I would suggest to my honourable friend that if he would just take the time out to look at some of his own utterances and compare them with what's going on in the federal arena, he would find that we in Manitoba, in our legislation and in our attempts to bring about a greater degree of participation with women in industry and other activities in the Province of Manitoba, that it would put the Liberal Government of Canada to shame.

So I understand--(Interjection)--Yes, now he says I'm passing the buck. Mr. Chairman, you know, sometimes I think that we should pass legislation in this House to compel members who make such statements as my honourable friend from Fort Rouge has just made, pass legislation to compel him to listen to what he had to say so that he could analyze what he had to say. Because I'm sure - and I don't know his motivation, but I'm sure that he was only giving lip service to some cause that he may have, some of his imagination. And I defy my honourable friend to say that in any way, shape or form, that we are not trying. If my honourable friend, in this or any other instance, thinks that overnight we can change the whole world in approaches, then I would suggest my honourable friend has a hell of a lot to learn. I don't mind his ranting and his raving. Goodness gracious, apparently he's been educated to do that and he's fulfilling that here. Here's the proponent, Mr. Chairman, of equality, of the rights between the male and the female, who defeated a competent female to come into this Assembly. Now I would say, Mr. Chairman, in all due respect - and I think I can say this impartially, if I can be impartial - but I can say this impartially, that the contributions made by the former female Member of Fort Rouge to the destiny of Manitoba far outweigh that that we're getting from the male Member for Fort Rouge in this House today. Now if that isn't a tribute to women, I defy him. And if my honourable friend, with his sense of fairness, with his sense of the requirements or needs for more equality, will not agree with me, then I would suggest that he should take another look at what he has said.

I never yet have said in this House, insofar as equality between the sexes in legislation, that we have achieved the ultimate, and it won't be done overnight. And if my honourable

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) friend - I understand in my required absence - if my honourable friend really means what he said, or so it's reported he said, that the government would establish real guidelines for every department to correct the imbalance between male and female employment in senior and managerial positions, he couldn't have heard what I said as the Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission, that when we're sending out appeals or sending out advertisements for people of expertise in senior positions, there's a dearth of applications from the female sex at the present time. And I suggested that that was due, at least in part, to the type of training of previous years to the type of training today. And it's being overcome. There are more women being engaged in our courses in our universities these days than there ever was before, and they're being given a better deal in this province, I suggest, through the office of the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities, that go far beyond the requirements of the federal administration which my honourable friend presumes to support.

So I say to him, I say to him I have not stated we have achieved the ultimate. I do say, however, that we are being more tolerant - if that word is a proper word to use - to the rights and privileges of women to become fully active in the process of government, in the Civil Service, than any other government of the Province of Manitoba since it was created. And it's an ongoing practice. We have more women hired, for instance, in the Department of the Attorney-General's department, than there ever were in any other administration that I'm aware of. We have greater involvement of women on our boards and commissions in the Province of Manitoba than ever before.

Sure it's easy; sure it's easy for anyone over there to stand up and rave, to stand up and say, you're not doing enough or you're not doing anything. But the fact of the matter is that we attempt to bring about more equal division in utilization of the sexes in Manitoba. And I would suggest to my honourable friend that it would be almost an impossibility, if not an absolute impossibility, even to issue a guideline that there should be male-female relationship of equality throughout the Civil Service in senior positions as such, because it just isn't possible.

So I say, Mr. Chairman, it's nice to hear from my professor friend of his admiration and desirement of greater equality; that we're not doing the job, but, as I said, I've heard him before. When I mentioned a moment or two ago the fact that he loves equality so much that he fought bitterly and was successful in displacing a competent woman member of this Assembly, what was his answer? Democratic rights. That's democracy. "I have the same right as a woman." And I say, Mr. Chairman, with that I will agree. With that I will agree that a woman has the same right as a male, providing it's in an area and she can equal the requirements of the respective job to be done. This is the problem, in many respects, that we're having.

In the meantime, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the Women's Bureau, that was established by this government after many years of request, are doing a good job. They're going out into the community informing women of their rights, and are endeavouring to the best of their ability to bring about a better understanding of the requirements that have to be met in order to have a greater involvement of women in industry and our commercial enterprises, and to get away from the stereotype of employment that we have at the present time - which was not created since 1969 when we became government, but it was historic. There hasn't been the changes made down East under the regime of the political party of my honourable friend from Fort Rouge. It can't be done overnight. But we're undertaking certain steps to attempt to inform the women of their rights.

The Department of Labour, in co-operation with the Attorney-General's department, as I stated a moment or two ago, one of its projects for this year will be the issuing of a pamphlet. And I've seen it; I think it will be good. I don't know if my friend has had the opportunity of being involved - because many have - in it. But it will be giving to the females an opportunity of knowing what their rights are. They don't need the ranting and the raving of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. I give them more credit for greater intelligence than it seems that the member indicates. We have problems. Of course we have problems. For that reason, as I indicated a few moments ago, I set up a task force on equal employment opportunities in the Civil Service. It's made its report. Some, not all of the recommendations have been adopted. One of the major recommendations that was made was a recognition of the fact that there may not be equal employment opportunities to women, to the handicapped and underprivileged in the Civil Service. Did we take that recommendation and throw it into a file to gather dust? The

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) answer is no. I would suggest that when we appointed in the Civil Service Department a lady to act as a co-ordinator to bring about and create a better attitude and atmosphere of equal employment opportunities, it was a step in the direction to achieve, but my honourable friend says "he should have achieved" and that I'm only giving lip service when I make reference to what is being done today. I readily confess and admit we haven't done all that might have been done, but we're travelling in the direction to bring about more equal opportunities than ever prevailed before. We haven't reached the ultimate yet but we're on the road.

So I say to my honourable friend, I do not deny him the right of criticism, I do not deny him the right to be able to say, as an ILO resolution on equal pay says, that it should be equal remuneration for work of equal value. I wonder if my honourable friend would give me a precise definition of what equal remuneration for equal value really means. When I became Minister of Labour, when I became Minister of Labour, --(Interjection)--I beg your pardon? I didn't ask you to sit down when you were rapping. When I became Minister of Labour the Equal Pay Act said that women shall be paid the same pay for the same work as males - same for same. I don't know if my honourable friend by that, when he's talking about equal remuneration for work of equal value, means "same for same". But there was a question of trying to analyze and define what we meant same for same, so we changed the legislation to bring about equal pay for similar type of work, and that's the legislation today. So it took away this weighing in the balance scale "same for same", and I appreciate the point raised by the Member for Fort Rouge this is one of the phraseologies that's being used now as a change from the previous. But then again, to him, I ask for precise information. I've had correspondence with the International Labour Organization asking precisely, asking precisely for a clear-cut definition. If it means, if it means that a person who is a Minister of Labour, a male or a female, should get the same pay for work of the same value, well okay. We know that is the case and it is done and has been done. The previous administration had women in their Cabinet, they didn't pay them any different than the males because of equal work, equal value. But it's not just as simple as the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge attempts to make it out, and I've had no precise information of a clear-cut definition. As I say, we knew that there was areas of interpretation under the previous Act and that was changed by this administration.

Speaking a few moments ago, I made reference to the participation rate of females in the labour force in the Province of Manitoba. One of the highest, Mr. Chairman, that there is in the whole of the Dominion of Canada. Does this illustrate that there is prejudice to the female sex in the labour force? I would suggest not. I would suggest that it is a fact of life that in many cases when employers are dismissing individuals, if there isn't collective agreement it may well be that the female is laid off ahead of the male for certain reasons, and that creates an imbalance in statistics; but it doesn't mean because of that that there isn't the understanding of the rights, the needs, the desires for equality of opportunity between the two sexes. And as I have said, that is our objective.

I wonder, I wonder, whether my honourable friend from Fort Rouge who spoke of the need of precise legislation emanating from me as Minister of Labour in this particular field or from my colleagues in other fields, I wonder if he would not consider the point that I made a few moments ago insofar as equality is concerned, that if we're going to have equality of representation at the Directors level, at the senior Civil Service level, why in heavens don't we legislate that in this Assembly of 57 and provision for 60 - why don't we legislate to the effect that in order to be equal, in order to give a fair shake to the female sex in the Province of Manitoba that this or some government should pass legislation to say that there shall be 30 female members in the House, that there shall be 30 male members of the House. He spoke of legislation, he spoke of desires here, desires there. I ask my honourable friend, I ask my honourable friend really to take a look at Hansard when it comes out and really re-read --(Interjection)--yes, you can say Oh Jeez, if you like, that's your prerogative, that's your privilege, but there's one thing, my honourable friend, I think that you have to learn, and I trust that you . . . oh yes . . . and I trust during your term of office here you will learn some, eventually, that it is not only the likes of persons who have your inclinations or your ideologies or your thoughts are the only ones that know what they're talking about. There's no question of doubt, when you put on your authoritative mantle your lips utter such wild statements that even should be incomprehensible to somebody who's had the opportunities that you have had,

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) the professional opportunities, and I reject--(Interjection)-- I beg your pardon? I'm not using a personal attack. As a matter of fact, matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, rather than a personal attack, I think I'm being complimentary to my honourable friend because I recognize that he has some ability. Now, if that's being personal, maybe I'd better go back to what my honourable friend from Morris said this morning, that I should go back to what I was a couple of years ago and really tear into my honourable friend. I'm being so polite, so nice to him, Mr. Chairman, that I may have to get down by my bedside tonight and ask forgiveness for being so nice to one who endeavours to give vent to incorrect suppositions in the field of equal opportunities, of equal pay, and equal rights as between male and female.

What have we done since we became government in order to overcome that? We set up an office of Ombudsman, we set up a Human Rights Commission, we set up a Women's Bureau, and those three, I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, go a long way to achieving what is desired, and I say that I am sure that we here in Manitoba, the Government of Manitoba, have implemented on a comparative basis at least more of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

I conclude by saying not all has been done, but I defy my honourable friend, the Member for Fort Rouge, to say that the steps that we have taken, the appointments that we have made to members of the fair sex in some of our senior positions is not, is not an indication, or is an indication of the steps in the line that we are taking. True, true, we may not have any Beryl Plumptre who is wont to criticize labour because they have increases in wages, we may not have that yet, and I hope we don't, but again I defy my honourable friend, I defy my honourable friend to indicate where one of his, the government that he is a member of at Ottawa has done more than we have, because I haven't even met a Minister at Ottawa whose responsible for equal treatment of women.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. Time of adjournment having arrived, committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, your Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, asks to report progress, and begs leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Matthews, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if I may, just before you call the adjournment, remind members of Law Amendments Committee this evening at 8:00 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hour being the hour of adjournment, the House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. Monday morning.