

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Wednesday, June 11, 1975

Opening Prayer by Mr. Deputy Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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; Oral Questions. The Honourable House Leader.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, once again, I ask indulgence of the honourable members. The Premier has another bill which would normally get second reading tomorrow but he is available now and if you will permit him to introduce it on second reading, it would accommodate him.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - BILL 61 - THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere) presented Bill No. 61, The Financial Administration Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, this bill is in the nature of an omnibus bill, Financial Administration Act - rather an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act. It is rather difficult at second reading stage when under the rules we're to deal with the principle of the legislation, to deal with Bill 61, because it is, I suppose, a compendium or collection of a number of separate specific amendments to the existing Financial Administration Act, largely to deal with provisions, some of which have become archaic or awkward, in which we propose to expedite financial administration by either removal or by substitution of a new section.

I should not leave the impression that all of the sections of the proposed bill are routine and purely administrative in nature. There are a couple which are of some significance. For example, we are providing authority in this bill for the Minister of Finance to invest in drafts or notes guaranteed by chartered banks, the most common of which are known as bankers' acceptances. We are also providing authority to invest in trust company certificates and in securities of Manitoba municipalities, hospitals and schools without necessarily the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. We are providing that where voting shares of a corporation are owned by the Crown, that the Minister of Finance may attend meetings of shareholders and cast votes for and on behalf of the government unless some other person is specifically designated.

The legislation with respect to refunds - and as honourable members can appreciate, there is considerable quantity of refunds being made by the Crown during the course of a year, and the legislation in that regard is it is being proposed to change to permit refunds to be made more quickly without, we believe, any sacrificing of the controls required in the disbursement of public moneys.

There is another amendment in this bill which will permit the Minister of Finance, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, to guarantee bid and performance bonds for government agencies or any corporation, 51 percent or more of which is owned by the Crown. A total of such guarantees, however, outstanding at any one time not to exceed \$25 million.

There is a further amendment adding the purpose of refinancing debt as a reason for permitting the government to borrow. And here I might just pause as an aside to indicate that perhaps here is a classic example of the need to modernize or get rid of some archaic provision or lack of it, I suppose, because in case there be any doubt as to the fact that a legitimate purpose of borrowing for the Crown is to refinance debt, then, sir, I must say that this takes place every year, but yet there seems to be some nagging doubt as to whether this is a precise and stipulated permitted purpose. There is a section in this bill, therefore, to remove any lingering doubt.

Another amendment has to do with fixing charges on unfunded advances to government agencies, making the legislation more workable without removing certain control features inserted in committee when this legislation was last amended. We are also providing that where the government is authorized to advance money to a Crown agency, the advance may be made by way of loan or by way of investment in the stock of the government agency.

BILL 61

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd)

An addition is also being proposed in this bill to amend the Act to allow the Minister of Finance to enter into contracts with holders of provincial securities for the purpose of redeeming such securities prior to maturity or, for the purpose of postponing the maturity of any given security.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, there is an addition or an amendment being proposed here to change the Act so as to provide that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may make regulations from time to time fixing and prescribing a rate of interest charged on debts and penalties owing to the Crown under any Act on the statute books which imposes a tax duty or royalty. This will permit consistent application of one rate of interest by the Crown instead of, as at the present time, having a multiplicity of different rates perforce being charged by the Crown because they are set by statute that may, as indeed is the case in some cases passed long ago, which in turn then gives rise to citizens to ask in puzzlement, dismay or worse than that, as to why it is that they are required to pay rate such-and-such and someone else who has moneys owing to the Crown by way of loan repayment or by way of penalty or by way of arrears being required to pay a rate of interest significantly, if not substantially different. So it is proposed in this bill to provide a simple means for a consistent rate of interest to be charged by the Crown and that this can be varied, consistently, however, varied by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council from time to time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Birtle-Russell, that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Acting House Leader, the Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe, subject to any contrary understanding that the Honourable Member for Morris may have, that we would simply proceed in sequence through the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debates on second reading? The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . have no contrary if we want to go through the routine, but it is our intention to stand them also. I wonder if the First Minister would just want to go into Supply right away.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that we can certainly do. The Honourable the Minister for Lands, Forests and Wildlife Resources would be proceeding then, in which case . . . I'm now whispered some advice which will take at least two or three minutes to sort out, if honourable members would simply be patient, we can get that resolved in about two minutes. Excuse me.

Mr. Speaker, there may have been some alternative arrangements made but I don't believe that it will be in any way greatly inconvenient to anyone if we now proceed to Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Minister of Lands, Forests and Wildlife Resources. That would be, sir, with the understanding that perhaps in an hour we could revert to consideration of Bill 16, if that was what was earlier understood. Nothing's lost.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: That is where the problem is posed. The House Leader spoke to me about it this afternoon and I indicated to him at that time that our preference would be to go on to Bill 16 in the morning, because the Committee meeting in the other place has our two members who are very much involved in this bill and they can't be in both places at the same time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: That being the case then, Mr. Speaker, it makes even more sense to proceed now to Committee of Supply and accordingly, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs that you, sir, do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
MINES, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I direct the attention of honourable members to Page 34 in their Estimates book, under Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. Resolution 78(a) . . .

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, we will be going on Resolution No. 84, which is the part of that particular department that falls under the jurisdiction of the Minister of whatever it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I apologize to honourable members for turning the page over. It's Page 36. Resolution 84(a)(1). The Honourable Minister.

LANDS, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

HON. HARVEY BOSTROM (Minister of Co-operative Development)(Rupertsland): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would propose to, in introducing the Estimates of the Department of Lands, Forests . . . or the section of Lands, Forests and Wildlife Resources within the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, which falls under my jurisdiction, I would propose to go over the highlights of the ongoing activities and programs of the department as well as to outline the highlights of proposed new programs and activities within this area relating to the estimates before you. And if I may, Mr. Chairman, I would proceed by subject Lands, Forests, Wildlife Resources, and Fisheries, in that order.

In the first subject then, Mr. Chairman, on Crown land section of this department, the administration of the Crown Lands Act and the allocation of Crown lands is a major responsibility of the Crown land section. This responsibility relates to the leasing and permitting of Crown lands for many uses, also includes reserving lands for forestry, wildlife and recreational uses. I might point out as a matter of interest, Mr. Chairman, that while the expenditures within this section are approximately \$389,000, it's almost a self-supporting section of government in that the revenues which can be attributed to the section are in the order of \$315,000, and it's relating to the leasing and permitting of the Crown lands and other activities within this section.

Some of the projects and programs scheduled for 1975 and 1976: The Urban Periphery budget and related responsibilities has been transferred from the Municipal Affairs to the Land section. There will be a complete restructuring and reorganization of Crown Land staff, Alternate Land Use staff and FRED and Resources for Tomorrow staff into one working unit with some staff assignments to regions. There is a proposal, Mr. Chairman, by the Crown Land staff under which they are taking the leadership for a computerization of land information. This relates, Mr. Chairman, to a proposal to establish a Crown Lands register that would be more efficient than the manual method of registration that's now being utilized by the department.

As I have indicated, the Land section is responsible for maintaining the documentation pertaining to all land under the jurisdiction of the Crown Lands Act. This, of course, contains information pertaining to approximately 80 percent of all lands within the province. This documentation plays a major role in the future of this province insofar as land use, planning, inventory and development is concerned. This particular section is presently under review with the objective of designing and implementing an integrated computer based land record system. This system would have the facility to store all land base data, for example Crown land and other information relating to forestry, water, contours, land use, resources, taxation, etc., which would be in a format accessible to those agencies requiring the integrated data. It could therefore become the land base recording system for all departments without interfering with the presently assigned authorities or accountability.

This, Mr. Chairman, would have the advantage of permitting identification of all Crown lands, not limited to land within the meaning of the Crown Lands Act, but would also include Crown lands that are under the jurisdiction of other agencies within government. It would provide a means to ensure common lands administration in the province, an essential tool for any land use management authorities. The proposal within this section, Mr. Chairman - at the present time the staff has been instructed to study the possibilities of this kind of system, to come forward with a recommendation to Cabinet and if it is proven to be more efficient and economical, then I hope we will be adopting it and proceeding within this fiscal year.

In other programs, which comes within the general jurisdiction of the land section of

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) this department, Mr. Chairman, relates to wild rice development in the province, and the wild rice, as members are aware, grows mainly in the Crown land areas in the province. The most success in harvesting so far has been in natural lakes in Manitoba which have been developed by various means of water control and the department has been attempting to encourage development of natural lakes, natural stands of wild rice by giving longer term leases. Longer term leases, Mr. Chairman, will be processed for wild rice production units based on extensive development plans that are forthcoming and proven proper harvest methods. The lease priority policy of the department at the present time is to give priority to community groups and persons living near wild rice growing areas, such as the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Those communities that are traditional harvesters of the resource have formed a co-operative called the Indian Wild Rice Producers Co-operative. Many of the leases on the east side therefore are in the name of the Indian Wild Rice Producers Co-operative, the members being the native communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

In the case of lease renewals the future plans for development, water control and harvesting methods will be reviewed. There's experiments which will be ongoing this year, Mr. Chairman, in water control by the department in natural lakes. One lake for example on the east side of Lake Winnipeg is being experimented with this year by constructing a water control device at the inlet as well as the outlet of the lake.

A further program under this section, Mr. Chairman, is a comprehensive land use planning. There was a question by the Honourable Member for St. James earlier this session at which he was inquiring as to the land use plans that have been developed thus far by the department. I can report, Mr. Chairman, that an interim land-use plan for Crown land on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, the eastern planning zone has been completed, and it represents a framework for consideration of development proposals on the east side of the lake pointing out those areas of the land, the Crown land, that are best suited for the various resource use, such as, forestry, recreational potential, possible mining areas, etc. Work has started on the preparation of a similar plan and plans for the northeast coastal and Agro planning zones. Work on a plan for the mid-north zone will start in mid summer. Preparation of more detailed land-use plans for Crown land will be initiated at the regional level in the coming year. These plans will deal with development in selected parts of planning zones. They will allocate land to specific uses and provide guidelines for specific developments. All plans will identify possible job opportunities to the communities and towns located within that area. It will indicate long-term land, possible allocations, provide land-use guidelines and use development guidelines.

A related area to this, Mr. Chairman, is a program of surveys and mapping by the Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Department. There's a project under the Manitoba Northlands Agreement for this coming fiscal year which is directed towards achieving a system of surveys and map control necessary to production of maps and land identification, and in order to plan develop and manage the natural resources and land allocation in northern Manitoba. The proper identification of resources, Mr. Chairman, in this manner will reduce the length of time needed to respond to specific resource use requests.

Furthermore under this section another project funded under the Manitoba Northlands Agreement is a project on Northern Resource Information Programs. This project is directed towards providing a land base natural resource inventory of a reconnaissance nature to provide basic information which will facilitate planning to maximize benefits from the natural resources. It consists of classifying northern Manitoba into ecological significant land-use units based upon soil, superficial deposits, vegetation, drainage, water bodies, permafrost, topography and climate.

Mr. Chairman, one of the areas under my jurisdiction which is receiving the most attention, and which I believe to have one of the biggest potentials in Manitoba today, is that of forestry, and the potential for forestry development within the province. Over the past fiscal year, Mr. Chairman, in 1974-75 Manitoba's second largest sawmill commenced operation, in June 1974. This is a new spruce products mill at Swan River.

Manitoba is expected to enter the reconstituted fireplace log manufacturing industry. Plans call for a manufacturing process to be located at Winnipegosis.

This last year, Mr. Chairman, interest in the department's cut your own Christmas tree, fence posts and fuel wood programs has grown. Even the Honourable Minister for

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) Tourism and Recreation has participated in that program. Part of this increase over the previous year is attributed to the ideal weather conditions and demand by the public for an outdoor recreational experience. Personal use permits for Christmas trees and fence posts have doubled, while firewood is up by 50 percent.

Interest in manufacturing particle board, Mr. Chairman, in the province has shown repeated enquiries during the year. There were community timber operations as reported to the Legislative Committee on Economic Development. Moose Lake Loggers commenced operations early in January 1975. The production goal of 6,000 cords by March 31 was attained three weeks ahead of schedule.

Also, Mr. Chairman, rising production levels at Channel Area Loggers located at Berens River and Bloodvein for the fall and early winter periods of their 1974 program are noted. They've had mechanical, organizational and cold weather problems that have reversed their initial impetus, but last reports are that they are doing quite well.

The forest inventory, Mr. Chairman, that is taking place in the province; there are forest inventory activities carried out in almost all portions of the administrative regions in 1974-75. The department conducted aerial photography programs for northeastern Manitoba covering an area of approximately 7,100 square miles. The forest survey work was completed for the Island Lake Management Unit during 1974-75. Aerial photo interpretation and preliminary forest cover maps have been completed for over 5,000 square miles in northeastern Manitoba in preparation for actual forest survey activities. In connection with this, Mr. Chairman, the department has been conducting through an active program of forest planning an analysis of the kind of industrial development that can be related to the forests in Manitoba. Three reports were completed during the . . . dealing with an overview analysis and of macro-planning for industrial development in three major regions of Manitoba, Northern Manitoba, Lake Winnipeg Basin and Southeastern Manitoba. These reports utilized the most recent forest inventory material that I just mentioned, providing in their analysis of the inventory a number of options for industrial development and utilization of the province's forest resources, and paying particular attention to the employment generating opportunities. This, Mr. Chairman, is consistent with the stated policy of the government of stay-option in which we are attempting to relate the people living in the communities in the remote north to their resource base. And we're finding out, Mr. Chairman, with these forest inventories and analysis that has been done, that there is a significant potential for employment in a properly developed forest industry. The forest planner, Mr. Chairman, have looked at the ideal in terms of location of mills and forest activities related only to the resource base, and that, Mr. Chairman, may be quite different from that which is another aspect of looking at the resource base, and that is looking at it in relation to the communities of the area, the towns and the communities of the area and where the potential labour force is located. The department has, in connection with this, been in negotiations with Abitibi for a new agreement for the pulp mill in the forestry resource on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

In a micro-planning sense, in a more particular community-based related forest planning sense, a number of economic feasibility studies have been done over the last year. They've been performed in communities and the studies have covered many aspects of timber utilization from sawmills and logging to potential fence-post operations.

A forestry task force, Mr. Chairman, was set up, an inter-departmental task force made up of Mines and Resources staff, Industry and Commerce, Northern Affairs, and the Resources and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet to review the entire forestry sector in Manitoba. The task force undertook a preliminary analysis of various forestry development opportunities. This task force, I expect, will be making recommendations accordingly in its reports. Underlying the recommendations will be the objective that the provincial forest resource should be developed in such a manner as to provide maximum benefits for all Manitobans, and particularly those living within the forestry resource areas of Manitoba. A branch of this task force, the Manpower and Community Sawmill Development Sub-Committee, was also formed to concentrate on the community development aspects of industrial development.

In connection with this, Mr. Chairman, the forestry planning people have been looking at the possibility of an improved transportation system utilizing the waterways of Manitoba,

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) and particularly Lake Winnipeg. A tug and barge study was initiated and completed in June of this last year with a view to attempting to rationalize the transportation possibilities to make possible the development of a proper forest industry in the Lake Winnipeg basin. At the present time, the existing transportation facilities on Lake Winnipeg are just not sufficient to be able to transport the amount of timber that would be required by the plant, the Abitibi Pulp and Paper plant at Pine Falls. This study outlines the possibilities of a much improved system of water transportation utilizing the more than 400 miles of waterways that are available to us that are not being fully utilized at the present time.

I might mention, Mr. Chairman, that one of the major responsibilities of this department is to protect the forests of Manitoba, and in this respect a fire protection study was undertaken. A study is presently under way which has as its objective to ascertain the benefit cost ratio of our existing program of fire protection, and to determine whether this benefit cost ratio can be improved. In this respect, Mr. Chairman, the aircraft operations of the department have been evaluated and will be evaluated. Seventeen aircraft were under contract for detection and suppression in the last year. Over \$330,000 was expended for casual hire, more than double the previous year's total. Water-bombing operations were an integral part of that forestry protection operation. The forest protection program over the years was developed and organized to utilize aerial fire suppression techniques, one of the most economical and efficient ways of controlling and suppressing forest fires. For example, the aerial tankers employed by the department include Cansos, Otters and turbo-bombers. In the last year, they dropped over one million gallons of water and chemical retardants on the forest fires.

One of the most urgent needs as we've determined, Mr. Chairman, for fire suppression activities in Northern Manitoba is the urgent need for manpower. In the last summer, the availability of manpower was inadequate in most areas and required regional movements of fire crews, particularly to the eastern portions of the Province of Manitoba. The local settlements of the northern and eastern regions continue to be the primary source of manpower. Over 21,000 casual man-days were used in fighting forest fires in the last year, most of them being in the highest fire months of July and August. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, we're proposing to institute a new program to beef up the manpower section, the manpower aspect of fire fighting, because of the difficulty in obtaining trained and effective fire fighters. There's an urgent need to develop fire attack crews. These trained crews could be employed not only during the fire season, but on a year-round program in strategically located areas. When not engaged in forest fire control activities, these people who are trained, living in their communities, can serve as a fire protection resource for their own communities, which is much needed in many remote communities in Manitoba.

A very significant part of the whole program of forestry in Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, is that which is related to community forest extension, and this is an emphasis, Mr. Chairman, on assisting communities in developing the resource base that's available to them. I have to point out that the inputs into northern communities, local remote communities, has to be radically different from industrial forest developments. The people involved in development have not had the opportunity to have technical, organizational, managerial and marketing skills, not only in forestry but in other aspects of resource development. So a very significant part of the department's activities have been in providing informational, educational training work that's required to assist communities in development. For example, Mr. Chairman, assistance has been provided in the organization of a Resource Development Committee in Easterville and in setting up of a forest harvesting corporation to develop a forestry pulp-cutting plan, production and marketing plan, and assisted them in carrying out this plan. In Nelson House, a resource development committee of the Band Council was organized and are beginning to develop plans to develop the resource base. The extension people in our department, Mr. Chairman, have assisted Northern Timber of Roblin in doing a marketing assessment. They assisted Grand Rapids to study the feasibility of a local forestry operation, and have provided consultation on the production of experimental log-housing projects.

In particular, community forest extension work, Mr. Chairman, the extension people have been working in Pelican Rapids, Pukatawagan, Pikwitonei, Easterville, Nelson House,

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) Vogar, Bloodvein, as well as the communities of Berens River and Moose Lake, as you've learned in the Economic Development Committee reports that we've had on those two areas. And these communities, Mr. Chairman, they've assisted in development of poplar, for example, in Pelican Rapids for the community sawmill there. They are now supplying local markets in Swan River and Dauphin. Pukatawagan is also involved in a forestry development, a sawmill operation. Pikwitonei is looking at the possibility of manufacturing ties for the CNR. Easterville is, as I mentioned, about to commence a program of fence-post production. In Vogar, the local housing project is harvesting and sawing their own lumber. And as you know, Moose Lake and Channel area are more involved in the pulpwood and in Moose Lake lumber - not lumber production - at least the raw material for lumber production.

The extension people are working with these corporations, Mr. Chairman, such as Moose Lake and Channel Area Loggers, and one of the ways in which we hope to get community people involved in actually running and managing their own operations is that we have a program of hiring and training of managers and bookkeepers. One of the ways we propose to do that in this fiscal year is to hire an understudy for these positions to recruit and hire understudies for the positions of bookkeeper and manager, for example, in Moose Lake and Berens River. In this way we hope, Mr. Chairman, to encourage and assist local people in taking over the management and operation of their own forestry, their own forest industries. I might point out, Mr. Chairman, as a matter of interest, that the expenditure, unlike the land section of this department, is much higher in this case than the revenue generated. The approximate expenditure in the area of forestry in Manitoba is 3.1 million with a revenue of approximately 1 million.

In the wildlife area of my responsibility, Mr. Chairman, on the other hand, with an approximate expenditure of 1.5 million, we realize an approximate revenue attributed to sale of licences, and so on, wildlife certificates, and other fees, a revenue of approximately 1 million. The guiding philosophy I might point out, Mr. Chairman, of wildlife management in Manitoba is that wildlife is for everyone, that is, that consumptive users and non-consumptive users alike are and should be able to utilize the wildlife resources in Manitoba. In this last year, Mr. Chairman, the public demand for a variety of uses of wildlife continue to increase. In 1974-75, about 10,000 Manitobans hunted big game. Another 43,000 hunted game birds. In addition, there were over 8,000 licenced trappers, and nearly 700 citizens engaged in the commercial harvest of snakes and frogs.

Added to this is the fact that the non-consumptive user of all forms of wildlife are becoming more vocal in their demands by expressing a desire for more opportunity to utilize wildlife in non-consumptive ways. The visitors, for example, to the areas of Oak Hammock and Delta, and so on, are increasing in very significant numbers.

As has already been reported in the House, Mr. Chairman, the deer population in Manitoba has not increased significantly in the last year. The 1974-75 estimate was 27,000 animals in Manitoba. That is an increase somewhat. The latest count that was taken is around 40,000, but is still far short of the earlier highs of 80,000 and 90,000 animals in Manitoba. So the decision, Mr. Chairman, will be to maintain a closed season on deer for this year. The moose resource, however, is relatively stable in the overall provincial population and we propose to have a draw system, or controlled harvest by Manitobans with a few licences for non-residents. There are approximately 10,000 for Manitobans and 500 for non-residents licences. Similar problems of habitat loss as has been experienced with the deer resource, Mr. Chairman, one of the most significant reasons for reduction in the deer population is the loss of habitat in southwestern Manitoba and other areas. The province's duck population has also suffered from this same loss of habitat.

On the development side of wildlife, we have attempted to bring back some major habitat development projects, to bring into effect more habitat for the geese, for example, in the Oak Hammock marsh area. This has contributed very significantly to the fall build-up of geese, many of which are bred on the relatively secure habitat in Northern Manitoba or in the Arctic. The grouse population in Manitoba, just to give you a quick overview, they are now approaching an estimated cyclical upswing in population. There doesn't seem to be any real problems with the grouse population in Manitoba. For the Honourable Member for Roblin, he'll be pleased to know that Manitoba's polar bear population remains at a high level.

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)

Prices for wild fur, Mr. Chairman, have maintained a fairly high level, although production is not as high as it has been in the past, and extensive review of all aspects of fur-bear management in Manitoba has been undertaken by a special committee of this department.

There are many economic factors affecting wildlife production in Manitoba. As I indicated, there has been a significant decrease in habitat and one of the reasons is that landowners have responded quite naturally to high grain prices, responded by reducing summer-fallow acreage and increasing cultivated acreage. Grassland cattle production has resulted in a demand for agricultural uses of Crown land, that has resulted in further wildlife habitat deterioration.

In the last year, Mr. Chairman, there have been some pretty significant developments in wildlife, as I've indicated. The Delta Marsh agreement was signed in 1974-75 providing for a federal-provincial cost-sharing for 3.2 million, 50-50 cost-shared program. A final agreement for this five-year renewable jointly managed program is ready for signing for the Delta Marsh area. A marsh manager is hired and lands needed for management are slowly acquired through voluntary sales.

The restoration of the St. Andrews Bog or Oak Hammock Marsh has been a successful demonstration of Manitoba's ability to bring back wildlife habitat, only 15 miles north of Winnipeg. This area attracted more than 200,000 geese in the last year. It has produced and enhanced recreation opportunities at our doorstep. As I've mentioned, Mr. Chairman, there has been fantastic increases of visitors in this area. It certainly increased the water-fowl and fur bearing production and it's provided a great education potential within easy access of the major population centre of Manitoba.

In the Grants Lake area, Mr. Chairman, Manitoba has had its first managed hunting area. It was developed through a public participation program and operated successfully in the last year. It's planned to continue this and a similar plan is being developed for the Oak Hammock Marsh area.

This year, Mr. Chairman, we hope to have a number of major thrusts in the development of management plans for important species of wildlife in Manitoba. One is the white-tail deer; a second is waterfowl, as just two examples of plans being prepared.

A major breakthrough, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the wild fur of Manitoba has been realized in the successful negotiation of a Manitoba wild fur program, which is a program that's been developed in co-operation with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development federally, with our department initiating and carrying forward the discussion in consultation with the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association of Manitoba, a group that assisted in forming and assisted in carrying forward a number of discussions as to some of the solutions required for the trapping industry in Manitoba.

One of the major problems in trapping in Manitoba has been the under-utilization of the resource, and in consultation with the trappers, Mr. Chairman, it was determined that some of the causes of under-utilization may be summarized as high trapper costs related to return, inadequate sources of credit, low returns to producers related to market value. The trappers were often only getting 50 percent or less of the final market value of their fur. Difficulty of access to fur resources, social isolation of the trap line, ineffective organization of trapping activities in the community. One of the problems, Mr. Chairman, in particularly the younger generation in many of the Native communities is the passing on of skills from father to son is no longer taking place. With the children being in the schools, involved in the school programs from late August to the end of June, they have no opportunity to learn at the side of their parents, the skills of the trapper.

The program goals, Mr. Chairman, are to provide adequate sources of credit at reasonable interest rates to trappers and in particular to increase the trapper's share of the auction value of wild furs. And it is significant, Mr. Chairman, that as the department was negotiating and coming to final conclusion of this agreement with plans to establish fur depots in northern communities where trappers could deliver their furs and get an advance on their furs and receive the full amount of the later market price on the auction sales of either Manitoba or Montreal, that the Hudson's Bay Company came in with a new program and I believe it is, partly at least, a reaction to initiation of the department's fur depots. They are now, in the first time in history, offering to the trapper a program very

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) similar to the one that's proposed in this agreement. They are offering to pay the trapper an advance and they are guaranteeing him 93 - I believe it is - 93 percent of the final auction value of the fur as auctioned on their Montreal auctions which by reputation are one of the best in the world.

So that is a forward step by the Hudson's Bay Company and we certainly welcome it because it may not require in many cases the need to introduce a fur depot in some of these communities. One of the other significant parts of this program is to increase the sources of fur bearers available for harvest and to stimulate demand for wild furs by-products to expand more opportunities for trapping. This, Mr. Chairman, is an \$8.3 million program --(Interjection)-- 8.3 million.

I might point out, Mr. Chairman, that the aim of this proposed program is to attain production values of approximately \$16.5 million, and given no change in the situation, if the trapping industry were allowed to just drift and decline as it has been declining over the past decade, the production over the next five years in Northern Manitoba would have been estimated at 5.5 million. With this program, Mr. Chairman, it's proposed, hoped to attain production values, as I mentioned, of \$16.5 million.

Mr. Chairman, as I've mentioned to one or more members opposite, the department is proposing west of Brandon and adjacent to Oak Lake a complex, a wildlife habitat development in the Plum Lakes area. As members opposite would know, some of whom are familiar with the area, this is an area that has been subject to recurrent flooding and drought over the years. A plan to remedy the situation was developed jointly with agriculture, water resources and the wildlife staff. We now have a proposal ready for signing for federal-provincial joint funding at a 75-25 ratio and a joint management with the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Action is being taken, Mr. Chairman, over this next year to try to alleviate one of the problems that I indicated is resulting in the reduction of deer population in Manitoba, and that is a loss of wildlife habitat on private lands. Action is being taken this year, Mr. Chairman, to investigate the attitudes of land owners towards retention of wildlife, wildlife habitat on private land. Interviews will be conducted with a selected cross-section of land owners and municipal councils to determine the types of incentives necessary to maintain wildlife habitat on private land. Data collected will be evaluated and utilized for recommending potential programs.

One of the programs that has been investigated over the last year, Mr. Chairman, is northern animal husbandry. It's a program that is not given a high possibility of success for practical reasons. Other countries in the world have been able to domesticate reindeer, moose and so on and a survey was done, a feasibility was looked at to determine what the possibilities would be in Northern Manitoba. Two Soviet specialists were invited over to our North. They spent ten days, Mr. Chairman, on a northern tour of Manitoba in order to provide an expert appraisal on the suitability of our north for reindeer. And I think what they had to say, Mr. Chairman, what they had to say was significant. They looked at our barren lands, for example, in Northern Manitoba and they were very shocked to see the decline of the caribou population in our north. We now have an estimated population of 50,000 caribou in the barren lands of Manitoba. And the barren lands in their estimation compared to similar kind of terrain in their country where they have had an active program of development and husbandry of the resource; they believe that our north could handle 250,000 reindeer as compared to the 50,000 that we have now. Mr. Chairman, it shows that there is a possibility, Mr. Chairman, to enhance and to increase the wildlife resource of our north.

In connection with that, Mr. Chairman, we are proposing a far north development project. We are proposing to establish a research centre in Churchill. For the first time in Manitoba's history, I believe, a wildlife research station will be established in the real north of our province, in the barren lands of our province. The furthest north that we now have a biologist working in Manitoba is in The Pas and we hope to set up a research and planning capability in the barren lands of our province. The major resource base which will be investigated, Mr. Chairman, is the wildlife resource base. We now have, as I mentioned, 50,000 caribou in Northern Manitoba with a potential of 250,000. We have thousands of ducks and geese, marine animals as well as the fur-bearing animals of our north. Many

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) experts advise that we have the potential through management or resources and with the co-operation of northern people to more than double the caribou population. That in itself, Mr. Chairman, would be a significant achievement. This in turn, Mr. Chairman, would produce a greater harvest for northerners, a greater harvest, a greater potential for a food resource in the north.

Currently, Mr. Chairman, working accommodations in the Churchill area are being arranged and once negotiations are complete, personnel will be located in this region. This will be followed by an exploration with local people of the resource use and restoration opportunities. Northern people will be employed on this project wherever possible.

Mr. Chairman, in connection with the wildlife resource and the extension activities of the department, we are undertaking to provide a guide training program in Manitoba. Guide training over the next year will be provided to northern communities of God's Lake, Split Lake, Shamattawa as well as in other areas of Manitoba such as St. Ambrose and surrounding areas. The guide training standards and curriculum will be completed by the end of this year. This is being done in conjunction with the Community College in Manitoba. A guide registry will be started for all guides of Manitoba for the convenience of those non-resident hunters who would be utilizing guides, as well as residents. Revision of guide licence procedure is being examined and assistance is being provided for guides to establish their organization in Manitoba. They can voice their opinions on the future of their economic opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, one of the areas of my responsibility, the last one I will comment on is . . .

A MEMBER: How much longer are you going to go?

MR. BOSTROM: Five more minutes. --(Interjection)-- Well if I answer all your questions right at the beginning you won't have to ask so many.

Mr. Chairman, the commercial fishing resource in Manitoba which we discussed partly during the consideration of the Estimates of Co-op Development, is in general in Manitoba not in very good economic shape. The general prices of commercial species have remained stable although markets for rough fish in Manitoba dropped. Early this fall as I've indicated earlier, the indication we had in Manitoba was that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation was intending to drop the prices of some species of fish and at best not increase others.

I personally made a trip to Ottawa to speak with the Federal Minister in charge of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation on this matter. I made representations to him, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the fishermen of Manitoba on fish prices and the fishing industry and I informed him that fishermen could not operate in Manitoba at reduced prices or even could barely operate at the same level of prices as last year. I requested that the federal authorities use the vehicle which they have by legislation established to support fisheries, and that is the Fisheries Prices Support Board. I suggested that they utilize that to support the price of those species that are being reduced in price by the corporation and furthermore to add an inflation factor to those species that are not being increased.

We were successful, Mr. Chairman, on the first part of that request. We did get price support from the Fisheries Prices Support Board on the mullets and some lower grades of whitefish in Manitoba to bring their price up to at least year's levels. So to that extent the fishery in Manitoba is in better shape than it would have been otherwise.

The production does not appear to be a problem. Production on Lakes Winnipeg, Winnipegosis and Manitoba has remained fairly stable. The problem in the fishery, Mr. Chairman, as in some other resource industries, is the very rapidly escalating costs as compared to barely rising prices if not in fact stagnant prices. While transportation costs, for example, in Northern Manitoba have been going up at the rate of 50 percent or more per year, fish prices have only been going up a few cents a pound at best.

We have established, Mr. Chairman, a Fisheries Task Force which has been looking at the entire inland, or rather we have been participating in a Task Force which has been looking at the entire inland fishing area, that is, where in fact the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is operating. A number of the recommendations that have come out of this report that they have just recently produced, prove that some of the same problems that we are experiencing in Manitoba are common across the Prairie provinces, in fact in all the inland fishing areas in Canada.

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)

Mr. Chairman, I intend to follow up the meeting that I initiated with the federal Minister of Fisheries. I intend to follow up that meeting with further meetings with the federal minister and other ministers responsible for fisheries in Canada, and to attempt to rationalize the fishery industry in Manitoba, to attempt to get a better return for the fishermen of Manitoba.

We have a major problem, Mr. Chairman, in attempting to arrive at a reasonable income for fishermen. On Lake Winnipeg we have established quotas, we have a licensing system which some fishermen like, some fishermen are not happy with. I've instructed staff of the department, Mr. Chairman, to have a complete review of the licensing system on Lake Winnipeg. That will be conducted over the next summer in which fishermen will be encouraged to give their views and suggestions on the licensing system and as to how it can be improved.

The major extension work done with fishermen in reducing their costs; assist the fishermen to, for example, build skiffs in northern inland lakes which would reduce the need for flying boat equipment to various inland lakes. We've assisted fishermen through Commercial Training Courses to improve their production, their production ability. Over 320 fishermen have received training through the Hnaua Fisheries Training Centre for example. And to date we've had 164 fishermen participating in a Management Development Program in which they're trained and assisted in keeping accurate records of their costs of production in order that they can more efficiently utilize their production equipment in order to get a higher net return on their fishing effort. We are continuing, Mr. Chairman, in working with fishermen to attempt to improve their income picture, and as I say, Mr. Chairman, I will continue to work with other Ministers in Canada as well as the federal Minister in attempting to find an eventual solution to the spiralling costs and the very slowly increasing prices situation in the fisheries.

Without further comment, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully submit the estimates for your consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Walding): Resolution 84(a)(2) Administration - Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, this is perhaps going to be the only Minister that will have two whacks at the introduction of his estimates. He did so on the previous occasion when the other portion of his estimates were before the House, and now he has that opportunity a second time. I must say that he made much better use of his time on this occasion than he did on the last one, in attempting to answer every question that has not been put yet. Thereby I suppose he hoped he would forestall any questions from this side of the House, and I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that he reasonably succeeded in intimidating us to the point where we're afraid to ask any questions.

But I want to make one brief comment with respect to the manner in which we're dealing with these estimates. Now the Minister talked about lands, and he talked about forests, he talked about fisheries, and he indeed talked about using the waterways some more. You know, I recall a further experiment that was conducted in the fisheries up north when they used pigeons, and I'm just beginning to wonder if we now are going to have a return to some of the more primitive ways of travel in this country, and maybe there's justification for it since the Post Office can't seem to get the mail through any more. Maybe we're better off to go back to dog sleds and canoes for transportation.

Then he spent a great deal of time talking about fence posts and railway ties, and I know that he has his task forces on just about everything under the sun. He has a task force on land, forests, fisheries, waterways, fence posts and railways ties, and wildlife, snakes and frogs, reindeer, jack rabbits - you name it, he has it. Now that's fine but, you know, I wonder if that task force, and maybe he better set up some more task forces to find out if there's a market for a good many of those things. I understand the railways are going back to concrete ties, so what is he going to do with all those ties? I know on the farms they are going to steel fence posts, and I wonder if there is going to be an awful lot of fence posts laying around by the time the Minister's task force has completed all its studies on production and none on marketing.

In looking over the estimates . . . and there's one other thing, you know. In looking

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) over these estimates we find that although he dealt with a good many subjects, and they're all of interest, and there's questions we would like to ask on all of them, I notice that in the structure of those estimates, it's very very difficult to find out for example where would you ask a question on snakes and frogs? And then, where is the reindeer item on the estimates? I would suggest to the Minister that whoever is responsible for structuring these estimates, that next time he brings them before this House, that he has them identified in such a way that we can properly debate those measures that he brings before us. I can only see - and I'm raising this now as a sort of a point of order, if I may - I can only say that the only way that we can deal with these estimates is simply the way the Minister has introduced them. That is we just wander all over the place until we're finished. When we stop talking then you can say that Item 74 is passed, or I think it's Item 74, or 84, because there is only one item. But it's very difficult for example to zero in on fence posts the way the estimates are structured. It's very difficult to zero in on snakes and frogs, then reindeers and jack rabbits.

So I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if, while we go back to the estimates of the Department of the Civil Service - the Minister of Labour has been sitting there very patiently and he wants to get through with his estimates and we'd like to complete them as well. So while we are completing the estimates of the Department of Labour, I wonder if the Minister would cogitate for a little while and then come back - and for God's sake don't take an hour doing it. I hesitate to even get off the floor again for fear that we'll never get it back for the rest of the night - and advise us if it is all right with you, Mr. Chairman, if we just deal with it in that manner that we deal with any subject we like that the Minister has raised in his introduction of these estimates, until we complete that item. Because there's no way that they're identified and it would be very difficult to handle them otherwise.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister of Labour will now be given the opportunity to complete his estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, precisely so. I understand that the Minister of Labour has consulted with the Opposition House Leader and the Member for Assiniboia, and that the Minister of Lands and Forests can have perhaps that amount of time to ponder the kindly and fatherly advice offered by the Member for Morris. And while the Minister is pondering that advice perhaps we can revert from Resolution 84 to Resolutions 29 and 30, from fence posts and reindeer to Civil Service.

SUPPLY - CIVIL SERVICE

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Chairman, if that's agreeable, I can assure my honourable friends opposite, I don't intend to have much more to say insofar as the estimates of the Civil Service are concerned. If honourable members have questions to ask further that seem to be unanswered, it's okay by me. I don't recall whether or not I did thank the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie for his accolade to my proficiency as the Minister of Labour, but it was sincerely appreciated by myself. I know too that the Member for Fort Garry has been complimentary on occasion to me and it's pretty nice for one who's had the honour of being Minister of Labour since 1969 to receive some commendation from honourable friends.

Now, Mr. Chairman, those really are my remarks insofar as Item 29 is concerned. I wonder though . . . no, I guess maybe we'd better padd 29, if it's going to be passed. I have a comment to make in relation to one of the items on Resolution No. 30, for clarification purposes, but I'll try to be exceedingly brief even in that explanation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the Honourable Member for Assiniboia has anything more to add or not, but I suggest that this is a good point for the Honourable Minister of Labour to quit, while he's ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 29(a) - passed; (b) - passed. Resolution 29. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$398,000 for the Civil Service - passed.

SUPPLY - CIVIL SERVICE

(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd)

Resolution 30(a) - passed; (b) - passed; (c) - the Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, it's on (c) that I would like to make a remark, if I may. I know that it is a rule that you do not refer back to bills that have already been considered, on which a decision has been made, but I think that it would be only proper for me to point out to honourable members the reason for the increase in the appropriation of the Civil Service Group Life Insurance from 200,000-odd to 700,000. One of the reasons is, because it was decided in an endeavour to bring about equality between the sexes in the Civil Service, that the female employees of the Civil Service who previously were restricted insofar as life insurance to taking out coverage to a maximum of \$2,000 are now, at their option, eligible to take out the same amount as is the case with male employees, and we increased the option of coverage from, I believe it was twice the annual salary, to an option of three times the annual salary insofar as coverage is concerned. And we were amazed, quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, to find that the vast majority - and this of course is applicable to the female as well - and we were somewhat surprised to find that the considerable majority of the female members of the staff and the male members as well, elected to choose the three times the annual salary as coverage under group insurance, and that largely accounts for the considerable increase in the estimates. Now, what happens? The employer pays one-third of the premium, the employee pays two-thirds of the premium. At the present time the base rate for the employer is 5-1/2 cents a 1,000, and the employee 11 cents per 1,000.

So I just thought it was proper for me to explain that. Also, while dealing with the previous insurance bill called the Public Insurance Bill, I want to allay the fears of my honourable friend from Souris-Killarney, that the coverage under the Group Insurance is with Canada Life and an agreement has just been entered into for a three-year period. So it's not taking away from the private sector any benefits that they were receiving, and the agreement is for the next three years. So I thought it was only proper for me to point that out, that while the Act previously considered is called the Public Service Insurance Act, it has no bearing at all to any of the plans that are being entered into through Autopac, and there is the agreement as I say for the next three years with Canada Life. I think that's the only comment that I would care to make by way of explanation of the increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 30(c) - passed; (d) - passed; (e) - the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, will the Minister explain the doubling of that appropriation, please?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's due to a factor of increases in payrolls and the consequent increased in the contribution that has to be made into the Unemployment Insurance Fund on a premium basis - and of course the premiums are set by the Federal authority and we just pay the employer's share of the contribution, and the factor of the increase in total payroll has its reflections in the Unemployment Insurance contributions.

MR. SHERMAN: Have the premiums gone up, or has the percentage gone up? Or is it just the payroll that's gone up?

MR. PAULLEY: If I recall correctly, Mr. Chairman, there was some adjustment in the requirement of the premiums to be paid into the Fund by the employer, and I believe the employee contributions likewise were increased as well. So that has its reflection in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 30 (e) - passed. Resolution 30. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$8,125,000 for Civil Service - passed.

That concludes the estimates of the Department of the Civil Service.

SUPPLY - LANDS, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES cont'd

MR. CHAIRMAN: If I can refer honourable members back to Page 36 in their Estimates book, Resolution 84 (a)(2). The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Well, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I'll not try and take very much time of the House. I've seen Ministers talk themselves out of a job in government pretty fast. I think we've seen an example of one Minister here who now - he's introduced his estimates twice and has gave us his eulogy to the extent of two or three hours; and I've also heard Ministers who just lay their estimates on the table and said, "There they are boys, ask the questions." And so we're caught between the horns of a dilemma - and maybe the Minister is filibustering, I don't know at this late hour.

But I do have some questions, and I'll try and keep, Mr. Chairman, within the estimates. First of all, I'd like to ask the Minister - and I'll deal with Wildlife management - why is there no deer hunting season again this fall? First question.

Second one: Is this a recommendation from the staff of your department, or is it a government decision? Is the deer population sufficient in this province today for a hunting season? Now the Minister provided us with some estimates and we'll argue with that when we arrive at it. Can we expect a recommendation either by the Minister or by the government for the people of this province that there'll be a deer hunting season in 1976? Is it the intention of the government and the Minister to promote hunting in this province?

Next question regarding a land airstrip at Grace Lake, can the Minister advise the committee what he paid for it, and how much? An airstrip at Grace Lake near The Pas which is now, I understand, taken over by the government. Can the Minister advise what the government paid for the strip, and how much?

The next question, Mr. Speaker, deals with a certain gravel area close to Clearwater Lake - Finger Siding, I think is the point on the CNR crossing, I understand there was some million yards of gravel uncovered in that area. A road was built in of some four miles to the gravel pit. I understand there's a \$100,000 there - the government has taken that area over and it still is unpaid.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder also are we facing the day in Manitoba when hunting will be phased out from the trends and the positions of the past? The Wildlife Fur Management Agreement which had some interest to me especially, representing the Duck Mountain area, and I'm looking at it very carefully. The Minister mentioned high trapper costs and lower producers, and that he's got a new market or a trapper station. I wonder, will one of those trapper stations be in the Duck Mountain area for the trappers in that area?

The spring bear season - I'll get off the crossing of the black to the white bear program, which has been one of my favourites - but I have had many concerns expressed to me in the last few years regarding the spring bear season, that there seems to be room for adjustment, that the May 31st closing date is too late from all points of view that have been expressed to me. Summer cottages are generally being opened up at that particular time of the year, and the May long weekend is included, and those that are interested and have expressed opinions to me say that the end of May is also too late for the hunter to obtain a prime skin. I'd also like to express my sentiments to the Minister that there's room for adjustment also in regard to hunting in certain areas of our parks, and this includes the Duck Mountain Provincial Park where closure to hunting can be shown to be necessary - but I think that they should be kept to a minimum. I'm talking about this early season in the fall, this early moose hunting season. I've watched that program for several years, and it seems every year that, to me, it's becoming more and more a disaster. There's more animals being left - they're hunted out of season when the foliage is on the trees - it just doesn't seem feasible that a warm weekend in September, to see people hunting in the Duck Mountain area and the game being slaughtered and left. And I wonder if he's got any idea how many carcasses have been left the last year or the year before, how many have come out of the area, and if in fact the Minister feels that the animals are being harvested in a proper manner. I have other things I will deal with later on in the questions, Mr. Chairman.

MATTER OF PROCEDURE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Before we proceed, I should remind honourable members that it has been the custom of the committee to deal with each section that is before us, as we are required to do under Rule 64 (2). If the Committee wishes to change its procedure, as suggested by the Honourable Member for Morris, perhaps the committee would advise the Chairman so accordingly. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, that was the very point that I raised, because the number of subjects touched upon by the Minister in the course of the introduction of his remarks are in no way that we can see related to the items in the estimates, and if we were to deal with the subjects that he raised it would be extremely difficult to relate them to the items - and that was the point that I attempted to make. I suggested at that time that we simply just ask the questions that were --(Interjection)-- well, my honourable friend from Birtle-Russell says, "The shotgun approach", and it seems to me that's the only way until the department learns how to structure these estimates in such a way that they can be separated and identified. If there's going to be a wildlife section, let there be a wildlife section. If there's going to be a reindeer section, let it be a reindeer section. If you're going to talk about fence posts, let there be a fence post section. Let the items be separated and identified so that when we come to that item we know precisely what we're going to deal with. As they're structured now, we cannot do that, and so therefore it's the reason I suggested that we deal with it the other way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that change of procedure agreeable to the committee?
(Agreed)

. . . . continued next page

SUPPLY - LANDS, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE (Cont'd)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I would like to facilitate questioning as much as possible, and in order to be consistent with practice of the committee in going through the estimates in a proper manner, I would recommend that those questions that members have relating to anything relating to resources, planning and development be asked under the section Resources Planning, (b) on that same page of your estimates. I think most of the questions that have been asked by the Honourable Member for Roblin could be asked and answered under that section. I intended to cover the waterfront in my opening remarks, and I hope to bring out as much information as possible. I realize from looking at the Estimates Book, that if I just laid it on the table and followed the advice of one member who suggested that some Ministers just drop it on the table and say, "Ask the questions", but that wouldn't give members very much food for thought or food for asking questions. I don't think I could be accused of not giving you enough information in my opening remarks.

Some of the questions asked by the Honourable Member for Roblin I could attempt to answer. There is a couple of things I would have to take as notice - for example the cost of the airstrip. I believe, having been passed a note from my officials . . .

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Chairman, I have one or two questions that fit into what . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the Honourable Member for Swan River rising on a point of order?

MR. BILTON: Yes, if I may - or a question of the Minister. I have one or two remarks to make in relation to what the Honourable Member for Roblin had to say, and maybe he could then answer us both at the same time, if I may be permitted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I think the Honourable Member for Morris has pretty well laid it on the line as to where we should go. I think the Minister gave us some food for thought in an hour and a quarter, and I'm going to try and say what I have to say in about seven minutes.

But he talked about the long-term land use and the natural resources, and everything was being computerized. I'm talking about an area north of the 53rd Parallel which doesn't for the most part, except for a certain area around The Pas, lend itself to agriculture. Now why he would be considering land use for that area and having a Task Force examine it, is beyond my comprehension. And insofar as wildlife is concerned, I echo the opinion of the Honourable Member for Roblin, when is the wildlife of Northern Manitoba to be shut out? For years now I have stood in my place, and I have tried to remind the department of the depletion of our wildlife in Northern Manitoba and asked for the elimination of the trophy season. I've never been satisfied on that. And surely I don't have to reiterate to the Minister again, that beautiful animals are slaughtered for their horns and their head. Even if we have to accommodate our American friends, Mr. Minister, put a halt to it. And I appeal to you again to consider this matter. And insofar as he did mention that he was going to prevail upon the farmers to set up habitat for wildlife - in my area, Mr. Minister, don't waste your time. It's already there. You have the sympathy of the farmers, you have the Duck Mountains and the Porcupines. Protect the animals in those areas which are under your jurisdiction. You don't need to talk to our people, in my area, and certainly north of 53. But somehow or other, you've got to do something in that direction. It's a public disgrace to the Province of Manitoba, when the normal population of deer in this province has been in the neighbourhood of 70,000 to 80,000 - and this province can quite well maintain that - that it's down to some 20,000-odd. Mr. Minister, if you let it go, population unborn won't know what a deer looks like, only in a painting, and this will be to my humble opinion something shameful. There is still time, Mr. Minister. I don't care if you cancel the season for the next 10 years, but give those animals a chance to reproduce themselves. We have the forests, we have the streams - and we have the habitat, without your Task Force, to bring that animal population back up to where it ought to be. And I plead with you, Mr. Minister, to do something in this direction.

I also notice that the Minister just touched on the duck population, the geese population and the swan population - didn't even mention the pelicans. Do you realize, Mr. Minister, that in our province Pelican Lake is the North American habitat for pelicans in this province? And I was amazed, when he started to talk about the caribou and the Russians that were brought in to tell us as to the lack of the caribou population in Manitoba. Mr. Minister, I'm only a layman, but the caribou come and go. They're not an animal native to the Province of Manitoba, they're

SUPPLY - LANDS, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

(MR. BILTON cont'd) a Northwest Territory animal, they fallow in the highlands of Alaska, they spend their summers in the Arctic Islands and they travel along the coast of the Buford Sea - did in days gone by, by the millions. The herds were reduced by disease or what have you. What the hell we need the Russians to tell us we need cariboo in Manitoba for I'll never know? We've got moose, we've got elk, and we've got other kinds of animals, too, but the cariboo was never native to Manitoba. And don't bring those Russians over here any more, we don't need them. For your edification, Mr. Minister, the caribou were depleting in the 30's, and the Federal Government bought reindeer in Alaska - and it took them five years to bring them around on the hoof to Richardson Island in the McKenzie Basin. They brought the herd in there. Are you going to do the same thing? To satisfy the Russians? Bring the Laplanders over here, they'll tell you how to run things in this north country. We don't need any Russians.

But, Mr. Minister, don't get involved in caribou in Manitoba. Protect what we've got. And insofar as the elk population is concerned, I suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that there are areas in Manitoba that are short of elk. Is there any reason why the abundance of elk cannot be thinned out - not with a gun, but netted or - what sort of a gun do you use to sort of put them to sleep sort of thing? Tranquilizer. And move those caribou, Mr. Minister, to other parts of the province where they're sorely needed. These are the things that you should be thinking about, not task forces running all over the country spending the public money, coming back and giving you reports that just gather dust. Let's apply a little common sense to our wildlife.

And if you need the advice, talk to the people that live with them, that live in the countryside. And this \$8 million to the trappers, what have they done for the last 75 years or more? They went out and trapped and they brought them in. You talked in glowing terms of the Hudson Bay Company. Some of us have misgivings as to the way the Hudson Bay Company acted in years gone by, but nevertheless, we've got to thank the Hudson Bay Company for opening the Northwest Territories and giving those people a living many many years ago. And I cannot see any reason why a subsidy to the extent of \$8 million should be provided. And the Minister you know in announcing this, he just gave us a one-liner. He didn't tell us what brought this on. Fur prices have been reasonably good in recent years so far as I know, but you've got to go out and trap them. They've got to go out and kill them and skin them and sell them. Are the trappers doing this? Eight million dollars is a lot of money, Mr. Minister, and I wish you well - and I hope that it does some good for the people in Northern Manitoba. But see to it that when that \$8 million is expended, we've got a trapping industry in Northern Manitoba second to none, or we betide you. That's all I've got to say. Thank you very much.

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

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to make a few remarks on this department. When I was listening to the Minister, when he was telling us about 50,000 caribou and the reindeer, I thought I heard him reading the Farley Mowat book on Siberia, because this is what I understand his research was when he went to that country and researched the caribou and the reindeer and the native people. Well, I don't know if it's feasible or not, but I'm not going to get involved in that part of the debate. But I do hope that the Minister will take a much more active, and be more interested in his estimates so far as wildlife is concerned, and conservation, than the former Minister. I'm not saying that the former Minister wasn't, but I know when I debated on a few occasions, he said something to the effect, well, he's never shot anything and he wasn't a hunter - you know, he wasn't too much concerned. Well, I think that we should be concerned, because it's not only the hunter, the sports hunting, that's concerned about disappearances of our wildlife. I think that there's such people as the naturalists, the bird and the game watchers, the people who enjoy nature, the photographers, there's many many people now are really getting concerned about the species. I think that we must have a program designed to conserve our wildlife and other game, and our natural resources, because I feel that we have not kept time with the changing times. I think it's only if we conserve our natural resources and our wildlife that we will be able to enjoy them, but as well our children will be able to enjoy them. The conservationists tell us about the endangered species in Canada, and I think that we all know that habitat destruction, pesticides - and there are many reasons, hunting perhaps the greatest reason for the plight of our wildlife and our game.

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd)

So really, Mr. Speaker, I think that the Minister will give some real serious consideration as far as protection and changes in regulations. I think that it's not only the hunters that we're concerned about, sports hunting that we're concerned about, I think that there's many other people that enjoy this. So after all is being said and done, it's a heritage, it's one that nature has given us, Mr. Chairman. I think we are fortunate in having so much water in this province, a lot of forest and a lot of game, but I think we must be careful, we must be careful to see that we conserve, protect, and leave it to the people that come after us - and this is where the Minister must be concerned and do something about. When I talk conservation, Mr. Speaker - and I know the Member for Roblin is very much interested - the major cause of waterfowl mortality is perhaps by far the greatest by hunting. And if I may point out, in Manitoba since 1920, the duck population has varied, I believe, from some 80,000 in 1920, that was taken by hunting, to 582,000 in 1957 - and an average over that span of years something like 374,000 a year. So when you look at 582,000 ducks shot in one year, that's a very large population.

Now, the other point - I understand that almost 60 percent of the harvest occurs in the south-west portion of Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, and over the past 20 years, 50 percent of our total continental duck population is born and bred in Western Canada on the prairies, and 70 percent is raised in Canada - 70 percent of your total duck population is raised in Canada. Now what do we have - some 6 percent of the total ducks killed, some 6 percent harvested on the Mississippi flyway is killed in Manitoba, and only 25 percent is killed in the whole country of Canada, only 25 percent, and still we raise 70 percent of the total duck population on the North American continent. Now, I don't care what kind of regulations the Minister will talk about, that he'll have as far as Manitoba's concerned, but if you don't have some arrangements and agreements with the States to the south of us, you know, that won't help, because the game will be taken, harvested in Minnesota and North Dakota and South Dakota and to the States to the south of us. So really, in my opinion, you know, these regulations that the Minister will implement in Manitoba will not help until he starts trying to make some arrangements with some of the other States. And again, I'm saying that only 6 percent of the population harvested or taken, 6 percent is harvested in Manitoba, while on the other hand, the three prairie provinces produce 50 percent in Canada - we produce 70 percent of the total North American duck population or waterfowl population. And these are statistics - perhaps the Minister, I'm sure he has them in his own department, from his own research. So really, I am interested as far as conservation's concerned in what the Minister is doing.

MR. SCHREYER: What about upland birds?

MR. PATRICK: Well, the Minister indicated to me that they're on the increase, and I was very glad to hear that. I know that Saskatchewan has a much better plan, we're just moving into an area what they did in Saskatchewan, where the waterfowl - they preserved their pot-holes and taken the land out of assessment as far as the farmers were concerned, taken, say 25 acres or 30 acres - if it was a pot-hole, took it out of the farmer's assessment - and as a result, this is where they've had great success as far as their duck population. And I understand that the cost of farming today is very complicated, difficult, and very costly, so the farmer has to make the best of every acre of land that he's got through plowing up the fields, and we've had difficulties. But even beside that, we still in this country produce, as I mentioned, 75 or 70 percent of the total duck population - and I mentioned 50 percent in the prairie provinces, while we only harvest in Manitoba 6 percent. So by putting restrictions on the Manitoba hunters or Manitoba people, you won't solve the problem until you've - and I know there's great concern as far as that goes.

The other point we talked about is the deer population, and I know that - I'm told that there's a bigger crop this year and it's quite encouraging. But I would like to put on record, I think that the Minister will have very little success, be it deer population or any other game, if he doesn't get concerned and perhaps have more game wardens and more people to protect our game. There was an editorial that was mailed to me by somebody, and I would like just to read a couple of quotations out of it for the Minister. I don't know if he had an opportunity to see it. This is out of Stonewall Argus and Teulon News. It's "Butchers Robbing Interlake of Valuable Elk" - that's the headlines, and perhaps I'll find who it's written by - it's an editorial in Interlake - "Brian Slemming of CBC Winnipeg went north to investigate and report to his

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) news bureau" - and I'll just read parts of it because it's a very lengthy editorial - "In 1969-73, there was great concern about over-population of elk in Riding Mountain Park, and 129 elk were live-trapped in Riding Mountain National Park, transported to and released in the Interlake area by the Provincial Government, and Mantagao Lake Wildlife Management Area was established to provide a habitat for the animals. In July 1973, with the rising price of beef, a lust to kill, or perhaps profit, the butchers started their massacre. Elk, regardless of age or sex, were shot; beginning in July, single animals, and in one documented case, six at a time. Some were butchered clean, some left to rot. In one field, two cows still wearing the tags and identifying collars of Riding Mountain National Park, were left lying side by side. What scared off the hunters we don't know - perhaps the approach of an aircraft or a patrol." And this is what the article is about and this is what's happening throughout the whole province. So just by putting restrictions - unless the Minister spends some tax dollars to really enforce the law, then it won't improve, the situation won't improve. "There's still time to save the herd if we get to our MLA 's. The Legislature is now sitting, the law is needed, the appropriation needed, could be provided. Why not sit down and write your . . ." And I could give this to the Minister. This is what's happening at the present time, so I would like to hear from the Minister what action has he taken, or what action does he intend to take in this area.

The other point - I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, to what extent our lakes are restocked with fish, and has it been increased. I would like to know what lakes are stocked each year and is it increased because, as I know the Minister knows, we have more sports fishermen every year.

The other point - the Minister was concerned about our commercial fishermen - I would like to know what is the amount of pounds of commercial fish, pickerel, taken out of Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba, and Lake Winnipegosis, the three lakes? Because at one time, these lakes were very productive and we used to take as much as almost 6 million pounds of pickerel fillets out of these lakes, particularly one lake, Lake Winnipeg, and I know that it decreased something to like half a million pounds. So there must be some cause - I know that there was the mercury scare we had a few years ago, problems, and we stopped taking fish commercially out of the lake, but I know that - again, there is commercial fishing, and perhaps the Minister can find out and tell us how many pounds is taken out.

So these are a few points I'd like to ask the Minister at the present time, and would like to hear from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Jenkins): The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES FERGUSON (Gladstone): Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I listened with great interest to the introductory remarks of the Minister, and as we look at it from this side, we seem to find that we're entering a planner's paradise in development of our wildlife, our harvest of resources. No doubt he owes his appointment to the fact that the former Minister had basically no time at all for the wildlife of the province - his interest was in mining and consequently, that is his business.

But again we have to look at the broad range that we have of committees and commissions and etc. that are being formed. And the first thing that would have to go through our minds if we have a harvest of resources in snakes and frogs, etc., we would wonder if there would be a marketing board established, if it would be appointed or elected, and whether the snakes and frogs probably would have some say in what was going on.--(Interjection)--And possibly we could get the Chairman in from Quebec.

However, there are a few other questions that we would like to ask the Minister. One would have to be the extent to which the province has developed the management areas, the amount of acres involved, the amount of money that's been involved, the purpose of these management areas, and basically what species are supposedly being protected. I know in my area there are several pieces of property that have been taken out of lease land, supposedly for management areas, and I certainly can't see what it's for because they're developing nothing except chickadees - because any accessible road to my area, there certainly will be no wildlife propagated there.

Something else I would like to know - I understand by the Minister's figures that our deer count has gone from 27,000 to 40,000 - I would like to have a breakdown of the areas, what the count was in 1973, 1974, and 1975, what the increase has been. This is something I

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(MR. FERGUSON cont'd) would definitely like to know because, if as the figures show, we have an increase of 50 percent, I would certainly like to know what areas this is taking place because it certainly is not in ours.

Again, we have the figures of a closed season. This supposedly is the big indicator of why there has been an increase in the deer population, and to this, Mr. Speaker, I would have to say pretty well "baloney" because we have had better conditions the last two years. I think anyone that has been familiar with the wildlife in the province in the last two years will have to say that the winters have been quite compatible to the deer herds. Anything that has been left, they've certainly had a good opportunity to multiply.

But again, I would have to say that any area that is exposed to night hunting has been bombed out of existence. And I'll repeat this again, that in my area - and you can consult the game warden, if you don't believe me, out of Neepawa, that in my particular area, the Carberry, Neepawa, Gladstone, Arden Ridge area, that there is a load of jacklighters from all of the Indian reserves, Long Plains, Sandy Bay, Rivers Camp, just about - from Griswold, from any place in Manitoba you want - but they're going through there every night. So don't tell me that a closed season has had too much to do - and I would certainly want to see a breakdown of our hunting area and see what the increase has been there.

I would like to quote something to the Minister. This is a letter that I received from Mr. Chrétien in 1972, and this has to do with trespass on private land. Now I have no inclination to argue with the Natural Resources Transfer Act, but I do feel that the Attorney-General of this province and you as a new Minister had better start taking a stand on trespass on private land, and if you're not going to, you're going to see considerably more of the action that you had down in Manitou or La Riviere or wherever it was last year. Now whether or not you've got guts enough, or whether your government has, will remain to be seen, but up to this point, you certainly haven't had. Now are you going to make a move or are you not?

Another question I would like to ask you, and it was asked before when you introduced your estimates, to what degree have your talks gone on with the Federal Minister, Judd Buchanan, and with the Indian Chiefs of this province? Have you done anything or have you sat on your hands? That is another question I would like to have you answer.

I understand that we're selling 10,000 licences to residents and 500 licences to non-residents - this is moose. I would like to also ask, what is the moose population in Manitoba? Will it stand this harvest? Or are you selling licences to a non-existent species? The word around the province is that we're running out of game. Now, are you selling a bunch of licences to people that have no expectation of filling their licences? Or what's going on here?

Something else I think that was brought up when the Minister introduced his estimates for the first time, was a definition of a non-occupied Crown land. I would like to know, Mr. Minister, is this going to include park lands? This is something I would like to have you make clear right now. We seem to have some misunderstanding. I understand that this has been brought to court one or two times, or possibly three times, and the definition of unoccupied Crown lands could include the parks of the Province of Manitoba. Now I would like to know whether this is true or whether it is not.

Something else - we have a reciprocal agreement on ducks and geese with the United States, which is a migratory game bird. If we can have an agreement on ducks and geese, why can't we enforce the law with our deer population?

Now these are a few of the questions, Mr. Minister, that have been on my mind. I would like an answer to them and I expect that in all good faith, I will receive one. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Lands and Wildlife Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In dealing with the comments of members, questions of members, I can compare and contrast some of the questions asked. One of the questions posed by the Member for Roblin, I believe, was answered by his colleague from Swan River relating to the deer population in Manitoba - the reason for no hunting season this year. It's very clear, Mr. Chairman, that it was a judgment decision on the basis of the departmental discussion. Earlier this fall, an estimate was taken of the deer population in Manitoba. It was estimated at approximately 27,000 deer. Later this winter, a further estimate was taken based on a new type of survey technique that was used for the first time in Manitoba, and using that technique they were able to determine, or at least estimate, that there were approximately 40,000 deer in Manitoba.

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)

Now, as the Honourable Member for Swan River pointed out, there is bound to be a certain amount of error in any kind of estimate of that type and, based on that population as compared to the regular population of the normal high year of 70,000, 80,000 deer, it was decided that we would not have a deer season this year, that we would take the advice of people like the Honourable Member for Swan River who would, I am sure, agree that we should give the animals a chance to re-establish themselves, and in the meantime, as I indicated in my opening remarks, we are attempting to encourage private landowners to increase the wildlife habitat on their own lands. We are attempting, through various government programs, to increase areas of wildlife habitat, and a very close look will be taken, Mr. Chairman, at the deer population over the next year, over this fiscal year, to determine if in fact we can have a deer season next year.

I can't answer at this point the question of the Honourable Member for Roblin which he posed, and that is whether or not we will have a season next year. That's simply impossible to determine at this time. It will depend on a number of factors, one of which of course is the weather, and the snow build-up next winter and so on.

The Honourable Member for Roblin did ask for an indication of government policy with respect to hunting in Manitoba. He asked if it was our intention to promote hunting or if hunting will be phased out, and I would say that I attempted to answer that question in my opening remarks, in which I said that the policy of the government is that wildlife is for everyone. In fact, I believe from other members' comments, there would be a fair amount of consensus within this House on that point, that in fact we should try to protect our resource and serve our resource wherever possible, and to make sure that there is a good healthy population of any particular species - and that would include, of course, deer. And if that is going to be the case, Mr. Chairman, then we have to watch very carefully over the next year the deer population, and determine if it is safe next year to have a hunting season, taking into consideration the fact that we want to preserve the species in the province for benefit of the non-consumptive user as well as the user.

I believe it is possible in many wildlife species to have a harvest, to be able to take a reasonable harvest of the resource without endangering the species, and in fact that is evident in the grouse this year. They are in their cyclical upswing. According to wildlife experts, they go in cycles, and at this time, even if the hunting pressure is increased, it won't make any difference as far as survival of the species is concerned.

I take for information and consideration the comments of the Honourable Member for Roblin with respect to the early moose hunting season, and the Honourable Member for Swan River, when he indicated that he had a concern about the trophy season and the possible abuses that may be associated with this particular season. I can say that we will undertake to have a close look at that season and make sure that there is not the kind of abuse that the honourable members are afraid of.

The Honourable Member for Roblin asked if there would be a fur depot established in his area. I could say that in connection with the Trapper Wild Fur Program that we would establish a fur depot in that area if one were necessary, if the demand for one was sufficient.

Mr. Chairman, in commenting on the remarks of the Honourable Member for Swan River when he referred to the task force on long-term land use. Quite understandably, when you're looking at areas in north and northeastern Manitoba, you wouldn't be identifying the uses of that land in the area of agriculture, but there are areas up there, Mr. Chairman . . . and the term "land use" simply is relating to the best use of the resource. Land use may be too much of a general term to use to the kind of study or survey that has been done. It's been more of a look at the area to determine what are the best uses of the resources available in the area, and, as I indicated, there are areas that are being identified as the best potential resource development or recreational resource development areas, such as for hunting lodges and canoeing rivers and cottage beach sites and camping areas and so on. They're all related to the prime recreational use. The east side of Lake Winnipeg, for example, has hundreds of miles of sand beach which could very easily be identified as potential high recreational use areas if access were ever to be provided.

The task force that he refers to - I only mentioned one task force and that was the one that was set up as an interdepartmental task force relating to forestry and the potentials for

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) forestry development in this province. The Honourable Member for Morris had indicated that we should be watching - at the same time as we're doing inventory, we should be looking at the marketing side and relating the marketing to the resource, and that's particularly why we have this interdepartmental committee set up which has Industry and Commerce, which has the marketing analysis ability, which has the Resource Economic Development Committee of Cabinet as a co-ordinating body, which has the Mines and Natural Resources forestry staff as the experts in forestry, and with this team working together we hope to put those - all those factors together in identifying potential development opportunities.

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Minister would permit a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I wonder what the attitude of the department is now for grazing permits on Crown lands in the vicinity of the Duck Mountains.

MR. BOSTROM: I would hope the member could be more specific as to what particular Crown lands he's referring to.

MR. BILTON: Well, in the area of Birch River, Mafeking and Roblin, it has been the attitude of the government to limit or generally cancel out permits of grassland adjacent to the forests which have been very useful to the farmers in that area - rough grass that they've been using. Is it still the department's intention to continue the eliminating of grazing those lands adjacent to the Duck Mountains?

MR. BOSTROM: I'll take that question as notice, Mr. Chairman, and get some specific information; as well, certain informational type questions posed by the Member for Swan River with respect to duck population, geese population and so on, I'll attempt to get that information more specifically.

The caribou, as he referred to in Northern Manitoba, I believe there are evidence of caribou being a very, if not a native animal to Manitoba, at least in the history of Manitoba being an animal which is common to the area, and although they do migrate north and south across the territories and back down to Manitoba into the Brochet and the Tadoule Lake areas of Manitoba, there are evidences of caribou migrating east and west along the coastal areas, along Hudson's Bay, and in fact it's in that area specifically along the coast, south of Churchill, that the Department hoped to be able to initiate an experiment where the animals could be more or less husbanded or watched more carefully, encouraged to increase their numbers in that area which could be more carefully policed and watched over.

With respect to elk, I'm informed by officials that some elk have been transplanted into the Interlake area. The trapping industry comments that the member referred to, I would be happy to supply him with a copy of the Wild Fur Agreement and he could peruse it more carefully if he wanted more information. I did only give a brief comment on it in my estimates because I did try to touch on so many items that it wasn't possible to go into every one in great detail, and I'm sure honourable members are relieved that I didn't.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia made interesting comments about the conservation of resources, and they happened to be sentiments that I recognize and have sympathy with. With respect to recognition of these concerns, we are planning to try to increase the wildlife habitat in Manitoba to improve the conservation possibilities. For example, I'm sure he would be interested to see the kinds of experiments that are being done in the Delta Marsh area, the Oak Hammock area and, more recently, the proposal for the Plums Lake area just around the Brandon area, where there is some of the best, absolutely the best habitat potential for water-fowl in Manitoba, and we do hope to encourage the development of those species in that area by improving on that habitat as well as I mentioned the habitat development program we have for private lands. I would try to get a more specific figure for the member on ducks, as he requested.

In recognizing the concern of the Member for Assiniboia with respect to international co-operation, we have been working with our Federal Government on that particular concern. We have been informing Ottawa of our desire to have co-operation with the various states in the U.S. and to encourage that kind of co-operation, as necessary, as the member so clearly pointed out.

As far as the problem that he referred to in the editorial that he read into the record, we recognize that there is need for increasing vigilance in remote areas. There are areas

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) other than the one he mentioned where it is very difficult for policing officers of the department to adequately cover and to adequately watch over the activities of people who have access to the area by aircraft and other means - snow toboggan and so on. In one of the areas he referred to, I believe we are bringing in a regulation this year which will limit the vehicle access to the area. I believe he referred to the Mantagao area, and we have just made a regulation with respect to the vehicle use in that area during hunting seasons. In other words, it's land that snow toboggans and so on will only be able to travel on designated routes, as they've been compelled to do in certain areas on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, because it was simply a slaughter with snow toboggans being able to travel all over the areas. This particular problem I have discussed with the Wildlife Federation. A number of suggestions have been made and I hope to follow up on this particular problem to see if different ways and methods can be used to have a more complete policing, a better watch over these areas, and perhaps it will be necessary to solicit the support of other private and public aircraft in travelling over these areas to assist in keeping a watch on the poaching activities of the minority who are abusing the wildlife privileges of our province.

The specific information requested by the Member for Assiniboia on lakes, the breakdown by species and so on of the catch records, I will attempt to get that information. I'll take that as notice.

The Honourable Member for Gladstone had a number of points to make with respect to the deer season and the deer hunting. He's made his point before about nightlighting and so on, hunting by treaty Indian people in Manitoba. We've discussed it before during the private resolution which he submitted to the Legislature. I indicated at that time that there had been communication back and forth between myself, the former Minister, and the Minister of Indian Affairs in Ottawa, as well as the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood in Manitoba. As the situation stands right now, we have a commitment from the Honourable Judd Buchanan that he will be setting up a meeting shortly which will be a three-way discussion on the varied kinds of problems that have been brought to the attention of the House.

With respect to wildlife harvest, and in particular biggame, he had indicated a concern about the number of licences that are allocated and the harvest, the potential harvest of those who buy those licences. It has been estimated that there is approximately a 25 percent kill ratio, according to licences sold. In other words, if there's 10,000 moose licences allocated this year, we would expect a 2,500 kill of moose.--(Interjection)--It is estimated - I don't have the population figures here - but it's been estimated that this is a safe harvest of the resource at this time.

I believe I've covered most of those points that I can answer tonight on the questions posed. The others that I have not answered, I will take as notice and attempt to bring the answers tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to just speak on one topic and that is one that has already been raised by the Member for Gladstone and commented on by the Minister. That is with regard to the decrease in population of deer in Manitoba. I know that for the last several years the Member for Gladstone has been raising this topic about the problem with the decrease, and I think that probably any number of us, whether we represent areas that have a large deer population, where people have been used to an adequate supply for game purposes, or whether they represent an urban area where people go to hunt, you can't help but be aware of the, you know, very acute problem that has existed now for several years. And when the Minister says that he is going to watch the population closely over the next year and he's going to have a meeting with the Minister at the federal level, Mr. Buchanan, and the third party organization, which I gather is the head of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, this isn't really quite good enough because it's been brought forward year after year after year. And I don't know if that's entirely where the problem lies, the jacklighting that's been going on and the illicit killing of deer, but we do know that in spite of reasonable growing conditions that the deer population in Manitoba is still in such a state that you can't have a deer shooting season.

Now, we have the situation now where Manitoba hunters are going to the United States to shoot their deer, and the geography between Manitoba and the United States is not all that different, but the population density in the United States is much higher and the population

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) . . . pressures are much greater in terms of going out and hunting deer. But we still have, at this point in time, a better season, a better game season in the United States than you have in Manitoba for deer. Now I don't think that the answers that are being given here are adequate. There has been an acute problem in Manitoba for several years now and it's not good enough to advise the Legislature that you're going to watch the situation over the next year and to have a meeting with the Minister at the federal level to try to come to some solution of the problem.

The problem is that there has not, from all the evidence available, over years now, there hasn't been a proper game management undertaken in the Province of Manitoba, and I think it's time that you got with it and quit playing politics with the situation of who is shooting the deer and who's not shooting the deer. Start looking at who is going to preserve that population. You know, in the interest of ecology and the interest of the environment and in the interest of anything else, for God's sake mount a program that takes adequate caution and care on behalf of the deer population of Manitoba and not be concerned about what portion of mankind is causing that problem. But get with it!

MR. ENNS: Hear, hear.

MR. CRAIK: And that hasn't been happening. And this problem has been with us - this has been with us not just this year, last year, the year before, the Member for Gladstone has raised this problem for the last five years in this Legislature. He's been aware of it because he represented a constituency where it was evident. He knew on a day to day basis. You've been told. Your department has been told. The former Minister has been told every year about this problem. Now there's something wrong . . .

MR. ENNS: Politics. Politics. Votes.

MR. CRAIK: . . . and very clearly wrong, and I repeat again, when you get a . . .

MR. ENNS: Reservation votes.

MR. CRAIK: . . . set of circumstances where, through proper game management . . . You know, we accuse Americans of coming to Canada . . .

MR. ENNS: Trophy hunting.

MR. CRAIK: . . . and sort of creaming off our game population - we've hit them with higher fees and everything else. But the fact of the matter is, in the case of deer shooting, they have instituted more effective game management policies and enforced them, for all the people, to the point where Manitobans now have to go down south of the border if they want to shoot deer.

So let's stop the flute music. Let's just start getting some straight answers and, better still, some straight action as far as the protection of this very important part of our tradition and our game population, because we're at this point, we're getting right now those "waffle" statements, you know, about "next year looks better." "We're going to watch the situation closely." You know - sounds very traditional. "We're going to have a meeting with the federal Minister." "We can assure you, we've had this enforcement." It might even go so far as that you'll put out a press release like you've got here, where you "expect shortly to apply signatures with the federal Minister." Well, who really cares, you know, about all that sort of thing? After all these years, just undertake a proper game management program and stop this game of playing one group of people in a certain area with a preferential treatment as opposed to another group where you know you can hit them hard. Start thinking about the deer population itself. Mount a program. Mount a public relations program that says, you know, that this population is being killed off; it's now time we protected it. And this applies to everybody. I think you're afraid. I think you're actually afraid to do it and I think you have been afraid to do it. Every time the topic has been raised by the Member for Gladstone, you back up and say it's a federal responsibility.

MR. ENNS: Waffled on it.

MR. CRAIK: You know, that's not good enough. For God's sake, you've got a responsibility. You know, it wouldn't matter who went out and shot the whooping crane right now. You know, if there was a guy that landed from Mars and went out and shot a whooping crane, you'd nail him. You're allowing the same thing to happen to our deer population and you're playing politics with it. Now just stop it and get with it, and don't give us all this music about what you're going to do. The problem has been with you long enough that you should have had a solution by now, you know, and let's . . . no, not necessarily you, but let's not - all the

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) people of Manitoba - start looking askance at the people from the south of the border that come up here to take their game, when in actual fact the present situation is that you can get better deer shooting by going south of the border now than you can by coming north of the border. And there's not that much difference in the environment for deer to flourish in. The environment, the natural environment, is a lot better here than it is down there. The thing is that they've got good game management and we've had none of it. It's very inadequate.

You know that your Conservation Officers are frustrated. They don't know what to do. They've thrown their hands up, and so have the RCMP that are entrusted with the enforcement of the laws for game management. Your Conservation Officers and the RCMP are both frustrated. They can't handle it. Now it's time you got off centre on this thing and got with it, and don't give us a lot of these wishy-washy statements about what you're going to do. Just do it. It's long overdue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that I should just sit by, because the Member for Lakeside will say that I sat quietly when something happened, and let the brunt of this criticism fall on the present Minister who is involved in the area involving wildlife and the deer population.

I was the Minister involved in this program for the period 1970 to just about six months ago, and I would have to say that if there has been a problem in the area that the brunt of the criticism should lie with me, and I know that the Member for Riel was not intending that I do not share responsibility. He has indicated that that is the problem and I accept it.

I think that the Member for Riel may be to some extent unfair when he says that this problem has been brought up on numerous occasions by the Member for Gladstone and that we have done nothing about it. I do not believe that the present state of the deer population can be attributed to the particular status vis-a-vis Treaty Indians and the hunting of deer. That is a part of it. That is a part of it, Mr. Chairman.--(Interjection)--Well the honourable member says 30 percent. Those were not the figures given to me by other people, and if the Honourable Member for Gladstone has his figures, the Honourable Member for Riel will also have to accept the fact that we have staff figures relating thereto, and I can't remember, Mr. Chairman what figures the staff gave me, but my recollection - and Mr. Murray is right here and I wish he'll correct me if I'm wildly wrong - is that we were down to some 30,000 population and we should be up to 70,000. Now that's my memory, and he's nodding up and down. And the 40,000 that we were short could not be any stretching of the imagination be attributed to the Treaty status and their right to hunt for food in any place to which the public has access, using any means. That could be a portion of it. One could very possibly attribute 5,000 of that diminution to that . . . and again, if I'm wildly out I would ask Mr. Murray to shake his head to indicate to me, but in any event there was a serious winter kill in the year preceding the first closing of the season. There were other factors, one of which was our own hunting program was probably permitted more than what we should have. And that wasn't something that I introduced. I don't try to absolve myself, but it was something which was ongoing and there were, to my knowledge, no red flags about a serious diminution of the deer population until the spring of 1974. That is, preceding the hunting season of 1974.

Well, the Member for Gladstone is saying "no" and he, to my recollection, raised the question of Treaty hunting for deer, that he did not present a red flag with regard to the hunting generally, or to a diminution of the deer population generally, not unassociated with Treaty hunting for deer. Those were the things that he raised, and I will say that for the first years that he raised them, that I took the position that the rights of the Treaty Indian vis-a-vis hunting for deer, were something which had been decided upon by the courts of the land, that this was one feature in which these people had a privilege, that it did not in any way compensate for the fact that, for one reason or another, in every other respect they were on the bottom of the economic rung. If you will check to see how many of them attend university, how many of them become professionals, how many of them are living in the middle or upper income groups, how many of them are in other areas where the rest of the mainstream is, and balance that with the fact that they had this right, which was not available to other Manitobans but which was not something that we could do anything about, and what I told people . . . and, by the way, many white people traded on this. Many white people traded on the fact that jacklighting is done by

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) Indians. And every time you heard jacklighting, it was Indians.

Mr. Chairman, I'll tell you something. Jacklighting is done by whites . . .--(Interjection) Lot's of them.

A MEMBER: There are laws for them.

MR. GREEN: Yes, and there are laws for Indians. Do you accept the laws for Indians as well? Mr. Chairman, the honourable member can't have it both ways. There are laws and there are laws, and the laws with regard to the Treaty Indian hunting for food is something that was given by the Federal Government, affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada, and can only be changed by the Federal Government. Mr. Chairman, on private land, if an Indian or a white hunts on private land, the private landowner is entitled, with respect to that person, be he Indian or white, to the same rights as he has with regard to anybody else trespassing on private land. A Treaty Indian is not entitled to go on private land to hunt for food.

The honourable member throws up his hands and says that that is not the case. That is my knowledge of the case. Now if you'll tell me, how is the farmer to enforce that? How is the farmer to enforce the fact that many white people go on his land and shoot deer?

A MEMBER: What are the game wardens for?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, the game warden is no more the protector of private property of a farmer than the policeman is the protector of private property of a city resident. If a city resident has people trespassing on his land, he is entitled to certain steps with regard to removing them, but he is not entitled to ask the police to prevent people from trespassing on his land as a constant supervisory activity.--(Interjection)--The honourable member says that stealing and trespassing is the same thing. I will tell him that my view of the thing is that it is not the same thing. And the honourable member has raised this problem - the Honourable Member for Gladstone, each year that he has raised this problem, has raised it as an Indian problem. That is the way he has raised it and I have answered him accordingly. And the Honourable Member for Riel appears to raise it as an Indian problem. And there are many white people in our society who are trading on that to blame the Indians for all of the trespassing and all of the jacklighting. More jacklighting . . . That might be an exaggeration. It is not possible to say that more jacklighting is not being done by whites than by Indians. It is not possible to say that more trespassing is not being done by whites than by Indians, and as a matter of fact the associations have come in and have given me to understand that they always believed that a private hunter, white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, Jew, Ukrainian, white, has a right to go on private farm land, and I have told them that they have not got that right. But they have insisted that they have that right; that they pay a hunting fee and they have a right to go on a farmer's land unless it's posted.

That is not true. A farmer does not have to post his land to say that you cannot come on the land, and we, for the first time - this government, for the first time - put that on the licence, that the fact that you have a licence and the land is not posted does not mean that you have a right to go on the farmer's land.--(Interjection)--That is not true. That is not true. The only thing that the legislation says is that if you put up a posting sign, you can charge for trespassing.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Read the Act.

MR. GREEN: I have read the Act. I have not only read it . . . Well, Mr. Chairman, I have not only read it but I have discussed it with the department and have discussed it with the Attorney-General's Department, and there is nothing which requires a farmer to post his land to charge for trespassing. That is what it states in the Act. It states in the Act that if you post your land, you can charge for trespassing. It doesn't mean that if it's not posted that it is not an ordinary trespass.--(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member will not accept my view of the law, he can go to the Attorney-General's Department and see whether I am telling him the truth. For this year--(Interjection)--The honourable member will not listen. The member will not listen. This year, for the first year, we've put on the licence - and it wasn't on there before - that the fact that a farmer's land is not posted does not give you the right to go on that property. You have to get permission, otherwise he has civil rights against you. And there are as many white people trespassing on farmers' land, and they somehow get the impression that they have the right to do this. I don't know where they get this. I don't know where the hunters get the notion that they have a right to go on farmers' property, but they believe that they have the right to do it, and they got that impression all during the days of the Conservative administration.

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(MR. GREEN cont'd)

Now, I'm not going to blame the--(Interjection)--Mr. Chairman, what is on the licence now was not on the licence five years ago. Mr. Chairman, again I am going to have to sort of stop myself and check with Mr. Murray as to whether I am not correct that this year's licence contains words which were not there before. We have put it on differently this year.--(Interjection)--No. Mr. Chairman, the difference is . . . Let me try to explain to the honourable member that the difference is that previously a hunter was given the impression that if the land was not posted he was not trespassing. We have now told him that because the land is not posted it does not mean that he will not be trespassing if he goes on that land. Now that's the difference, and I say that that is different than it was five years ago. The Member for Gladstone is shaking his head. I tell him that it was in my office that we discussed it with the lawyers and decided on this change.--(Interjection)--All right, Mr. Chairman, then I would welcome to be shown that I am wrong. I would welcome that the honourable member will take the licence of five years ago and take this licence of this year, and show me that there is no difference in the two licences. And the difference, as I have indicated, the difference--(Interjection)--No, the difference that I have indicated, that the licence this year tells the hunter that the fact that the land is not posted does not mean that he has the right to go on farmers' land; that that is the difference, whereas previously it was left in doubt. Not only was it left in doubt, but many of the people in the Wildlife Department were of the impression.--(Interjection)--Well you get the two wordings and see whether there is not a difference.--(Interjection)--Well, do you have them with you? I'd be happy to read them out. If the staff has got them, I'd be happy to read them out. If the staff has got them, I'd be happy to read them out. And I tell you that that is the significance of the wording.

But the Member for Riel and the Member for Gladstone are insisting on making this a racial problem, that this is an Indian problem and that we have not done it. That's what you have been saying.

MR. CRAIK: It's a deer problem.

MR. GREEN: Well, I say that it is a deer problem and you are making it into an Indian problem. And what we said, and the diminution of the deer population cannot, by the wildest stretch of the imagination - there is a . . . - be attributed to the fact that the Indians have this right, which is in law; and they have lots of problems too which we have not been able to correct. So they have this right, and that right was not taken away from them by the Federal Government, and we said that the attack to change that should be directed to the Federal Government. Well, why not? Why not take the Federal Government, who passes the law, and say that they are required to change it?

Now, that was the position that I took for the first four years. I make no apology for it. I think it was the right position. Last year I had to say that there will be no hunting season in the Province of Manitoba. The Member for Riel says, "Mount a program." Well, I think that that's a pretty good start on a program. We said the first thing we were going to do was that there will be no hunting season in the fall of 1974. And there was no deer hunting season. But, Mr. Chairman, at that point, the province was in the position that the citizens of Manitoba, almost in its entirety, were told that they could not hunt for deer. One group had a status which permitted them to hunt for deer at any time and under any conditions, and that became a much less liveable situation. We therefore got in touch about the same time, at about the same time as we indicated that there would be no hunting season - approximately the same time - we wrote to the Minister - at that time it was Mr. Chrétien - telling him that it is not a satisfactory situation, that all of the citizens of Manitoba are unable to hunt deer and one group can do it, and we want him to do something about it. And we told the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood that we were doing that.

Now that is a program. What does the Member for Riel say that we should do? Does the Member for Riel say that we should take out a shotgun and shoot? And some people excuse that on the basis that this is an Indian hunting on the land. I don't excuse it. No way. No way. We have tried to deal with the situation. There are other Indian problems in the Province of Manitoba. The deer population is serious enough. It is also a serious problem amongst the people of Indian status in the Province of Manitoba, that probably 90 percent of them are in a dependency status. It is probably an Indian problem that none of them, or a minute number of them, are able to take advantage of our higher education, are able to find themselves in the

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) midstream of Manitoba's activity. And don't blame it on the fact that they are Indians. It's we who are to blame for that problem.--(Interjection)--Well, you see, Mr. Chairman, I said that's the way the Member for Gladstone treats it and I want to put those remarks on the record. The Member for Gladstone says, "They drive good cars and they have good rifles and they have good spotlights."

MR. FERGUSON: Right.

MR. GREEN: That is his answer to the problem. I say that the Indian people would be quite willing to change places with the Member for Gladstone; that for some reason, human beings with innate abilities equal to everybody in this room have, by accident of history, found themselves in a position where they are at the bottom of the economic ladder, the bottom of the social ladder, the bottom of the advantages ladder in every respect, and the honourable member's concern is that they have good rifles, good cars and good spotlights.

Now we are going to deal with that question. We are going to deal with that question and we are attempting to deal with the question. But to suggest that that is the answer to our deer diminution is wrong. We whites - and I will accept my share of responsibility, and the Member for Riel, who was Minister of Mines and Resources, has to accept his share of the responsibility, and the Member for Lakeside, who was Minister of Mines and Resources, has to accept his share of the responsibility - we whites have been just as responsible for the diminution of the deer population as have been the Indians. And if we blame it all on the Indians, which is what the Member for Riel and what the Member for Gladstone wants to do, it might make you feel very good, it might make you feel very superior, but it is not the truth. The truth is that we had some diminution on the basis of winter-kill, which is maybe the Superior Being's suggestion that there should be less, we had diminution because we gave out possibly too many hunting licences, we had diminution perhaps because we didn't catch the problem as fast as we should have, and we have diminution because there is one group that has some status which we are also trying to deal with. But to suggest that this is something that the Member for Gladstone pointed out year after year after year, all he's talked about is Indian jacklighting, they've got big cars, Mr. Chairman. There is white jacklighting on private land; there is white trespassing on private land; but all he's talked about is the Indians' good cars, good rifles and good spotlights.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, the House Leader and the former Minister in charge of this section of the Estimates we're looking at, you know, has done a typically good job in isolating the case and presenting a very strong argument, you know, in a very narrow area, that narrows it down to "Are you for native people or are you against native people?" And this department has nothing to do with whether you are for or against one particular group in society. This department is there to establish the wildlife of this province, and that's what we're trying to get at. The major point that we're trying to make here is that this responsibility is not being fulfilled. It hasn't got anything to do with the arguments being mounted by the former Minister in charge of this, and he's not going to divert the attention of this House nor the attention of the public onto the argument of whether you're for or against a particular group in society - which is precisely and exactly what he's attempting to do. The problem is that the wildlife is not being established, and I come back to the point that I made before. If this was happening to the whooping cranes of Manitoba, of which there are none, but if they were, you know very well that whether it was a person of native origin, whether it was a white man, whether it was a Martian or whether it was anybody else, whether it was Prince Philip here on a visit, there would be action taken. But the action is not being taken with regard to the decline in the deer population of Manitoba.

Now, when I said that the people of Manitoba were going across south of the border to do what we've always accused those living in the States of doing - which is coming across to Canada to cream off the wildlife population - Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what's happening. Now why are they going across south of the border to do that? They're going across because they have game management laws. They have realized that the protection of game and the management of game cuts across all lines of society, whether they are native people, whether they are non-native people, regardless of their social structure, regardless of whether they even have a university degree that the former Minister of Mines and Natural Resources referred to. They're not concerned about that. What they are concerned about is protecting game and providing their people with the power to carry out that responsibility.

Now let's get it down off that argument of whether anybody here is for or against Indians shooting deer. It has been pointed out by the Member for Gladstone and myself that this is a particular problem. And it is a particular problem. It's not the whole problem. We're not suggesting it's the whole problem. What we're saying is that game management, for the purposes and the sole interest of managing that game, is not the first interest that's being placed by this department. This department is playing politics with the interests that exist in Manitoba right now with regard to that game, and we're saying: strip yourself of those politics and get down to the problem and get down to the task of protecting game. And that is not happening.

Now I also mentioned one other thing. Your conservation officers that are in your own department are extremely frustrated by the fact that that is not happening. They cannot protect the game to the extent that the law says they should be because they are not being backed up by the administration, and the administration, Mr. Chairman, are the people that are sitting right on the front bench, right over there right now. The present Minister in charge of this and the former Minister, that's their responsibility. They're not running a social program; they're running a program that is to be in the best interests of game management in this province. So get away from this false argument of whether you're for or against one segment in society, but get with the protection of game. And that's not happening. Stop talking? Well, what else can we do? What else can our Opposition do? We started talking . . . The Member for Gladstone started talking years ago about this thing. Because he talked about one particular segment. . .

MR. FERGUSON: That's right.

MR. CRAIK: Because he talked about one particular segment that the former Minister was sensitive about, he has picked that out and isolated it - picked that out and isolated it. --(Interjection)-- But do you think he talked about it . . . You're suggesting he talked about it because he had a social bias. That's what you're saying. Your whole argument is based on the fact that this argument is presented on this side because one member has a social bias. That's right. That's it exactly. He cannot face the fact that this government, despite the fact that a particular problem has been pointed out over and over and over again, they have failed to execute their responsibility, which regardless, regardless of who the culprit is, it's causing a diminution in the game population. And let's not just call it the game population, because I'm

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) not interested as a shooter and I know a lot of other people that aren't interested as shooters of game or killers of game, game animals. Their interest is solely from a wildlife point of view. The most shooting they might do is with a camera, but they still are very sensitive to the fact that there is something close to genocide occurring with regard to the deer population in Manitoba, and it's happening because the department that is responsible is not enforcing good game management. So I repeat again, don't try and accuse shoot down the argument, because you can create a false argument or a social bias being brought into this argument. Your responsibility, the responsibility of this department, again, is not the social aspect. Your responsibility, and the reason that you're sitting in your Cabinet position, is to look after the wildlife of this province, and all we're saying is "do it". And you know very well, the former Minister of Mines knows very well, when he accused the Member for Gladstone, you know, of having cars and rifles and jacklights . . . oh sure, you go on down, do it in a hurry. The Minister thought that's great, this really reinforces my argument; I can prove that this isn't an argument in the interests of game, this is an argument now because somebody has a social bias. And that's a lot of nonsense - and all we're saying is that this has gone on long enough, and if you can't recognize the problem, you know, then it's our responsibility to just keep after you until you do.

But as I said before, you know, a meeting with this Minister, a Minister with a meeting, or whatever you like, at the federal level - whatever it is - and all these other sweet phrases, they don't do anything. They don't help a bit. They don't help a bit. You tell the world what your responsibility is. You know, don't put out these superfluous press releases. Just stand up and say, "Our responsibility is to look after the game that have a natural right to inhabit this province, we're going to make sure they're sustained at a particular level, and be damned whether a person is red, black, yellow or white, those game have a right and that right is going to be enforced - and if the Federal Minister disagrees, let him stand up and say - in the meantime, we're going to enforce the law because that's our responsibility." Now stop pussy-footing and just get with it. It's too late already.

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

MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are just a couple of points I'd like to straighten up with the former Minister of Mines and Resources - I guess it's still the same - the first was his accusation to me that I am a racist and all the rest of it. My argument over the years has been this, Mr. Minister - if you would listen . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I never accused the honourable member of being a racist. Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member is making that accusation, he's making it against himself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Very well. The Honourable Minister accused me of several other things. But the first thing would be this, Mr. Minister, that over the years, the thing that I have asked for - I'm not asking for any change in the Act, the Act is there - if you people see fit, the public are demanding that it be changed - if you see fit to have it changed, fine. When you were Minister, you definitely never made any effort - the two Attorney-Generals, the former Minister from St. James and the present one, the Attorney-General, certainly gave no indication that they were interested in enforcing the Act. My argument is that the Natural Resources Transfer Act gives access to unoccupied Crown lands, lands which have been granted access, or to reserves. Do they stay within the terms and conditions of this? No hang-up. But the hang-up is this, that when they're spending hour after hour in my area and in my district and in my constituency hunting with jacklights - and they've been followed, they've been checked, and their numbers have been taken, you can check them through the game wardens in the Neepawa area, you're very loath to do this. There are laws that will nail the white man to the cross, if they're involved in this practice, I'm not saying they're any different - but the laws are there to nail them. Automatically, your truck is gone, or your car is gone, and your rifle's gone. --(Interjection)-- Now look, you can nail them for trespassing. --(Interjection)-- Well, wouldn't that be something. I've got to sit out there all night and catch them for trespassing. Your statement was this --

A MEMBER: We'll get a gun for you.

MR. FERGUSON: Well what are the game wardens for? What are the Mounted Police for? --(Interjection)-- All right, if they're hunting on private land - and here is the

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(MR. FERGUSON cont'd) authorization from Mr. Chrétien that says if they're on private land, that they shall be prosecuted the same as any other individual in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. GREEN: That's right.

MR. FERGUSON: All right. Then why isn't it being done, that's what I'm asking you? --(Interjection)-- How many prosecutions did you have last year? Not one. And you know it. And you sit over there on your hands and get up and make a speech on . . .

MR. GREEN: That's right. That's all I can do.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes. I've had a lot of respect for your speeches in this House. Tonight you're off base about seven miles. You're trying to cover up something because of your inadequacy and your lack of effort and it's about high time you would, which you won't because you're not the Minister now, but between the present Minister and the Attorney-General I think it's high time they did. --(Interjection)-- Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I recognize the next member, I should remind all honourable members that they should direct their remarks to the Chair and not to other individual members. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your recognizing me at this time. My purpose was not to enter into the vivid debate that's been taken on at this particular time, although I intended to. But really, I want to indicate to the Honourable Minister that he has a very unique opportunity, in a sense that having been made a Minister of - I have difficulty with his title - Harvestable resources or . . . wildlife and wild rice and a few other things that we have. You know, the growth within the Cabinet ranks has been just about in keeping pace with the national inflation right in the country. It's sometimes difficult for us members in Opposition to properly identify the honourable members opposite.

But by coincidence, Mr. Minister - and I don't recall you being in the House earlier on in the day, but surely you have been in the House, you know, in the last number of days when a very major piece of legislation has been debated, namely Bill 44, having to do with planning generally. And I find, Mr. Minister - my remarks will be brief and to the point - that you have a very unique opportunity, having taken on the responsibilities and having those particular areas of planning the future of the wildlife, the heritage, and the future of our wildlife in Manitoba; it's responsible for harvesting those wildlife resources that we have in this province, the management of those wildlife resources - are rather unique to you, Mr. Minister, because unlike many of your colleagues who have to plan other aspects of our economy and of our social life and have to deal with long established and traditional kind of, you know, institutions, municipalities - we're talking about Bill 44 - planning and so forth, you, sir, have that unique privilege that most of your efforts are very immediately under your immediate control. And when I say that. I mean that, not entirely, but we are this week speaking about Crown lands which you as the Minister responsible have a direct responsibility and control of, of making the regulations, of making the management, producing the management programs, that in the large are in your immediate domain. You do not have the kind of problems that my friend the Honourable Minister of Agriculture has when he has to deal with uncooperative hog producers, or with milk producers that aren't always in favour of building \$9 million plants in Selkirk, etc. etc. You don't even have the problems that my friend the Honourable Minister of Corrections has when he has to deal with the various institutions that he has to deal with, the different jurisdictions, Federal or Provincial. You have them, and one of the basic ones of course has been pointed out to you, namely, the one of the province with a status vis-a-vis our treaty Indians in our province. That's been pointed out to you.

But in the main, you have a very unique opportunity, Mr. Minister, of demonstrating, and indeed showing a great deal of leadership in developing the kind of policies, the kind of action policies and programs that not too many Ministers, you know, prior to you have had. For instance, I have always, you know, to my everlasting regret, have held it against other forces, one of whom is sitting right beside you right now, the fact that I was denied that opportunity to really interest myself and devote myself to the responsibilities that I once had, because most of my time was taken up worrying about a dam at South Indian Lake while I was Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, you know. And I'm sure the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources will now also say that most of the time that he was responsible for your responsibilities now, that he was doing what he is still doing, namely running the government, period - looking after all the brush fires that governments light from time to time.

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) And he's still doing that. And therefore I can appreciate the fact that at this hour of the night, at 11:15 he is rather tender and he can be reached at very easily. He's a little upset. You know, whether or not I had anything to do with that earlier on in the morning, I don't know. I wouldn't pride myself to being able to have said that I did that. But whatever the reason is, I find the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources very short on the ropetoday, throughout the day today. I mean, he bites at all of us right now. But Mr. Minister, I don't want to talk about him, I'm talking to you. And I'm talking to you as . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I would again remind honourable members they should direct their remarks to the Chair and not to another member. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, you are of course so right, and from you, sir, that admonition is very easily accepted.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what I was saying to the Honourable Minister, through you to the Honourable Minister, is that the Minister has an opportunity, you know, not to lecture us for an hour in his introductory remarks which I unfortunately missed, about what he is going to do with jack rabbits and deer and all the rest of it, but indeed he has - the government has seen fit - and we have not been critical of that position taken by the government - of setting up a separate Ministry with all its attendant costs, setting up a specific Minister responsible for this vital area of concern in the Province of Manitoba. And I just want to at least put it on the record, that in this sense you have kind of a special responsibility in striking out some new paths in this area.

You know, aside from this specific area that the Member for Riel and the Member from Gladstone is raising with you, what we're really saying to you, Mr. Minister, is that along with that special attention now being centred on in this area - and I say it's correctly, I say it's correctly done so because there is a greater concern generally, in the general population of Manitoba, that we concern ourselves with the well-being of our wildlife, the preservation of the habitat for wildlife, the kind of management programs that are necessary to ensure this, that I have no quarrel with the fact that he is the Minister responsible in this area. And I say to him that, you know, through coincidence we have dealt with - and aside from the vehemence expressed by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources about the possible trampling of rights on certain segments of our population - you know, we trample on the rights of a lot of people, you know, traditionally held rights in this Chamber. We are about to pass planning bills that are going to move, you know, the traditional rights of municipalities in certain areas. We're going to trample on the traditional rights of schoolboards in certain areas. The Minister of Agriculture tramples on the rights of certain agricultural commodity groups when he feels compelled to do so. What the Member for Riel has told you, Mr. Minister, what the Member from Gladstone has told you, is that you recognize your primary responsibility, and that is the Minister responsible for the well-being of the wildlife, the preservation of our harvestable resources, renewable harvestable resources in that area, land - and that you give yourself to that program in a very unbiased way, that full and total support, that you have now been singled out as never before any Minister in any previous administration has had that opportunity to strike out in new paths with vigour and with enthusiasm for the job at hand.

Mr. Minister, if you choose simply to be an apologist for actions taken either by previous administrations, or if you choose simply to be an apologist for your inability to want to move in certain directions because of the political consequences involved, then we will be much harder on you the next time your estimates come up. We, after all, are approving your estimates, the establishment of a new Ministry - and as I said, with the attendant costs, because we're prepared to accept the validity of those costs, we are prepared to accept the importance of the attention given in this area. But we would like to see, we would like to see a stand, some position, a forward drive taken in this area. Not simply, you know, particularly having made this move at public expense, voting your salary in these estimates to do this job, when up to now it's been attendant to other Ministerial functions, then we expect, Mr. Minister, considerably new efforts, considerably new initiatives coming from you and from your Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Chairman, I was rather amazed when I walked into the Chamber to hear the outburst of the Member for Gladstone, and indeed amazed because I had never heard such a proposition in all of my years - and

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) certainly I'm not an expert in law, in court procedure, certainly in common law I think I have some valid observations to make. And I would like the Member for Gladstone to stand up in this House and tell us in what jurisdiction that he has knowledge of, that the government body intercedes to prosecute people who trespass on private lands? I would like him to cite me one example, anywhere in the world, Mr. Chairman. --(Interjection)-- In the process of jacklighting. Well, he didn't say that Mr. Chairman. The Member for Gladstone chided the Minister for not using the conservation officers in an effort to prosecute, to catch and to prosecute people that would be trespassing on private property. That is an unheard of suggestion, Mr. Chairman. I don't know why it is that the Member for Gladstone would seem to think, after all of the Tory posturing on the opposite side of the ledger, that all of a sudden we should have a police state where no one has freedom of movement and where the Crown would intercede even though it does not involve the property of the Crown or the interests of the Crown. I would be interested to get a reply from my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 84. The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on the questions raised and the comments made by the Honourable Member for Riel and others. I agree with the Honourable Minister of Mines when he has made the point very clearly that it is evident that members opposite are only looking at one aspect of the factors, or only one factor in the decrease in the deer population in Manitoba. There's a number of factors involved. As the Member for Riel was speaking, I was making some notes just in that regard. I marked down six factors which I consider to be significant in terms of the impact on the deer resource in Manitoba. One of them is the decrease in habitat, which I've already indicated, and there are economic rationales, economic reasons for that decrease in habitat. If the price of wheat is high, farmers put more land into cultivation. If the price of feed grains are high, more cattle are put out onto the pastures. Both of those result in less habitat for the deer population of Manitoba and, as I already indicated to members, we were attempting to do something about that. Another factor that hasn't been mentioned here is the weather factor. The winter kill has a very large impact on deer population in Manitoba. Some years it can be very very disastrous for the deer population in many areas of the province.

No one has made any mention of the wolf pressure, the predator pressure on the deer population. A fourth one, poaching, that is done by non-Indian people in Manitoba, which is certainly a factor and it's one that's hard to estimate. And another is the regular hunting by non-Indian people. And as I passed this note on to officials sitting in front of me to add to the list, they had indicated that over-hunting was in fact a problem over the last few years. Over-hunting. And that is not just by Indian people, it's by all of the hunters who were involved in harvesting the deer resource.

And last, and it is the only one mentioned by members opposite, that is the Indian hunting. The Indian hunting is only one of six factors that I've mentioned. There are five other factors, each of which may have a greater impact on the deer resource than the Indian hunting, and on each one of these factors, Mr. Chairman, the department has taken initiatives. As I mentioned on the habitat problem, we've undertaken to try to find the kinds of encouragements and incentives that are required to encourage private landowners to have more land available for wildlife habitats. And I might mention that we have programs of land acquisition under the Alternative Land Use program, the FRED programs, Resources for Tomorrow programs, any of which can utilize and are being utilized to provide more lands for wildlife management areas. In other words, we're trying in an aggressive way to increase the habitat for the deer population in Manitoba.

With respect to the hunting, the regular hunting of the deer population, the Honourable Member for Riel and others have just completely refused to take note, in the comments that they were making, that we've absolutely shut down deer hunting in Manitoba for two years, last year and this year, and the Wildlife Federation, for one, and some other groups were questioning this year. There was even some questions from within the department that maybe we should try a deer hunting season this year. But we're adamant on that point, Mr. Chairman, that we're going to keep that deer hunting season closed for at least one more year to give the deer a chance to recuperate, to re-establish themselves. And Mr. Chairman, if those are not straight answers and straight actions, as the Member for Riel suggests he wants, then I don't know what he does want. And on the Indian hunting problem, as has been brought forward

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . by members opposite, we have taken initiative. The former Minister, the Minister of Mines, had taken initiative at the time the deer hunting season was originally closed to bring this to the attention of the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, and there's been correspondence back and forth. The last communication I got, as I've already indicated to the House, is that the federal Minister of Indian Affairs is prepared to call a meeting, a three-way meeting to discuss this issue.

And, Mr. Chairman, the only role that the province could play in that kind of a meeting is as an initiator and an encourager. We can't change any laws in Manitoba which would change one way or the other the Indian hunting rights of Indian people in Manitoba. The Indians have been guaranteed their hunting rights in Manitoba through treaties, treaties that were signed between the Federal Government and the Indian people of Manitoba, and the only people that can change that, the only two actors in that scene, are the Indian people and the Federal Government. They have to come to a meeting of minds on that issue, and all we can do is point out the problem as it exists in Manitoba.

I appreciate the comments that have been made by the Honourable Member for Lakeside. I agree completely that I've got a unique opportunity. I respect the responsibility that's been afforded to me by the First Minister, and I can assure members that I am certainly interested in the problems and the potentials of the renewable resources in Manitoba, and I'm certainly enthusiastic about the potentials that are ahead of us. Mr. Chairman, in each one of these areas that I'm responsible for, lands, forests, wildlife and fisheries, there are areas where there can be a lot of progress taking place over the next few years. I tried to outline some new thrusts that we're making in my opening remarks, and I hope that we can expand on those as members come forward with more questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 84(a)(2). The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll try and keep my questions brief and right to the point, and I hope that the real Minister of Renewable Resources or Harvestable Resources, will stand up and identify himself when he answers them, because I've been sitting here listening to the debate so far and we've had the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Mines stand up and give answers. So I'm not too sure who the real Minister is in this case. But we would like to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture on a point of privilege.

MR. USKIW: The Member for St. James knows that I did not give answers on behalf of the Minister. I simply questioned the advice of the Member for Gladstone when he rose and spoke in the Assembly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: I gather now, Mr. Chairman, that we have heard from the real Minister of Environmental Management or Resources. So I will direct my question. In the 1974 report of the combined departments it states, under Wildlife Programs, and I'll quote it: "Following the severe winter of 1973-74, departmental biologists initiated studies aimed at developing detailed operating plans for the key big-game species. This task, when completed, will set the criteria for alternative courses of action toward the rebuilding and maintenance of Manitoba deer and moose herds."

I would now like to ask the Minister - we have heard from the former Minister that they closed off hunting in all the province except to say the Native people which in my opinion, gives the complete province a Native reservation approach to the problem - what other criteria or what other action has been taken to date, and what are the details of this report that was indicated some year and a half ago was under way, or are we only getting lip service in terms of what we read in the annual report?

The other question, if the Minister could answer at the same time, would be: is there any intention of closing off hunting, all hunting - this is upland game - in provincial parks this year? Or if there is a big game season at some future date, is there intention of the department to close off any hunting at all in provincial parks?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I did mention that one of the major thrusts for 1975-76 in the development and management plans for important wildlife species in Manitoba, the white-tailed deer and the waterfowl are in the first two plans that we will be preparing. In those plans we will be attempting to define those areas and to outline those areas in which we can increase the deer population in Manitoba, where we can increase the wildlife habitat,

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . where we can encourage the production of deer on private lands by giving incentives to private landowners to increase their areas of land which they would allow for wildlife habitat. And, as I've said, we've got a number of programs available to us in which land is being obtained for Crown purposes which could be set aside for wildlife management areas. We have the Alternative Land Use program. We've got programs under the FRED agreement. We have programs, the Resources for Tomorrow, any of these which could be used to purchase lands which may have low capability for agriculture but are good lands for wildlife habitat. And the planning that we will be doing, the actions that we will be taking, will have as the major objective the increasing of the deer herds of Manitoba. And that will not be only for hunters, that will be for the non-consumptive users as well. And some of the non-consumptive users, Mr. Chairman - getting to the second part of his question - some of the non-consumptive users are the heavy visitors to the provincial parks in our province. And certainly there are some areas within provincial parks where there will be banning of hunting in those settled residential areas where there will be a restriction on discharge of firearms and so on, for safety reasons if for nothing else.

There are other areas of the parks in which there are no people travelling around extensively, which there should be no problem having reasonable hunting activity. And as of yet there are certainly no plans to restrict completely the hunting in provincial parks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 84. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask several questions at this time which follow very closely along the lines of the questions that already have been asked. And I would agree to the one statement that the Minister made before there, in one of the reasons for the deer population being down significantly, I think one of those is definitely over-kill. I think any of us - and I must confess in this particular area I have a conflict of interest because I do enjoy hunting and I have hunted ever since I could buy a licence - the thing that I would like to point out to the Minister at this time. and I'm kind of concerned that the department didn't catch this a little sooner, I think we issued a very very large number of licences the last year we were out. I don't remember the figures but they were in the many thousands, and I think up substantially from the year before. And I would draw to the Minister's attention the things that they've done in South Dakota. In South Dakota what they've done is they've divided the whole state into areas to do a census on the deer population, and then they say that "we can harvest 'x' number of deer in every area." Very much like we're doing in the Duck Mountains right now. The only difference is that, say, there's a certain area like the Sandilands Forest Reserve, that say they can shoot 2,000 - or the harvestable crop there this year is about 1,000 deer. The kill is going to be about 50 percent, which means that you can issue 2,000 licences. They then allow the residents within the parameters of that particular region first option on the licences - in other words, the local people. If a farmer wants to go hunt - and I think the Minister is aware of different situations that have arisen around Riding Mountain National Park where many of the farmers were aggravated the first couple of years of the draw system because they weren't allowed to hunt and they had all kinds of strangers coming in. But they allow the local people the first option on these licences.

Then what happens after that, is that if the local residents don't pick up the total option of the licences, residents of the state can take the balance, and if there are not enough residents from the state, then non-residents can do that. I took advantage of this particular set-up a number of years ago when I went down to South Dakota to hunt mule deer, and I talked to some of the officials in that area and it had worked out very very favourably. Now I throw this out to the Minister at this time as a possible something that maybe his department has looked into, but I think it would be very equitable to the people of Manitoba. It would give the local people the option, which they would appreciate because they're living in that area. I know there's a lot of people in Winnipeg that would say, "Well, if they can have it, why can't we?" But I would draw into the argument at this time a certain stay option. It's a benefit that the people of rural Manitoba have for living in Manitoba.

The other question I would like to ask of the Minister is: the Elk and the Porcupine Mountains area - I'd just like a little bit of a report on how they're doing. I know there's no season in that area and that they're trying to build up the herds in that area, but I was just wondering what kind of success we're having with that right now.

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(MR. BANMAN cont'd)

And further to the jacklighting problem in southeastern Manitoba, it's the same problem. The problem that we're having there is that I would say there's just as many white people jacklighting as native people, and of course it's Crown lands. We're not faced with the same problem the Member from Gladstone has in that it's private lands. Most of the Sandilands Forest Reserve and that area where the jacklighting is taking place is Crown land, so we haven't got the trespassing problems. But as mentioned by several other members, the problem that we have is that the game officials are having a hard time policing the jacklighting, whether it be white or native people. If there was some kind of uniformity with the policing of this particular thing, it would make it much easier on the officials. I know you can talk to some that have been up all night following a jacklighter, just to find out at the end that it's a native person. Very often they catch a white person on their lots and they're punished, and they should be - rightfully so. But it makes it very difficult for policing, because if you see this light flashing around you don't know who it is. The chances are - and I would say probably 50-50 out in our country - that it could be either a native person or somebody else. In our particular area that it's a problem. It's one problem that I think that the Minister identified and that we should all identify, and I don't think that any of us want to be painted into a corner and be called racists here or anything along that line. But it is a problem, it's creating a problem for the department and I know it's causing a lot of frustrations in the department, and I don't blame the fellows because when you sit up all night trying to catch these guys and you come home empty-handed even though you did think you caught somebody, it makes it very very difficult.

So the thing that concerns me is that we do allow people in the area, if we should come to a certain amount of wildlife. if we come back to a certain amount, that we allow the people in the local areas to have first option on anything, and that we get some of these problems straightened out with this jacklighting, that there's some kind of uniformity so that these people can go after and maintain a certain amount of wildlife population and a certain amount of proper control on the harvesting of that renewable resource.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of the honourable member. The suggestion he makes with respect to the allocation of hunting licences is an interesting one. The Department has considered this year attempting, at least, to find some way of assuring that at least those residents that are in the remote areas of Manitoba, that have difficulty getting foodstuffs in because of high transportation costs and so on, if there was some way in which we could give them first option on a hunting licence. Now last year, as it turned out, when the schedule was set and the allocation was set at 10,500 licences, there were not quite as many people applied as licences were available, so that almost everyone, if not everyone, who did apply got a licence. One of the problems in the remote areas, however, last year was that they were not informed early enough of the draw date, the application date and so on, so many of them did not get their application in, but those who did get their application in were mainly successful in getting a licence. This year we've attempted to have a very complete advertising and information program across the province with advertisements in newspapers, posters in public places. In some of the remote communities we've done mail-ins to the residents to let them know how to go about applying for their moose licence. and we've applied it on the basis, on the philosophy that everybody in the province is equal and everybody has an equal chance to apply for a hunting licence. However, the way in which this option works in that state, if the honourable member would let my office know what state this is involved, I would undertake to have the department look at that experiment and see if some aspects of it could be applied to Manitoba.

The question on elk in the Porcupine Mountains I'll have to take as notice. We are not having a season near the Riding Mountains this year because we have identified that there is a problem there, but with respect to the Porcupine Mountains specifically, I'll have to take that as notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 84 (a)(2) - passed; 84(b)(1) - The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My question relates to the planning division of the Minister's Department and particularly the land use, and in the 1974 report it indicated that there was a program under way and I think the Minister was good enough to give me some

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd) basic answers to this program of establishing the land use of Crown-owned land. I'd ask the Minister if this particular program that his department is carrying out and the fact that it involves 78 percent of the land and water of our province, is it being carried out independent of the Planning Act that is now before us for approval. Will his department be operating independently from the other planning of municipalities? Because of the large volume of area of land that we're talking about, we are sort of concerned with this regard, particularly if the Act which we understand is being put forward at this time will decide on townsite locations, etc.

Another question I would like to raise pertaining to this is I understand the present policy of his department is not to sell Crown land; that if there is an area in the Planning Act that will require large areas of land and there might be Crown lands adjacent in the area - I'm thinking, say, of a townsite or something - will the department reconsider its policy at the present time of maintaining ownership of Crown land, or will it work with the Act and incorporate in a proper planning fashion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: On the first question, the land use plans, these are mainly plans of an identification nature where they identify various land forms and land types, resource types, and their main purpose is to act as a guideline for individuals and groups that would want to use the information for planning purposes, for identification of resource harvesting potentials, identification of tourist potentials, identification as it relates to the southern part of Manitoba, those areas best suited for agricultural pursuits, those best suited for wildlife management areas, etc. And I really see these plans, these comprehensive land use plans, as being resource documents, as being the resource material that these planning districts could utilize in assessing the future development plans of their areas. So really, in that sense, we would be working with the planning districts and supplying them with the materials, the information that they require, to make good decisions.

With respect to the second question on Crown lands, you were correct that in most cases Crown lands are not for sale, although we have a policy of turning over Crown land to municipalities for townsite purposes, for residential lot developments; and in turning that over to the municipality we do it at the cost of development, at the cost of turning the land over in most cases, and the lots then are available for sale by the municipality to individuals, or in fact even industries, on the basis that they don't make a profit on it, that they turn it over at cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder then if the Minister could clarify what the year-end report of 1974 states. It says the program will "allocate" land to different uses, such as forestry, recreation, cottage and wildlife production. There it very clearly states that the department will allocate land to certain use, with the understanding that I have from the Minister now, that's not the case, and I'm wondering if the former Minister had the intention that it would be allocated in this manner and now there has been a policy change.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, using that part of a sentence may result in the misinterpretation. If I may read from the information on this, these plans, the word "allocate" is used in the planning sense here, that they will allocate land - the plans, that is, will "allocate" land to specific uses and provide guidelines for specific development opportunities. All plans will identify possible job opportunities, indicate long term land allocation possibilities, provide land use guidelines and use development guidelines in general." So that the word 'allocate' there is used in the planning sense, that that is a potential allocation of that land, whether it be the best potential that's identified as being forestry, or the best potential as being campground, recreation sites, or agricultural use, or whatever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, under the same planning division in the report, there is the mention of northern animal husbandry, and I believe the Minister in his introductory remarks mentioned something briefly on that particular subject. Unfortunately, I am a member of the Economic Development Committee and I wasn't able to attend when the Minister started here in the House. But I wonder if the Minister could advise, with regard to his consideration of domesticating moose and muskox and caribou as northern animal husbandry projects, what status is that in at the present time. Is it simply in the planning stages or are they actually

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd) experimenting and investing money into this program at the present time?

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman, no money is being invested at this time in any kind of experiments. They may be a small experiment undertaken in conjunction with a Far North development research station we're establishing at Churchill, but other than that it's recognized and the two Russian experts that were invited over here indicated the same conclusion that our people had already come to, and that is that sociologically the people in Northern Manitoba are not necessarily suited for animal husbandry; they have not been a husbanding type of society. People in native communities have been trappers and hunters, and it's not enough to just put in a program of animal husbandry and say, "Here's a good idea," It has to be something that the people are interested in trying, and in the event that a community or group in the North was interested in trying an experiment, we would entertain the possibility of assisting them to take it on and to give them advice and any assistance that we could. But at the present time there's really no definite program as such.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether this comes under the Resources Planning or not, the wild fur program that was mentioned before earlier, but maybe I'll just raise the question at this time because of the way that we've been dealing with these particular estimates. What I was wondering, on that \$8.3 million fur program that was announced back in April, would the Minister advise particularly with regards to the operating and capital funds? I think there's somewhere in the order of some \$2.5 million that's being allocated to this for various things and also to cover fur depot construction. Would the Minister advise what type of assistance and supervision will be given to the trappers in the North and where these depots would be located generally?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, it would require a very lengthy explanation to go through the entire Manitoba wild fur program proposal and agreement that's been reached with the Federal Government. I had already undertaken in an earlier comment in answer to the Honourable Member for Swan River that I would provide him with a copy of the agreement and the plan as it's laid out, and the member could peruse it at his leisure and perhaps direct a question more specifically in those areas of interest at a later date. If that is acceptable, I would undertake to supply a copy to your caucus.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, my main questions were relating to what type of assistance, particularly with supervision, is going to be provided to these people, because we would not want to see something similar to the fish co-operatives that have developed through the years happen, where the fishermen are left with a considerable capital debt to pay off and it becomes such a burden that they threw up their hands and quit, and we wouldn't want to see this happen to the fur trappers so this is why we were raising the question. Primarily, you know, what type of approach is the government taking on this particular project to make sure this doesn't happen?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, in any kind of program like this in the North it is a concern, one of control of funds. Much of the funds that are directed into this program will be handled directly by personnel of the department who will be assisting the trappers in fur market development, training assistance and so on. So if you would look through the breakdown of program costs, you would see that there's a certain amount allocated for trapline development infrastructure, there's a certain amount allocated for fur marketing assistance and, as the member has already indicated, there is an allocation for fur depot construction. Now we are considering - we will only be considering fur depot construction in those areas where it's really necessary to construct them. I was mentioning in my opening remarks that the Hudson's Bay Company, since we had indicated that we were going to go ahead with this kind of a program had brought in one of their own, and that is they have offered to trappers in those communities where they have Hudson's Bay stores the option of putting their fur through the Hudson's Bay store with them receiving a cash advance on the fur and then receiving up to, and in fact completely up to 93 percent of the final value of the fur marketed on the Montreal auction, which is reputed to be one of the best auctions in the world, so it's really impossible for us to compete with a fur depot construction program with that kind of option, so that in those areas where the

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . trappers are able to take advantage of that situation, we would not find it necessary to construct fur depots.

With respect to the management, the control of funds, I've asked the Management Committee of Cabinet to have people work with the staff of the department in watching very carefully the way in which the program is designed and the way in which it is implemented to have a primary interest and control on the funds involved in this program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, these are my final two questions for the Minister and they relate to predator control, and when I raised them in the House earlier in the year it was suggested I wait until we deal with the estimates, and that was with relation to the status of the timber wolf population in Manitoba. Are they causing any serious problems at this time, as it was reputed they were? The other question I have is whether or not the Minister's department is giving any consideration to allowing the hunting of the timber wolves from light aircraft this year to try and correct the severity of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we have had some isolated complaints with respect to timber wolf populations. It is a rather complex problem in that those areas in which it has been attempted to control the population, some ways in which the control has been attempted seems to have resulted in, not a decrease, but an increase in the wolf population. There is much research done on the wolf populations and their relationship to the big game animals, and some people would maintain that the wolf is the best manager of the resource and, if left by himself, would control his own numbers through the wolf pack, and in fact needs no real control by man. On the other hand, the complaints that we have had we are checking into. We're not allowing shooting of animals, wolves or any other kind of animal, from aircraft, or any other moving vehicle for that matter. So we are checking into those isolated complaints and assessing the situation as to what we can do. For example, in the mountain area, I believe it's the Duck Mountain area, we had a complaint about the wolves harassing cattle. In fact there were a couple of dead animals there a couple of weeks ago, and a couple of traps were set out, these blasting-type traps, and they were set off but there were no wolves in the area, and as it turned out it was finally assumed it must have been bears, not wolves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 84. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: There are no further questions to be asked from this side of the House so, unless someone else has a series of questions, I would suggest that we say that the item passes in its totality without going through each item one by one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 84. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$13,398,900 for Mines, Resources and Environmental Management - Lands, Forests and Wildlife Resources. (Passed)

That completes the Department. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, your Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions and recommends them to the House.

IN SESSION

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Wellington, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I wonder if the House Leader would indicate whether or not we're going to go into Committee on Bill 16 tomorrow morning.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that we would reach Bill 16 tomorrow morning. I may call some bills prior to that, but I would like to get to Bill 16 tomorrow morning.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Gladstone, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House was adjourned until 10:00 a. m. Thursday morning.