

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

ESTIMATES - RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. D. James Walding(St. Vital):** We have a quorum, gentlemen. The committee will come to order. I would refer honourable members to Page 55 in their Estimates Books. . . Resolution 104(d) Wildlife Management (1)(a). The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. HENDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, when we quit I think we were just discussing the wild turkeys in Manitoba and by what I gathered the shooting season may be in my area, by rumours I hear and I always wonder how we hear these rumours because we always seem to hear them before they are announced. I heard rumours today about what's happening in the Health Department and I went to the Minister and he doesn't know anything about it yet but apparently the rumours are often right. So I wonder, could you fill us in at all on these rumours about the turkey shooting season and how it is going to be run and handled.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member was not here this afternoon . . .

**MR. HENDERSON:** I was here.

**MR. BOSTROM:** . . . I was outlining some of the plans or considerations for a wild turkey season. I don't have all the details in front of me and I don't wish to preempt Cabinet on this one, I had made an initial indication last week when I was in discussion with a member of the media, that we were looking at the possibility of a wild turkey season. We have a proposal now, which I'll be taking to Cabinet next week, which would establish the regulations that would allow us to proceed with a season and the price for the hunting license, and so on. That will be going to Cabinet next Wednesday and I would be making an announcement possibly Wednesday or Thursday next week as to the details of a hunting season for wild turkeys.

**MR. HENDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I think you started off by saying that you had been talking to the news media, and you had stated stuff already. I just wonder why we aren't entitled to it, it goes where the area might be, before it, you know, to the news media. We're in Committee today and it would be a good time to talk about it.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, it is in the Pembina area, I believe, that we are looking at it. I assume the honourable member is more familiar with the geography of the area than I am. The area that we propose is south of Swan Lake and Miami and east of Crystal City. It is west of PR432, I believe' and north of Highway 3, and west of Highway 31; in that square that I just outlined. And would be east of Highway 34, in between Highway 31 and 34, and then further north in between Highway 34 and PR432, and south of Highway 23.

**MR. HENDERSON:** That's right in my area, you know, where I live besides so we're concerned about it. There will be nobody allowed to shoot in there without permission from the people who are residents. Is this not so?

**MR. BOSTROM:** We are hoping to set out a system by which the hunter will have to obtain the permission from the landowner in the area, yes.

**MR. HENDERSON:** I know in my area there are several people . . . These turkeys have been multiplying in there and some people have cared for them over the last number of years, and have fed them, and they really don't even want them shot at all. So I suppose there will be nobody allowed to come in on the areas like that.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, as part of the license fee we are requiring that written landowner permission be obtained, for all hunters who hunt on private land. So that this is an experimental wild turkey season and we are proposing the dates between April 25th to May 7th.

**MR. HENDERSON:** Just for toms?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Just for toms, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. HENDERSON:** One to a . . .

**MR. BOSTROM:** One male bird per hunter, yes.

**MR. HENDERSON:** That's all. No, I think that's all. I think I know it's going to be there and the general terms now.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(d)(1)(a)—pass; (1)(b) Other Expenditures—pass; (1)—pass. Resolution 104(d)(2) Wild Fur Development (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister might briefly bring us up-to-date on what has been done in the development of the wild fur industry in the way of new trap lines, trappers licensing, and education of the trappers. I don't want anything too detailed but briefly if he could bring us up-to-date it might lead us on to further questioning, and also if he could tell us what steps have been taken to bring more humane trapping methods into play. He's going to be asked sooner or later anyway so he might as well get it out now.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, as the honourable member probably knows the Wild Fur Development Program was initiated on April 1, 1975. This is a cost-shared program between the Government of Manitoba and the Federal Government. It is a program designed to revitalize Manitoba's wild fur industry. We believe that much of the fur resource potential harvest is unrealized and this five-year effort is aimed principally at providing a higher economic return to Manitoba's ten thousand trappers.

Of particular concern are the remote areas of Manitoba where few economic work opportunities exist. Progress to-date has been gratifying; pelt production is 100 per cent ahead of last year according to our reports that we are receiving and may be the highest in twenty-five years in Manitoba trapping history. Trappers appear to be much more aware of the value of the fur and are seeking the best markets. They are marketing their fur through the auction sales rather than going through middlemen. So therefore, more money is going into the producers pocket as a result of the Department's efforts in assisting trappers. Awareness in use of humane traps is rapidly increasing; we have several trappers who are doing experiments with the various humane traps that are available and that are being developed and these trappers are working out the best ways of using these traps and passing that information to other trappers. Manitoba now has a Humane Trap Research and Development Program second to none on this Continent. It is recognized all across Canada, in fact, North America that Manitoba is a leader in this field. The Manitoba Registered Trappers Association which the department assisted in formation, has become a very effective voice for the trapper and is spearheading further Canada-wide organization of this group in society.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, perhaps there are other detailed questions which the Committee Members would like to direct further questions on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, I thank the Minister for his remarks; one that comes to mind immediately, Mr. Chairman, is that when the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association was formed, I understand there's been a Manitoba Registered Trappers Association for years and years and years in Manitoba. Is he saying that this is a new organization that's been formed through his department?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the department has had a long association with the trappers and what I'm speaking of mainly here is that they brought the trappers together and assisted them in having meetings and forming a more functioning association. They are now an important part of, in fact, they were an important part of the actual negotiation for the Wild Fur Development Program. They are now on the management committee of the Wild Fur Development Program. The representation on there is the Federal Government representation, there's the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association, as well as the Provincial Government officials. I might say, Mr. Chairman, just to clarify what is the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association. It is a newly incorporated organization, there may have been one in the past but this one was actually incorporated in 1973 and this department assisted in this effort.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes I'm sure that the trappers have had an association for many many years in Manitoba. I wonder if the Minister might be able to tell us at this time, how many registered trap-lines there are in Manitoba and how many would be considered to be not being harvested as efficiently or effectively as they should be, and what plans he has to provide or enlarge existing trap-lines of trappers who are being productive and operating efficient trap-lines.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there are probably a number of trap-line areas in Manitoba that are not being fully utilized. The Department is working with trapper groups that they are assisting in forming in the various areas, that is, a locally elected fur council, which has an executive who meet on a regular basis with departmental staff. They review the trap-line situation in the general area that they represent, they make representations on various problems and concerns the trappers may have that the department can assist them on, but one of the principle areas that they can be of great assistance is in the area of advising how to go about getting a more fuller utilization of the registered trap-lines in the area. If there are under utilized trap-lines, our recommendation is that the local fur council should identify which trappers are not fully utilizing their trap lines with their co-operation and concurrence we would give the trappers on these lines notice that they must produce a certain quota. In the event that this is not realizable, then working with the local fur council, the department would put someone else on the line and would use the trap line and better manage the fur harvest from that line.

We are now, in effect, setting trap-line quotas, in co-operation with these locally elected, local fur councils, and in this way we hope to involve the local people who benefit from the harvest of their resource effectively in the management of that resource.

I might point out, Mr. Chairman, I have some interesting figures here on fur production in Manitoba for this fall and winter season. The following figures are percentage increases in pelt production for the fall and winter season over the same period last year. In almost every case, the production this year is 100 percent or more over last year at the same time. Just looking at the main

ones, beaver is 105 percent up, coyote 200 percent up, cross fox 130 percent, silver fox, 315 percent, white fox 330 percent, lynx 185 percent, mink 135 percent, and otter 100 percent. Those are just a few of the production figures which indicate the increase in actual pelt production, not to mention the vast increase in trapper income, because wild pelts have been increasing in numbers, in catches, the price to the trapper has been increasing substantially as well.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's all well and good, I can appreciate that. We all know that the price of fur is pretty darned attractive right now and every young man in the rural areas is out to catch every coyote, fox, or whatever he can run down or harvest in his spare time, as well as those that are running registered trap lines. . So I hope the Minister is not taking too much credit for his department's expanding the fur catch. It's a matter of economics that I think to a great degree has brought this about. I wonder if he might tell us if the trap lines are being harvested in a manner much as a farmer would harvest his crop, if one particular section of the trap line is being harvested while another may lay dormant for a year and then be harvested one or two years later. Is he rotating the trap lines, is this the method they're using in educating the trappers to better harvest and better manage their trap lines, or what method are they using to encourage better management of the lines.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I take issue with the first statement the honourable member makes where he indicates that his impression is that most of the fur is coming from what we would call "open areas". The statistics do not bear this out, that in fact the registered trap lines, which are by and large in the remote areas of Manitoba, are producing as much or more than the open areas of Manitoba. So that we are, in effect, through our program I believe, assisting in getting a better production in the fur industry in Manitoba, and it is certainly a credit to the department and a credit to those who are working in this program. I don't believe that the honourable member should be trying to discredit that effort in any way.

As far as the registered trap-line utilization is concerned, it's a principle of the trap-line management that these trap lines be operated on a sustained yield basis, as is the criteria for any other renewable resource. In the case of a registered trap lines, as I said, we are setting trap-line quotas, along with and in co-operation with the local fur councils. Those trap-line quotas are based on an estimation by the department of the sustained yield of that particular area, and some of it is based on a history of production in that area, and some is based on the fur population inventory that has been done on a check basis in various areas. That is the basis on which all of the trap lines in Manitoba are being managed.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, I wasn't being that critical of the department in what has being accomplished to date. I am merely pointing out the fact that the price of furs is excellent today compared with what it was a few years ago. We will only know the benefits of the program if the same number of pelts are coming in when the fur price is not as attractive as it is now, that will be the test of the program. I know that a great amount of wild fur hasn't been harvested over the past number of years, because people haven't been trapping as efficiently or as effectively as they could. This is my point in hoping that the programs that the department is promoting and is managing are providing the necessary results and I hope that the majority of trappers in the field are native people and not those who may be attracted by the price, going into trapping on a much more extensive basis than has been the case in the past.

Certainly, the programs, and I know a great amount of it is cost-shared with the Federal Government and this could be encouraged, because there is a renewable resource that I think for some years went, probably not that well managed and went unharvested for reasons known, I suppose to only those people that could go out and harvest it and weren't doing it.

That brings us up to date on what is happening in the wild fur development program. I wonder if the Minister might, if he's had a chance to assess the program, on the effects of grubstaking trappers or outfitting trappers to go out on the lines. Is this being operated successfully? We hear many stories about trappers taking the grubstake and getting rid of the funds or whatever they're allowed to have in the way of grubstake and going out on the lines as they did 30 years ago with very meagre rations. I wonder if the new program to assist trappers financially to get out on trap lines, if he's had a chance to assess that, and is it operating successfully.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, this is the first year of that part of the program, and it is too early to assess the success of it because all of the returns are not in. I would think, for the honourable member's information, that he could properly address that question to the Communities Economic Development Fund when they come before Committee. They are the ones who are handling that aspect of the program and I believe they could report more fully on the success of their efforts this year.

**MR. BLAKE:** I wonder, Mr. Chairman, has the Minister had any reports to date of abuses or unsatisfactory results that have come to his attention to date.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I have had no reports to my office of any abuses of this program, none whatsoever.

**MR. BLAKE:** That's fine, Mr. Chairman, unless some of the other committee members have

questions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(d)(2)(a)—pass. (2)(b) Other Expenditures—pass. (2)—pass. Resolution 104(d) (3) Delta Marsh Development, (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** I wonder if the Minister could tell us if there are any new programs under the Delta Marsh Development program this year, or are they just continuing with the research work in a normal manner.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, just by way of information for the Committee, this particular program is part of the agreement between the Federal and Provincial Governments for development of the Delta Marsh. It's a 50-50 cost-sharing and joint management. The agreement was signed April 11, 1975. Approximately 5,000 acres have been acquired so far in this area under voluntary sale. One unit of 5 within the Delta Marsh has now been completed as far as the land acquisition part is concerned. Two others, two of the other five areas are almost complete and we will be going ahead more with that aspect of the program in this coming fiscal year. Intensive management of 2,400 acres, central unit, is well advanced, \$118,000 water control structure for this area has been installed on PR 240 and studies have been carried out by Water Resources for interior works on this unit to increase the wildlife use and productivity. Water Resources has also completed a study of the East Management Unit, the study recommends installation of a further water control structure with appropriate facilities to handle a variety of water conditions and this will replace a badly deteriorated dam at Clandeboye.

Within the plans for the 77-78 fiscal year there are funds for carrying out studies of commercial fishing and other fishery aspects, monitor the wildlife population, as I say, to acquire land, that still needs to be acquired in the Delta Marsh area, provide for ditching and water control structures and so on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** In the area north of Portage in the Delta area, are there any areas where the Minister is encountering resistance to government purchases of land or are things progressing there as they wish them in the acquisition of land that they would like to bring under the umbrella of the department?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there is some resistance. However, the criteria for all of these purchases is that it must be a voluntary sale so that negotiations are ongoing for the land acquisition. Of the \$3.2 million program over five years, \$2 million of it is for land acquisition, so it's a major part of the program and there are other expenditures, the other \$1.2 million are for management services to improve the wetland for use by the wildlife as well as people in terms of being able to take a harvest of the resources of the wetland on a sustained yield basis.

**MR. BLAKE:** We gather from that, Mr. Chairman, that it would be a rare or an unusual circumstances where the government would revert to procedures to obtain the land by . . .

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I don't anticipate the necessity of using any other method but voluntary purchase, after all the marsh is really not, it's not something that is that urgent to proceed with that we need to expropriate or anything like that. It's one which is where the development is being done for wildlife and it's for the benefit of all Manitobans so we would proceed as quickly as we can, but on the basis of voluntary agreements with the land owners.

**MR. BLAKE:** There was a considerable reduction in the amount of the expenditure. This is nothing unusual. Does this reflect some cutback in the program or is this a normal reduction through programs being completed and . . .

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there is an amount that has been transferred to capital which would represent the land acquisition and capital structures part of this. That will be coming up in the Capital Supply Bill in the House.

**MR. BLAKE:** That's fine, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(d)(3)(a)—pass; (3)(b) Other Expenditures—pass; (3)—pass. Resolution 104(d)(4) Research (a) Salaries and Wages—pass; (4)(b) Other Expenditures—pass; (4)—pass. Resolution 104(d)(5) Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement (a) Salaries and Wages—pass; (5)(b) Other Expenditures—pass. Resolution 104(d)(5)—pass. Resolution 104 (d)(6) Regional Technical Support (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister might just briefly comment on this particular section of the Wildlife Management Program and tell us what this entails, this expenditure of some \$457,000.00.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, this is precisely what it indicates there, the technical support required to carry out the programs under this section, the wildlife programs, and these are the front line troops again that I was referring to earlier in other sections that do the field work. I can give you an indication of the breakdown of these. There are 3.44 permanent staff man years in the northern

region, five in the southern region, three in the eastern and 6.10 in the western, for a total of 18.02 staff man years proposed in this coming fiscal year and there are other expenditures associated with those regional technical support staff of a total of 217,100 as compared to 211,200 last year. Increase mainly due to increases in salary according to negotiated agreements and price increases for the expenses out of the ledger.

**MR. BLAKE:** That's fine, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(d)(6)(a)—pass; (6)(b) Other Expenditures—pass. The Honourable Member for St. James.

**MR. GEORGE MINAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Honourable Minister could advise if there is any professional fees in the other expenditures in this section that he's allowed for?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** No, Mr. Chairman, there wouldn't be any professional fees here. These are expenditures associated with the activities under the section here. They are expenses associated strictly with the staff man years, that is the permanent staff that work in this section.

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

**MR. MINAKER:** Pass.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(d)(6)(b)—pass; (6)—pass. Resolution 104(d)—pass. Resolution 104(e) Fisheries Management (1) Program Development and Management (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think we can maybe dwell some time on this particular section. There'll be a lot of questions I'm sure members of the committee want to ask because it would appear from all reports that all is not well in the fisheries business, whether it's to do with management or whatever. First of all, the Minister might comment on the loss of the fish fry through contamination that was incurred earlier this year, to possibly start off with and I suppose that's largely connected with the support fishery. If he would rather maybe answer that under Section 2 we could go on to other aspects of the fisheries.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The question with respect to hatcheries operation would be best directed on the following page under Fish Hatchery Operations. I could explain the problems associated with that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(e)(1)(;). The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, if we're going to go into other points under this particular item, I wonder if the Minister might bring us up to date on what is happening with the fishery on Lake Winnipegosis. There are many conflicting reports on what is happening there, from the fishermen, from the people in the areas to do with mesh sizes and everything else and I wonder if he might just bring us up to date on what is happening there?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, it's a difficult problem associated with Lake Winnipegosis. The central problem seems to be a very persistent decline over the years in the pickerel populations on that lake and this is evidenced by the catch of the fisherman that has been steadily declining for many years. At one time Lake Winnipegosis, I understand had produced up to a million pounds of pickerel and it has declined very seriously to the point where most of the fisherman there are not making a very good income from the fishery. It is one which the biologists in the department have been looking at for many years. A recommendation to the former Minister as far back as 1973 was that the mesh size should change to a larger size in order to enable the spawning class of pickerel to have an opportunity to spawn and thereby over a number of years to rebuild the pickerel stocks in that lake with a view to, over a long range period, improve the income to fisherman.

There may be a short term decline in the catch as a result of going to a larger mesh size, but over the long run the idea is, and the concept is, that there will be larger numbers of pickerel produced on that lake and hopefully we can build a pickerel populations back up to levels where the fisherman can make a reasonable return from that fishery once again. So, to be very specific, the recommendation was in 1973 to change the mesh size from a maximum of four inch, to four and one-quarter inch so that the fisherman were instructed at that time, informed that there would be a change and the fisherman, naturally, I think, because of the problem of a short term decrease in their catch and therefore a loss of income over that period, they were opposed to this change. The Minister of the department at that time had informed the

fishermen that this would take place, therefore, in the summer of 1977, thereby giving the fishermen four years notice and giving them the opportunity to try whatever methods they could to obtain assistance to gear up for this change and get the necessary new nets and so on. Some fishermen availed themselves of the opportunity of going through Special ARDA and were able to obtain some of the 4 ¼ inch mesh and so on. The fishermen more recently have been informed by myself that indeed the mesh size change will come into effect in the summer of 1977.

I had representations from various groups of fishermen over the past year and a half, two years. I've met with them many many times and looked at this from every angle. I've questioned the

department officials on behalf of the fishermen really to determine for myself and for them a really careful consideration of the problems here and if, in effect, the 4 ¼ inch mesh change was a proper thing to do. And having looked at it from all angles and questioned everybody I could question and listening to all the views of the fishermen and other interested groups, I can't find any reason why the mesh size should not be changed. I believe it's going to be tough on the fishermen for the first year and possibly the second year, but in the long run I believe that this is the best thing to do for that fishery. I had a meeting with the fishermen as recently as last Saturday in Winnipegosis, at which time we went over the whole scheme again and they were again informed by myself that this was indeed going into effect in the summer of 1977.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there are fishermen that have fished that lake for many many years that have been making a pretty good living there because they've been pretty industrious and hard working fishermen I suppose. I think, from the information that I've been getting, it's going to have a disastrous effect on the fisheries of Lake Winnipeg. We have reports of a year ago where it was recommended that they should be fishing probably a smaller mesh because there were a different type of pickerel in the lake, that they should be using a smaller mesh than is used in other lakes. Besides that, there are lakes that feed out of or feed into that particular lake, where a different mesh size is being used and it would seem to be unfair — the fishermen on Lake Winnipegosis are going to have to use 4 ¼ inch mesh that other lakes in the particular area where the fish move back and forth, are being allowed a smaller mesh. I would also like the Minister to comment on the type of net being used whether it's going to be a cord type or the fine mesh net? The fine mesh net, of course, will catch probably anything that comes near it, where they catch them by the teeth or whatever. But it would seem that the information coming to my attention, Mr. Minister doesn't really, or Mr. Chairman through to the Minister, doesn't really bear out that all is well with the fishery on Lake Winnipegosis, there seems to be quite a strong objection to the type of regulations that have been imposed on them when it isn't imposed on fishermen on other lakes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, other lakes have had mesh sizes from time to time where it was deemed necessary for the resource that the mesh size indeed take place. In this case the problem is evident. There has been a serious decline in pickerel production on that lake. Where it used to produce a million pounds of pickerel, during the last eight years the average production of pickerel from Lake Winnipegosis has been 192,500 pounds, which is a serious decline from previous years. And the situation is not getting better, it's getting worse and the problem is that with the smaller mesh, as I am informed by those who know these things, I'm not a fisheries biologist and I therefore have to rely on advice from those who do have the information on these things, I'm informed that if it continues with the smaller mesh fishing on that lake, that it will only result in more serious decline in the pickerel populations because the smaller mesh catches the spawning fish before they have an opportunity to spawn and thereby destroying the breeding stock of the lake. If you can understand that kind of concept, that the breeding stock is being destroyed and the long range implications of that is a more serious decline in the pickerel populations. So for the benefit, the long range benefit of the fishermen, essentially that is why we're managing the lake, we're not managing it for the benefit of the fish, but for the fishermen. We have to take the rather tough decision of increasing the mesh size and perhaps causing a decline in the catch initially and in the short run, with a view to improving the overall long-range benefits to the fishermen from that particular resource. Mr. Chairman, as I said, I've looked at it from every point of view. I've heard all the arguments of the fishermen, I've heard the one the honourable member is stating now, that the other lakes have different mesh sizes. That is indeed true. If you examine the facts, however, you will see that the other lakes are different kinds of lakes in terms of what they produce. The Lake Manitoba Fishery, for example, is a sauger fishery. And sauger is the primary production there, therefore they use a smaller mesh because it's a smaller fish that they are catching. The fish matures at a smaller size and therefore spawns at a smaller size, so they can continue in a sauger fishery with a smaller mesh size. The argument that Lake Winnipegosis is a hatchery for other lakes has not been borne out by all of the studies that have been done by the department on tagging. Fish in Lake Winnipegosis have been tagged. Not one tag has been recovered in any of the adjoining lakes at any time over the history of the tagging program in that area, so that the claim that the fishermen make that the fish are migrating from Lake Winnipegosis to other lakes is not borne out by the statistical evidence that we have from all of the research that has been done.

In fact, the reverse seems to be true, that the other lakes, such as Lake Manitoba and others, have fish which are migrating into Lake Winnipegosis, and in fact the production in Lake Winnipegosis has gone up rather dramatically in the last the last couple of years. There seems to be kind of a bubble on the graph there, and it appears it is due to two things really, one is possibly the migration from the other lakes into Lake Winnipegosis, the other is the program the department has been running, which is to try to increase the spawning stock for that lake.

They've established a program which is a first in Manitoba, to my knowledge, of using little ponds off to the side of Lake Winnipegosis, with small outlet channels which they block off, where they have what they call "rearing ponds" for pickerel. They plant pickerel in there in the spring, they allow them to mature to a fairly good size, and in the winter they open up the chutes and let the fish gravitate out into the main body of the lake. Biologists feel now, that that program is starting to pay off, so that with the mesh size change and the more aggressive use of these rearing ponds, the department feels that we can have a favourable impact in increasing the pickerel populations in Lake Winnipegosis.

I realize it's very difficult to try to explain that and to get the concurrence from a fisherman who is looking to next year's summer production and he's looking for maybe one, or two, or three, or four more good years on the lake and then he's going to retire. We are faced with that kind of argument, people don't want to lose anything in the short run with the hope of obtaining something better in the long run. But the department has the responsibility of trying to manage the lake from a long-range point of view and to avoid disaster, Mr. Chairman, to avoid disaster. The danger in proceeding with the smaller mesh is that it could cause an even further decline in the pickerel population on that lake, which would be disastrous.

**MR. BLAKE:** Well, the only way you could prove that, I guess, Mr. Chairman, would be to try it and see if it was going to be disastrous or not, because you'll hear arguments on both sides I suppose for years and years and years. It's very difficult to tell a fisherman that has made a pretty good living on that lake through what we might refer to as "the lean years", he's made a pretty darn good living on that lake and he may now be penalized in having to re-net and go to this expense of going to a higher mesh net in order to accommodate possibly fair-weather fishermen, those that want to catch their quota pretty quickly and not have to maybe fish 5 or 6 months through the fishing season. As I say, I'm sure the Minister has given his story to the fishermen there and I know for a fact that he hasn't convinced them that that is the right way to fly.

I suppose we could spend many hours tonight on what effect the Fairford Dam and various outlets like that have had on the particular lake, but I wonder, could the Minister confirm, is this a unanimous decision of his biologists that they should go to a larger mesh, or are there some biologists that feel that a smaller mesh might be satisfactory on that lake. Just how was the decision arrived at? How many fishermen attended the meetings, and what recommendation he has from the fishermen?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier in my comments, I've tried my best to canvass all of those in the department who have knowledge in this area, to see what their opinions are, and it appears that to a man, the experts in the department are recommending that we go to the larger mesh size. No one is recommending that we continue the way we have been continuing with the smaller mesh. I might point out that on the basis of income for the lake, there are 2 or 3 boats on the lake who are very aggressive fishermen, and the honourable member is correct, they go out and get a good catch off the lake. They're very aggressive fellows and I think there are 2 or 3 boats that caught 60,000 pounds out of the 192,000 last year. So that the other 40 men that fish on the lake had to divide up the remaining 130,000 pounds between them.

**MR. BLAKE:** If they'd worked harder they might have caught 160,000 pounds of fish.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, the indications are though that the fish were just not there, to get 20,000 pounds for every boat on the lake. The fish population is simply not there to support that kind of catch effort, although if you have a peanut scramble, Mr. Chairman, you always have some people end up with most of the peanuts. In this case, that's essentially what we had, a peanut scramble for a fairly small population of fish on the lake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, I can't really relate the peanut scramble to the fishing on Lake Winnipegosis, knowing some of the fishermen there. I'm sure they're not inclined to feel that they're playing any games when they go out to catch their quota of fish, or as many fish as they might get. But as I say, we could belabour that particular lake for a long time, much as we could other lakes. I wonder if the Minister might confirm the fact that the assistance is equalized on the purchase of new equipment. The same facilities are available to the large producer as well as the small producer in providing new nets and new boats or whatever he may require to go out and fish with the smaller mesh. Is the financial assistance available to the fishermen on an equal basis?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend's experience in the banking industry could probably serve him in good stead in determining whether or not the financial assistance would be fair to everyone. I would think as far as the assistance from a loan point of view that those who are the best producers would probably have the best chance of getting the necessary credit to obtain whatever they require.

On the other hand, the Special ARDA program which assists people in obtaining nets and boats and necessary supplies for fishing has certain criteria which are established by the Federal Government. They operate generally on the basis that those in need receive the assistance, and I believe that a number of fishermen on Lake Winnipegosis, over the past several years, have received

assistance from that program. I do not have the figures available, as I say, most of this assistance came from the Federal Government and therefore it's not part of my department Estimates before us.

However, that was the main reason for letting the fishermen know well in advance that the mesh size change would take place on Lake Winnipegosis. They were given four years notice, Mr. Chairman, and they were given that notice with the idea that it would give them the opportunity to gear up for the mesh size change which is coming into effect this summer.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, well it appears that the decision is *fait accompli* Mr. Chairman. They're going to have to fish with 4 ¼ inch mesh whether they like it or not and there's not much point in belabouring that any further.

I wonder if the Minister could tell us what has happened with the Northern Lakes Fishery. There was a project started there last year, I believe, probably on a voluntary basis with a number of fishermen to get more native people out on the lakes and try to encourage them to increase their catch. I know some of the meetings that I've been at it would appear that there are many things that are pretty obvious that can be done in the north, such as providing on-site processing facilities or partially processing facilities. I wonder if he could tell us what has been accomplished along those lines in this particular season or what might be accomplished next season.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there are some areas in the north that have the primary processing facilities which enable the fishermen to at least have some of his catch processed on location, so that the final product to be shipped is stripped of the useless product that he doesn't get paid for. There's one plant, for example, at Savage Island and Island Lake that has a deboning line so that the fish there can be semi-processed before being shipped on to the market. There's a plant at Wabowden which has a deboning line and which can semi-process fish before being shipped on to Winnipeg.

The other locations in the north primarily ship their product in the form specified by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, that is normally in the round or headless form which the corporation can either, as I understand it, further process, or in some cases, ship directly on to the market in that form, depending on the market demand at the time.

Last summer we had our first year's operation of the Northern Fishermen's Freight Assistance program, which my department instituted, and it assisted a number of fishermen to have the opportunity of fishing. There were many fishermen in the north who would not have had the opportunity to fish if they did not have the assistance provided by the Freight Assistance Program. As my honourable friend is probably aware, the program operated to cover the cost of fishermen above the first 5 cents a pound, that is, the fishermen paid the first 5 cents and the subsidy came into effect to cover off up to 10 cents above that. Each lake was specified as to what subsidy it would qualify for, and some 412 fishermen in the summer season took advantage or participated in this program. It was eligible to all licensed fishermen, with a maximum of \$1,000 to any one fisherman. I must say that I believe it was of great assistance to the fishermen. It at least put them more on a par with the fishermen in the southern areas of Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba and so on. In fact, the idea of setting 5 cents as a base rate was so that it would match up with the highest rate that was paid by fishermen on Lake Winnipeg, that is the highest rate that's paid by a fish co-op I believe, at Big Black River on Lake Winnipeg. They ship their fish by boat to Winnipeg and it costs them 5 cents a pound and they pay that out of their own pocket.

**MR. BLAKE:** Is Manitoba Hydro providing any freight assistance in conjunction with your Freight Assistance program? Is any of that provided by Manitoba Hydro from northern lakes?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have all the details, but I understand there was a program where the Manitoba Hydro arranged, or negotiated an arrangement with a number of fishermen from Ilford and the Ilford general area to salvage fish some of the lakes along the Churchill that were going to be brought down in water level as a result of the Churchill River Diversion. They're still, I think, doing some fishing on those lakes, but I understand one summer, they paid all of the freight costs for the fishermen from that area to fish out two or three of those lakes.

**MR. BLAKE:** One further question before — I know some of my colleagues have questions to ask, Mr. Chairman — he mentioned partial processing of fish and icing them and boxing them and shipping them out to markets, it's a known fact that some of the pickerel shipped out of Lake Manitoba that they're paid 65 or 69 cents a pound for, whatever the case may be, they're boxed and iced and shipped into the corporation on a reefer truck. The truck is open, one or two boxes are checked, it's closed and shipped on to markets in the south and sold at \$1.69 or whatever the case may be. I wondered if his department is looking into that particular aspect of pricing and what he might do to recover some of that cost and see that it gets to the fishermen, to whom it rightfully belongs.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, as my honourable friend might know, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation does not come under this department. It is a Federal Crown Corporation responsible to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and all that is left to this government to do, as a result of the agreement that was signed in 1969 between the former Conservative Government and the



Federal Government is to complain about the operation of the corporation. I believe the agreement was signed in 1969 by the Minister of the day who happens to be the Member for Lakeside now, and we were only awarded one member on a board on that corporation, which doesn't give the Province of Manitoba very much voice in the corporation. I have attempted, through my office, to get a better working relationship with the Federal Minister and indeed, the senior officials of that corporation in order to act as an advocate for the fishermen to bring the concerns of the fishermen to the board so that they could be taken into consideration in their deliberations.

One of the proposals that I have made, for example, is that they sharpen their pencils and try to bring down that margin between what they sell the fish for on the open market, which I understand is a good price. Everyone who is in the fish business in Winnipeg that I have talked to will admit that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has done a credible job of getting a good price on the open market in the world, North America and in the world. But the complaint of the fishermen, as the honourable member has pointed out, is that not a large enough proportion of that final price gets into the pockets of the fishermen. It's approximately, at the present time, something in the neighbourhood of 50 percent of the final price that stays in the pocket of the fishermen, and I believe that the corporation can do better than that. I've insisted that they do better than that on behalf of the fishermen.

The corporation has changed some of the senior officials over the past year and a half, and I believe that they are trying now to sharpen up their operation. They have been having discussions with myself and the Minister from Saskatchewan. The Minister from Saskatchewan and myself have been to Ottawa discussing with the federal minister, have made certain proposals to him on this corporation. We haven't received much in the way of action from them but I believe that they are watching the corporation more closely now and perhaps demanding better performance out of them.

We have made presentations with respect to how they price their product and how they calculate the returns to fishermen. The case the honourable member brings up is a case in point, where the pickerel, as a species, is a high quality fish and demands a high price on the market. I understand that there was some fuzziness in how they calculated the returns to the pickerel fishermen. At one time they lumped all of the fish in all of the area that the corporation handled into one pot and at the end of the year they, through a pooling system, returned the margin to the fishermen on some *ad hoc* basis. The Saskatchewan Minister and I made the case that at the very minimum, they should have the provinces divided so that at least the fishermen in the provinces, in each respective province, would receive the returns that they deserved from the fish that they were producing. The corporation agreed to that. And we also said, further to that, that within the province, there should be pooling of species so that the pickerel fishermen receive the margin that they deserve from the sale of their product. So that if, in effect, the corporation takes in 5 million pounds of pickerel and sells 3 million pounds out the back door by just throwing some ice on it and having very little cost in handling, administration and sales costs, then that fisherman should receive a higher return than the fisherman who fishes a lower priced species and which has to be handled much more expensively and which has higher costs of marketing and handling and so on. They have taken these kinds of things into consideration and I believe that they're trying to do something about that.

The other suggestion that we have made to them is that they, through better market analysis, assist us in establishing fishing seasons that would more properly line up the production with high market demand. We can arrange our seasons to suit them and I'm sure the fishermen will go along with that kind of a scheme, if it will enhance their price. They can even do it through price incentive. For example, we have loosened up our Lake Winnipeg quota system now so that a fisherman can fish at any time during the year whatever quota he has assigned to him. He's not tied to a season. We did that with a view to encouraging the corporation to establish price incentives to encourage the fisherman to fish in that season when it would be possible for them to take his catch and move it directly through the plant and right on to the market, with very little handling and therefore less cost per pound and be able to return a higher percentage of the final price to the fishermen.

So there are these kinds of things that we're trying to do. I've been doing this on behalf of the fishermen as their advocate, which is the only role left open to me as a result of the way this corporation has been set up.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister might convince some of the committee members that he's acting in the best interests of the fishermen, but I'm sure many many fishermen aren't just convinced of that yet. I'll defer any further questions at this time, Mr. Chairman, to my colleague from Lakeside.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the opportunity is not always given to me, through you, Sir, and through the present Minister, to be able to help in the education of my longtime friend and colleague, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, particularly on the subject of orderly marketing, but I look forward to taking a few moments of the committee's time to do precisely that.

Also, for historical reasons, and because these meetings are in fact transcribed for posterity, to

put the record straight on the few things, it has been suggested on numerous occasions by spokesmen of members opposite that the previous administration had, in fact, finalized the arrangements that brought the Province of Manitoba into the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Mr. Chairman, it's with a great deal of pride that I can tell you and members of the committee that not myself, but preceding ministers, two, in fact, my present leader being one of them, worked diligently through the 60's in attempting to bring about a rationalization in the inland fisheries industry in the prairies. There's no question at all, Mr. Chairman, that a highly seasonal business such as the fisheries, is open to pretty ruthless exploitation as has been the case and the history over the many years that called for some solution. . . It was my privilege, Mr. Chairman, to in fact be the last Mines and Resources Minister to attend a meeting with the then Honourable Jean Luc Pepin and discuss with him the hopeful final arrangements of bringing Manitoba into the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

I would have to remind the Chair, Sir, that we were prevented from doing that for one particular reason, namely that we were concerned about the existing processing industry as existed in this province and other provinces that would fall under jurisdiction of the board. We did not see the necessity of wiping them out of business totally and completely and ruthlessly, without compensation, and in fact, we foresaw precisely the kind of difficulties that the Transcona plant now is bringing to the fisheries industry, namely one of transportation. There was little to be gained by wiping out a fisheries plant in Selkirk and taking away 50 or 60 jobs there, only to have them imported into Transcona, for whatever reasons. For the record, the Minister wasn't there at that time, but the Honourable Minister of Agriculture was there at that time, he will remember that Bill 10, I think it was, was one of those bills that was left on the order paper, undealt with, unfinished in the year of 1969 when the last Conservative administration called an election, and thus it was not my privilege, Sir, to finalize the arrangements that brought Manitoba into the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

So, Mr. Chairman, so much for a little bit of history, simply to put the history straight. That's where it was. It was, in fact, the Honourable Mr. Green that moved and successfully brought forward the legislation that brought Manitoba into the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. However, Mr. Chairman, I don't put that forward in anyway to disclaim responsibility for that bill, in fact, I believe that that was again a case where the collective wisdom of both sides of the House proved to survive, if the case was good enough, that it didn't really matter whether it was a Conservative administration or an NDP administration, good legislation moved forward, and that was the case.

I happen to believe that there is a very strong case to be made for orderly marketing in those products, those commodity groups, that come on to the market in a highly seasonal basis. I happen to believe that we have been regrettably put in the position, from time to time, to have camouflaged that position. There's no question that a central selling desk for the inland fisheries industry to operate at least as a reasonable counter-lever to the very powerful purchasing that was going on in the fisheries industry, particularly when so much of our product, 85, 90 percent of it, was being exported to the States, and in fact, controlled by a very few individuals, that it was necessary on our side of the fence, as primary producers, to have a counter-balance in the form of a central selling desk. So much for the record, and so much for the position of the Conservative Party on that aspect.

Mr. Chairman, what should distress us all, and I'm well aware that this is not the Minister's direct responsibility, it is a federal matter under federal jurisdiction, however, he has a responsibility for Manitoba fishermen. He has a responsibility for anybody living in Manitoba that comes under the jurisdiction of his department. He cannot close his eyes and ears to the mounting concern and discontent that is being evidenced every day in this province with respect to the operation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Mr. Chairman, unlike the Minister of Agriculture, it would be my hope that this Minister wouldn't lay that discontent and that concern at the political footsteps of one Member from Lakeside, as the Minister of Agriculture is prone to do whenever he has troubles trouble with hogs or with beef or with the likes of that. He likes to think that if there's any problem that cattle farmers have, it's the Member for Lakeside's fault. If there's any problem that occurs in the hog industry, it's the Member for Morris' fault. We are the instigators, the *agent provocateurs* that create the whole situations that disturb the calm and the sleep of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture from time to time. Mr. Chairman, I have no such desire to disturb the sleep of the current Minister of Renewable Resources. I wish to join him with examining, what do we do in the event that we have a serious breakdown with respect to the manner and way which we have jointly opted into the handling and the marketing of our fish.

I want, Mr. Chairman, to perhaps draw this, by way of example and the closest way that I can. You see, under a wilful and arrogant Minister of Agriculture, who had little or no concern about the producers involved, nor the consumers involved, he was prepared, a few years ago, simply because he wanted to break a company, he wanted to establish the natural antiAmerican bias that he and unfortunately, this party have, from time to time, because Beatrice Foods Limited had bought seriously into the dairy industry in Manitoba and bought Modern Dairies, he was determined to build

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a ten or twelve million dollar dairy plant in Selkirk, whether we needed it or not. Whether it would eventually bring back a return to the producer or to the consumer or not, the sole aim and goal of that object was to break Modern Dairies. Now, very fortunately, because of events, because of the Opposition in this House, and because, I must admit, because of circumstances that brought about a surplus and action by the Federal Government . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture state his point of privilege.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lakeside has a habit of imputing motives. I believe, Sir, that he has just done so. There is nowhere that I can recollect where I had indicated that I wanted to do something to Modern Dairies, such as he suggests, and I would suggest that he either indicate where he gets that from or he should withdraw that.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I get it from a resolution debated and passed on by a New Democratic Party convention formally assembled, which said that we had to do something to break Beatrice Foods. That's where I get it from.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege, the Member for Lakeside knows that all parties have many resolutions passed at their respective conventions, but that doesn't imply that that is party policy, and it certainly doesn't apply in this case that it's government policy. I ask the Member for Lakeside to withdraw.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, having some understanding of parliamentary procedure, if I have imputed a motive to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture that did not exist, then of course, I'm prepared to withdraw it. I am, of course, entirely within my rights to suggest to you that what his actions, what r his actions did, whatever impressions his actions left upon me and what those imputations to myself are in fact, in keeping and in order. All I'm suggesting, Mr. Chairman, is, by way of example, in this instance, and I'm coming right back to fisheries in a minute, in this instance, the dairy industry was saved partly because of a pull back by the Federal Government on milk subsidies recognizing a surplus situation at that time, that the dairy industry was saved, the heavy capital costs of a massive plant in Selkirk, which the dairy industry did not need at that time.

I'm suggesting, Mr. Chairman, at the root cause, and the cause that this Minister and this government is going to have to deal with, with respect to Freshwater Fish Marketing in this province, is the fact that we have a heavy capital load to carry, and that we are asking our fishermen to carry on their backs. That is being represented to the tune of 30, 40, 50 cents a pound on overhead costs that are excluding us from certain markets at this time and are providing inflexibility for the board to market our fish in the best possible interest of our fishermen, that is at the root cause of our problem.

Mr. Chairman, our difficulties are only starting. I understand that within a few days, the 24th of this month, to be exact, Saskatchewan fishermen are meeting to consider opting out of the board. I understand from news reports that northern Manitoba fishermen are wanting to opt out of the board. We know that northwestern Ontario fishermen have opted out of the board. Even my socialist friends opposite can understand this basic arithmetic, that that plant needs X number of pounds of fish to be processed through that plant in order to keep the costs in line. With every decreasing drop of poundage of fish through that plant, up goes the overhead costs, and if the spread is 50 cents, or 52 cents, or 60 cents now, it'll be 70, it'll be 75, it'll be 80 cents a year from now, if we are pushing through that number of millions of pounds of fish less through that plant. And the fishermen are being left to carry those overhead costs.

Now what do we do about it? I can appreciate that we can argue and we should be concerned about the management of our lakes, it's certainly the principal charge of this ministry and the province. I know that we can voice the concerns, as the Member for Minnedosa has about the practices that are carried about on the lakes, whether it's fish net sizes, etc., etc., but Mr. Chairman, the principal problem that this Minister has and we face, in terms of our responsibility to our fishermen, is, "How are we going to resolve the growing problems of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation?" There is no satisfaction simply for us to lump it on the Federal Government. We went into the program willingly, co-operatively, it is not a partisan issue, it is not an NDP or a Conservative issue, except that we recognize that we have a problem there. The problem is growing, it's not diminishing. I really would like to hear from the Minister, Mr. Chairman, what he is doing about it and what he plans to do about it. I'm disturbed that when I asked him in the House whether or not he had the annual report of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation before him, and my Minister, and he is my Minister, told me he didn't have it. Damn it, it's a big part of his department. When I hear that members of the House of Commons can't get the Freshwater Fish Marketing report, then I am disturbed. I'm more disturbed when the Auditor-General in Ottawa says that he has little confidence in the kind of bookkeeping and management that's taking place in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation today.

So, Mr. Chairman, as you gently put down your hammer, I'm suggesting to the Minister that among the responsibilities that the Minister has, this happens to be one of the biggest ones that he's facing. Certainly we, as an opposition group, will not be satisfied with the Minister's attempt to

suggest that (a) well, it was a Conservative administration that brought us into the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in the first place, and (b) that having been in that federal jurisdiction and being in that Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation that he absolved himself of any further and ongoing responsibility to the fishermen that he is in fact responsible for to serve in their best interests.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to intercede for a moment because of the fact that the Minister was not here when we were discussing the original bill and I wouldn't want the Member for Lakeside to get away with leaving the impression that he had nothing to do with the establishment of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, it was particular legislation left on the order paper that was proceeded with at that early session following the election which was the drafting of my friends opposite.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the legislation which was presented to the House following the election in 1969 is it was following up on agreements that were made between the previous government and the Federal Government along with discussions that they had with officials from other jurisdictions as well. Certainly, as I mentioned, I had seen a signed agreement in the file with the Honourable Member for Lakeside's signature on it along with the Minister of the Day, representing the Federal Government so that we in effect, that is, the Provincial Government that followed the Conservative administration were in effect honour-bound if not committed to certain agreements in principle with the Federal Government. Mr. Chairman, we now have a Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which I believe we have to do our best to try to improve and not take the politically opportunistic stance that, seeing the fishermen are complaining about some aspects of the Corporation' that perhaps we should abandon it. I believe the Honourable Member for Lakeside did not really say that, but he's sort of skating around that side of the issue at least enough to be able to leave that option open with those whom he is discussing this issue with. I believe it is not a responsible tact to take at this time in our relationship with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, to suggest to them that if there are complaints on the part of the fishermen that our next step should be to abandon the Corporation. I believe it is a responsibility of this Government to try to make the best of what we have, and that is a Corporation that is marketing fish for all of the western provinces with the exception of that small area of Ontario which has, I believe, been allowed to opt out from the outset of the Corporation for some reason. They are able to take advantage of the Corporation's markets, markets which I believe were one of the reasons that the Corporation was established in the first place. The old fish companies that operated in Manitoba, I believe contributed to a very precarious market condition with respect to freshwater fish and was one of the rationales used to justify establishing a Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation that would stabilize the market for freshwater fish. As I've indicated, I believe credit should be given where credit is due and the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has achieved that end, they have established a good final market price. The question now, and it is one which I believe the fishermen have a legitimate beef about' is how do we translate that final market price into higher prices for the fishermen? Granted, we are saddled with a big plant in Transcona which has cost the fishermen a hell of a lot of money and it will continue to cost them a lot of money and to that end, Mr. Chairman, I have made representations to the Federal Government that they should write-off that plant because the Federal Government has not put in one cent to assist the freshwater fish industry in this country.

The plant in Transcona was financed on a loan basis to the fishermen, the fishermen have to pay it off and I'm saying that I agree on this particular point with the Honourable Member for Lakeside, that that plant is a high cost to the fishermen and it should be written off and I believe that the Federal Government should write-off the plant or at least cost-share the writing-off of that plant with the respective provincial governments. I've made that proposal more than once to the Federal Minister. I've made it to the Federal Minister along with the Minister from Saskatchewan, whom I have been working with closely in this matter. The question of what do we do now: We have been working closely with the Saskatchewan Government on this issue, they have a concern, as we do with the discontent of fishermen with the operation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. We have had a joint study over the past year and we have some interim recommendations right now which the Provincial Minister of Resources in Saskatchewan and I will be considering before presenting them to the Federal Minister. We were looking at all possibilities of improving the operation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, while at the same time, keeping our other options open and I believe it is a responsible way to handle this problem. We should hope to improve the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation before making any rash decisions about abandoning it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for River Heights.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Mr. Chairman, I listened to the remarks of the Minister with interest and to the remarks of the others. I would say this, that I think it's worthy at this time for some assessment to be made about the rationalizations taking place with respect to the industry in dealing with the

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complaints about the Fish Marketing Corporation and the way it's operating. Mr. Chairman, it's eight years now realistically and in those eight years, if one looks at the management of our fishery resources and one looks at the manner in which the industry as it existed then and the producers as they operated then have improved their lot in this eight year period, one has to question the actual amount of money that has been spent by governments, provincially and federally, because there's been a lot of money spent. It is not just in the structure and the building of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, it is in the government operated fishing co-ops that failed; it is in the various government programs that have been undertaken to subsidize the industry which have continued annually in one form or another; it is in the waste and mismanagement of public funds with respect to the whole host of programs for the last eight years; and it's also indicated in the actual structure and operation of the Fish Marketing Corporation. Because you see, when we go back eight years ago to Bill 10 and when we think of the introduction of it by the present government, one has to remember that at the committee hearings on those occasions when the bill was discussed, and when the costs of the Fish Marketing Corporation building was discussed, and the plans were presented, like so many government programs, everything was underestimated. The costs that were suggested were nowhere near the actual costs that were expended in a very short period of time after the committee hearings not in a long period of time. The estimates that were presented were essentially false and misleading, and one has to question whether they were deliberately misleading in relation to the information that had to be possessed by the Members of the Legislature to be able to understand and make the valued judgments that had to be made that the course of action that was being proposed was correct or not.

It would seem to me that you've got two basic problems. I think it's fair at this time to talk about the rationalization of the total industry and to say that after eight years, with all the money that's been spent, the fishermen's lot has not improved that much. As a matter of fact, a very serious case can be presented, that again, like so many other government programs, had the money been handed to the people directly and given to them, it would have been a heck of a lot better than to have gone through this whole charade that we've gone through. The difficulty that we face is that to a large extent, some of the very basic problems that existed eight years ago, exist today, and in reality the mechanism that's there is a structure that you want to work through, but one has to say at this point, there has to be serious questions raised whether its viability into the structure is really going to work in the sense that the improvement is going to take place because the failures have been many in the past eight years. The frustrations of those who have been involved and the livelihoods that have been affected directly as a result of the attempt to try and rationalize this has been very direct. —(Interjection)—

Well, it's not a question of keeping welfare. In effect, it's a question of whether you can improve their lot, whether in fact what was being proposed was realistically the best way of handling the situation. I think there is serious consideration to give . . . there is at least now a case to be presented that what was really attempted was not the correct way of handling it, that there were other proposals that could have been negotiated at the time and possibly should have been. And one has to say at this time, that neither the Federal Government nor the Provincial Government nor the various provincial agencies or federal agencies that are involved directly in one way or the other are really in a position to take any comfort from the programs that they've offered in the past little while. It has not improved the lot of those who were directly involved, and if anything it has probably chased away a lot of those who possibly, under a different scheme of things, would have been able to have existed and continued on in the livelihood that they were familiar with and applying themselves in the kind of situation that they knew at that time as the best for them. And so, the situation is not by any means one in which there should be any satisfaction taken by the Government and it's not one which either the Federal or Provincial Government should accept as being one in which any accolades should be presented. As a matter of fact there are such serious failings, particularly in the managing of the fishing co-ops, and the failures that existed then and really depriving some of the people who were entitled to receive better treatment from their government, depriving them of the opportunity of being able to carry on in the livelihood that they had, had always been part of their life, that there are serious questions to be raised. When you talk in terms of fish management or the fisheries management, when you talk in terms of the Fish Marketing Commission and when you talk in terms of what's happened, there's no point in trying to lay it on the Federal Government, the failures have been at both levels and they are fairly glaring.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there was a report known as the McIvor Report that laid the ground work for the Fish Marketing Corporation and I did not read this report but I understand that they indicated therein that the fishing industry as it was prior to 1969, prior to 1970, could not survive more than about three years. So, if that statement is correct then the fishing industry has survived another seven years beyond that under the new system of marketing that we have now. But that is not the question that I really wanted to ask the Minister. I wanted to ask the Minister if there have been some problems relating to waterways freezing and causing loss of fish

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because of frost on such waterways as Waterhen River for instance, which necessitated extraordinary programs or something.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have the specific locations at my fingertips but there are a number of places within the province this year that suffered from low water conditions. As a result, in those areas where it was possible to do so, we instituted projects where local fishermen were allowed to go in and clean out the fish population so as to not have a waste of fish populations. This has resulted in at least a salvaging of those particular fish populations. For example in the west Waterhen, I'm just getting information here that there was twenty thousand pounds salvaged and in the Red Deer River there was an additional amount, \$28,000 worth of fish salvaged as a result of salvage operations which this Department encouraged to prevent a waste of the fish resource in those areas.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, just one question to the Minister: Would the Minister consider convening at his earliest possible convenience a full-scale meeting of the jurisdictions involved, the other Provincial Premiers along with the Federal authorities, for a Freshwater Fish Marketing conference right here in Winnipeg? Mr. Chairman, I make the request because Manitoba has possibly a bigger than average stake in this, and has the Minister thought about or would he consider calling for such a conference?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, my Department has been working along with the Department of Northern Saskatchewan in the Province of Saskatchewan with the fishermen from both provinces on the very problems that have been discussed here today. The discontent that the fishermen feel with certain aspects of the Corporation's operation have been brought to my attention. I have acted as the advocate as the Minister of Saskatchewan has done in his jurisdiction to bring these concerns to the attention of the Federal Government. We've also worked with the local fishermen from both provinces and the other jurisdictions in Western Canada to bring about the formation of what is called The Inland Commercial Fishermen's Association. This fledgeling group which is just forming has requested that they have their founding convention in the City of Winnipeg and my Department has agreed to host this founding convention. This will be held this spring, hopefully, in Winnipeg, at which time there will be representatives, hopefully, from all of the fishing communities in Saskatchewan and in Manitoba that have a concern about the fishing industry. They are concerned because it is their livelihood and they are forming this Association through which they hope to bring their concerns to the attention of their provincial governments, which they are already doing, but also to the attention of the Federal Government who I might say to date, has largely ignored the comments of fishermen, the questions of fishermen, and the proposals that fishermen as well as the two Ministers, myself and the Minister from Saskatchewan having made presentations on behalf of the fishermen. As well, Mr. Chairman, I will be meeting with the Minister from Saskatchewan, in Winnipeg, within the next couple of weeks, to discuss a number of issues with respect to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which is a follow-up of a joint study which my department and his department have been co-operating on. We will come out of that meeting, hopefully, with a number of concrete proposals which we will be taking to the Federal Government at our first opportunity, to try to bring about some necessary changes in the operation of the corporation and in the attitude of the Federal Government towards the freshwater fish marketing industry in western Canada.

And I might say, Mr. Chairman, that this kind of activity has been a very deep concern of mine, I believe that the fishing industry in Manitoba is an important one, it's certainly an important one to all of those who are making a livelihood from it. For the Honourable Member for River Heights to suggest that the government has not been acting properly or responsibly in this matter, is deliberately misleading, in my opinion. The lot of fishermen has indeed improved in Manitoba over the past number of years and the problem that they are facing is like many primary producers anywhere in the western world, where inflation is eating away at net incomes. The prices that they receive for their fish have been increasing, not as much as they had hoped, under this Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, and I believe that there is much room for improvement. But as I said earlier, I believe the corporation has done a credible job of getting a good final price for their catch and I believe that we can through the Federal Government, if they will change their attitude and work co-operatively with the provincial governments, we can bring about many necessary changes in the corporation to make it more responsive to the needs of fishermen and to bring the fishermen a higher price for their product at dockside.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, just a final question, Mr. Chairman. In view of the Minister's statement that he is, in fact, in reasonably close touch with his counterparts, Saskatchewan counter-parts, (a) can he indicate to the committee with what degree of seriousness Saskatchewan is talking about the possibility of opting out of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and (b) the supplementary to

that, what contingency plans do we have in Manitoba if, in fact, that should take place, leaving a pretty serious burden of carrying the Transcona plant pretty well on our shoulders alone.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, we have had very close contact and a very good working relationship with the Saskatchewan government on this matter. Saskatchewan one year ago was, I believe, very close to opting out of the corporation. They were considering seriously the possibility of opting out. They were considering certain contingency plans and they were courteous enough to give us inside knowledge of their planning and, at the same time, it gave us the opportunity to look around at the alternatives that were open to us in case they did opt out, because it would be a very serious position for Manitoba if, indeed, Saskatchewan opted out. The Manitoba fishermen who represent 50 percent of the production that passes through the Transcona plant, would be faced with a heavy burden of carrying that plant. Saskatchewan represents approximately 25 percent of the production. Therefore, it would lessen the total economy of that plant very seriously.

So, Mr. Chairman, we have been looking at what alternatives are open to us in the event that this takes place and the meeting that I'm having with the Saskatchewan Minister is with a view to, at this time, trying to make improvements in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and, as I say, our task we see is to improve the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and not abandon it. In the event that a decision is made to go that route, and it is a very serious step, then I would say we would be working very closely with the government in Saskatchewan in any contingency plan that might be required of us.

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

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister could advise us, in the past few years how many lakes in northern Manitoba have been closed off to commercial fishing?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, not so much that lakes have been closed off by my department, but the fishermen in certain areas have been notified, through my department, of Federal Government testing, which has indicated that certain lakes had such a level of mercury content that they are not a marketable product and it is the economics that have, in effect, closed those lakes. There's not that many affected, luckily and it appears as though in most cases is a natural mercury located in these areas. One that comes to mind is Split Lake which, I believe is right at the border line. The pickerel in that lake are right at the border line of mercury content that make it unsafe for human consumption and I believe there's one or two others but they escape me at the present time. I could take the question as notice and bring it to the honourable member's attention later.

**MR. MINAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, then I'd ask the Honourable Minister, is this the only criteria that his department uses in closing down lakes to commercial fishing, is the mercury level?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier we do not close the lakes. We let the fishermen know through our information service that the mercury content on those lakes are such that, if they proceed to commercially fish them, they will not get an economic return from them. The corporation will not purchase fish from lakes which have been classified as having too high a mercury content, but it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to do this testing and classification and we merely pass the information on. We're not in the business of closing lakes.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well, then, if I understand the Honourable Minister correctly, then his department has not closed down any lakes at all in Manitoba in the past few years to commercial fishing?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, in that sense that if the Federal Government has notified my department that a certain lake has a mercury content which makes it uneconomic and unsafe essentially for this fish to be commercially caught, then it just follows that we won't issue commercial licences, commercial fishing licences for that lake. We won't encourage fishermen to go out and fish a product that can't be sold.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm a little bit confused with the Minister's answer. Now in one instance he says the department does not close down lakes to commercial fishing, but now I understand the Minister to say that he will not grant commercial licences to fishermen on certain lakes if they do not fall in line with the Federal Government's level of mercury content. Is this correct?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct. It would not make sense for the department to grant fishing licences, commercial fishing licences to fishermen to fish a lake which the catch from which they would not be able to market. The corporation would receive it in the plant, but there would be no money for it, they would not pay anything.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well, then, Mr. Chairman, I'll reword my question. Can the Honourable Minister advise us how many commercial licences have been refused to fishermen in the past few years and on what lakes in Northern Manitoba?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would have to take the question as notice in order to be able to give you the names of the lakes which have been affected by this Federal Government testing and reporting on mercury levels program.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister, is this the only time that commercial licences are refused to fishermen on northern lakes, is if the mercury pollution level is too high in the fish itself?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, I'm not sure exactly what the honourable member is driving at, Mr. Chairman. There may be cases where licences are refused to some individuals for fishing on particular lakes because the department has already licensed the quota of fishermen for that lake. The lakes are classified as to the poundage that can be produced and a certain number of licences are issued for any particular lake and, say for example a lake with 100,000 pound quota has ten licences, that is in a sense gives each fishermen a chance at 10,000 pounds of fish. We would not licence 20 fishermen for that lake. So if 20 fishermen applied, ten would be refused and the licences would be allocated on the basis of the people who had the most experience and so on fishing in that area.

**MR. MINAKER:** So then, Mr. Chairman, if I understand the Minister correctly then, if there were five or ten fishermen fishing on the lake, that their licences would not be withdrawn except for cases where the mercury pollution of the fish would exceed the level that the Federal Government would consider acceptable for health reasons. Is this correct? In other words, if there was a new application for fishing licences that to his knowledge his department has not denied commercial fishing licences to existing fishermen on lakes.

**MR. BOSTROM:** That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. MINAKER:** I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Minister could advise us why fishermen on Ron Lake had their commercial fishing removed? It's my understanding that fishermen on Ron Lake, in fact we saw it on the T.V., had been refused the rights to commercial fishing on this lake.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there was a decision taken some many years ago, I don't recall when, that a number of the small lakes on the east side of Lake Winnipeg would be reserved for sport fishing activity rather than commercial fishing and that regulation has been in effect for many many years. I don't recall exactly when it was instituted. Perhaps someone from the department who is here can remember when that came into effect, but it certainly wasn't within my time in government.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister can advise us, has Ron Lake ever been classified as a commercial fishing lake?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe it has at one time in the past.

**MR. MINAKER:** I wonder if the Honourable Minister could advise us when the commercial fishing licences were withdrawn from that particular lake?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have the information handy here, but I can take the question as notice and indicate when that particular lake was last licenced for commercial fishing. We should have those records in the department.

**MR. MINAKER:** Yes, I would appreciate receiving that information, Mr. Chairman. I hope the Minister will seek out that information for the committee. I would then like to ask him what criteria is used for sport fishing on a lake where it's removed from commercial licencing?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure what the honourable member is asking. Could he perhaps rephrase the question?

**MR. MINAKER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if a lake has been commercially fished and then all of a sudden it's been taken out of commercial fishing, I'm wondering how the department arrives at allowing sport fishing in the same lake and I'm also wondering if the fishermen who fish on this lake receive any compensation for the fact that their fishing rights have been taken away. Yet the same lake can be utilized by private individuals for sport fishing and for their benefit.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I don't believe there has been any compensation offered to any fishermen for lakes having been closed to commercial fishing, to my knowledge, but I will take the question as notice and see if, in fact, this has been the case.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, just so that the Honourable Minister understands my question I'm asking relating to where a lake has been removed from commercial fishing yet has stayed open for sport fishing which really is, to some degree, a commercial type of operation. In those instances I'd be very interested in knowing and I'm sure the committee members would be very interested in knowing, how many situations have occurred like this. Is there more than Ron Lake and, if so, where has it occurred and has there been any compensation been given to those particular native fishermen who have had their rights taken away from commercial fishing.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would have to take the question as notice. This situation has not come up in the time that I have been the Minister of this department and that is since 1974. We have not closed any lakes to commercial fishing, to my knowledge, for the exclusive use of sports fishing lodges. Those decisions were taken, if they were taken they were taken before I have been the Minister of this department so I would have to take the question as notice and have departmental officials check the records to see if and when certain lakes have been classified as primarily for sport



fishing, for the exclusive use of those who are developing sport and hunting lodges or whatever.

**MR. MINAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope too that the Honourable Minister will advise the committee what criteria that his department has used in establishing the decision on turning a lake from a commercial fishing lake by native people into a sport fishing lake. I would appreciate hearing the criteria that has been used by the department in the past and in the present criteria that the department uses.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I might point out, Mr. Chairman, none of the officials here seem to remember when that kind of decision was taken either, or why it was in fact taken. I seem to recall just from memory that many of the lakes on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, for example, which are in my constituency, have not been commercially fished for quite a number of years. Some of them, I believe, were not commercially fished partly because of the economics of the fishery, they were a long ways away from market and they required flying, which is a high cost of transportation for fish and, in some lakes, the return was not that great because the fish in the lakes, while they may be important ones for sport fishing activity such as, for example, jackfish, they're not a high priced commercial species. So that sometimes it's plain economics that in fact closes lakes to commercial fishing.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for River Heights.

**MR. SPIVAK:** I want to make two comments simply because the Minister in his remarks with respect to the comments I made, closed by suggesting that the presentation itself was essentially misleading us to what really the results were and I want to suggest to him that proper motives, good intentions are really not substitutions for performance and one has to look at the Fish Marketing Corporation and one has had to have the opportunity as I have of talking to the Auditor-General's office about the corporation and its financial affairs to realize the performance that was involved in that critical undertaking and what it has really cost. One has to look at the performance of the whole area of fishing co-operatives and the work that the government has done and the money that has been poured in and the failures there and the frustrations to the fishermen who were involved. To suggest that performance stands by itself, not withstanding the good intentions of a number of people and that the past eight years have not been eight years of any kind of record of achievement and the difficulties that the fishermen are facing today, to a large extent are not just the pricing but the actual failure to take them from the position they were eight years ago and to bring him into a better position, with all the support that was supposed to have been offered by the variety of government programs, provincially and federally, including the operation of the Fish Marketing Corporation and that it really has been a tremendous failure and notwithstanding the good intentions now of the Minister to make something work, you know, the probability is that something far more radical than what he is talking about, is really going to be what is necessary if the industry itself is to become viable without tremendous subsidization from the taxpayers for it to continue in the near future.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to follow up on the question asked by the Member for St. James, and while the Minister is checking his information on the closing of commercial fisheries because those lakes will be used for sport fisheries, I wonder if he could get for us some indication of from 1960 to 1969 how many lakes were closed that had been commercial fisheries that were closed to use them as sport fisheries? What compensation was paid when those lakes were closed and he could specifically check on Rocky Lake, Clearwater Lake, Cormorant Lake, Little Cross Lake, Lake St. George and I have a long list of others that have been closed some time, a considerable number that were closed previous to 1969 and if he could find out what criteria were used in making those decisions at that time when so many of the northern lakes were closed to commercial fisheries.

The other comment I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, is that the Member for River Heights, in his comments, seemed to me to imply that when we consider the passing of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation legislation, that we had before us some facts and figures on the Transcona fishing plant and that doesn't quite match my memory of the situation at that time and, in fact, what we did when we passed the legislation is allow a corporation to be set up, a corporation which Manitoba would only have one Board of Director, a corporation which then moved to manage things in a certain way. I think that the Member for Lakeside, who has been pretty reasonable tonight, when he's not talking about agriculture, hit the nail on the head when he said that there is probably a problem not because of the marketing, because I don't think there was much disagreement that there had to be a better method of marketing to get a better price for fish that were caught in Manitoba, but the fact that the corporation and its board, which Manitoba has very little effect or influence on except what the Minister is able to persuade and he's done a hell of a good job in that regard. But we have very little ability to affect them and yet they made a decision not only to centralize or co-ordinate the marketing but to centralize the process and you know, that was probably their mistake because

it's a very capital intensive project and maybe processing could be done at numerous small northern points and still have centralized marketing and that's a danger and a tendency I guess of all governments, regardless of their political stripe or especially of private industry, is to centralize production when in fact you can decentralize production and do a better job and a less costly job. But the Member for River Heights is mistaken if he thinks that we had some input when we passed the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation legislation, that we had some say on what the price was going to be of the Transcona plant. In fact, some of us were quite concerned about the closing of the Selkirk plant and the movement into the Transcona plant and some of us were also very concerned about the method that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation took over various operations in northern Manitoba at the time they were established because basically what happened is that those communities that have been organized into co-operatives, and organized under the previous Conservative administration — you know, they did a few good things when they were in office and they helped set up some co-ops. Those fishermen that were in co-ops prior to 1969, prior to the coming in of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, were getting a fairly reasonable return and they benefitted not very much from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. The ones that benefitted were the ones that had no economic power like the co-ops had because the co-ops could sell their fish in bulk. The fishermen who were just fishing on a dependency basis for the small private buyers or the large private buyers, were the ones that benefitted initially from better prices because of the corporation. But I would have to agree that the Transcona plant may have been a poor decision and one that we were not able to affect very much.

The Member for River Heights used the phrase, the record of achievement and I would like to congratulate the Minister and the department on the manner in which they have been able to go out and consult with fishermen, the way they have been able to arrange meeting with fishermen to talk about quotas, mesh sizes, etc. etc. I know that when the Member for Lakeside was the Minister, he travelled up north and met with fishermen on various items but I don't think anywhere in Canada has there been such an extensive effort on the part of a department and the Minister as there has been recently in the last two years, since the present Minister was in office. To really consult and get the feeling to the fishermen and to put those into regulations because it's not an easy thing. The fishermen don't always agree, but to try and get some consensus and understanding and agreement from the fishermen, they've done a very good job in that and I think that that is a very remarkable record of achievement.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(e). The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE:** . . . question the Minister. I wonder if he has any contingency plans for the Winnipegosis Fishing Co-operative, the mesh size is increased.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman I'm not sure what the honourable member means by contingency plan.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, the fishermen in the area advise me they will be forced to close. Is that the only answer that they have from the department and the minister, if the mesh size is increased?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, nowhere in Canada, in any jurisdiction that I am aware of, has there ever been any compensation to fishermen for the institution of the change of mesh size, or an institution of the change of regulation. Nowhere in Canada, to my knowledge. I have, however, given the fishermen an invitation to make a proposal to the government as to their needs as far as assistance to overcome any difficulties they may have as a result of this mesh size change. And I've thrown the ball into their court, Mr. Chairman, in the sense that I believe they know best what impact this mesh size change will have on them and I'm prepared to hear their proposals and recommendations as to how they feel the government should assist them through this difficult period. I'm prepared to meet with them and discuss this and, in fact, assist them in any way I can. I've told them that as far as my department is concerned, we do not have the necessary funds in my budget to assist them in any financial way, however, if they make a case to me, I will take that forward to Cabinet for a special consideration if they, in fact, are prepared to make the proposal to government.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, my only concern in the subject matter, of course, is the fishermen. Some of them in the area tell me that they've never agreed with the phase-in or the proposal that's before them and because they knew that at least' it was their feelings that the larger mesh would force their fishing co-op to close up. So that's the only reason I raised it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(e)(1)(a)—pass; (1)(b) Other Expenditures—pass; (1)—pass. Resolution 104(e)(2) Fish Hatcheries Operations (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** I wonder if the Minister could briefly comment on the loss of the fish fry that occurred not too long ago and what steps are being taken to give us some dollar value of the loss and what steps are being taken to ensure that something like this doesn't occur again or at least reasonably

assure that it doesn't happen again.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, this is quite a complicated case. I have some information on it. There was an infectious disease and technically it's a bacterial kidney disease, IPN virus. It was identified in the trout species that were reared in the Whiteshell and Grand Rapids hatcheries. As soon as it was identified and brought to my attention and the dangers of this were indicated to me, I instructed the department that all these trout in these hatcheries were to be destroyed. This drastically reduced our stocking program to the 21 sport fishing waters and reduced our overall stocking to 10 percent of our objective for the year. The clean up required after the destruction of the species in the hatcheries was completed in early fall 1976. We have appointed a provincial Fish Health Officer to review the disease certificates of hatcheries exporting fish into Manitoba. We have narrowed it down to a disease which, in fact, was imported into Manitoba through fish that was imported, fish eggs and so on that were imported. If the provincial Fish Health Officer has the responsibility to review the disease certificates of these hatcheries that we are now purchasing from, if the hatchery he reviews is free of the eight designated diseases an import permit is issued to the producer. This permit must accompany shipments of live fish or eggs. Fish Health Certificates are verified by an international signing authority and we believe, Mr. Chairman, that these steps will prevent any such outbreak in the future and as I say, I believe that we acted properly in taking the necessary precautions, to destroy the species that were infected before they were able to infect any of our natural waters in Manitoba.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, I wonder if the Minister could indicate what roughly would be the total loss involved in the dollar value?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** One million fish were destroyed, the value was \$200,000.00. And we've narrowed it down, as I said that this disease was brought into Manitoba by imported fish and it was narrowed down to improper checking of these fish that were brought into the province. When they crossed the border they were not properly inspected.

**MR. BLAKE:** We have no recourse on the hatchery involved there or anything of that nature.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I am informed that there is no recourse on our part in this case.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (Resolutions 104(e)(2)(a) to 04(f)(3) were read and passed.) Resolution 104(f)(4)—Western Region. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** The question here, there's some controversy the Minister's aware of it I'm sure and, in my particular area over the naming of a river, namely the Little Saskatchewan River and the Minnedosa River. I don't know whether the Minister's seen my comment at home but I don't know whether it's got me into hot water or not but I'm straddling the fence pretty badly and it happens to run right through my existing home town and my old home town and I know it's come to the Minister's attention and I don't want to hold up the committee and have him make a decision tonight but I wonder if he could bring us up to date and tell us what is happening on the name of the Little Saskatchewan Minnedosa River.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I thought that a lot of people had opinions on wildlife but I think even more people have opinions on what the particular river that he has mentioned should be called and I will not even refer to it by name for fear of prejudicing the decision. As the honourable member knows there is a lot of heat and light being generated on both sides of the issue. I have had many many letters on my desk from both sides of the issue and I have so far been non-committal in my reply. My reply has been maybe the same as the honourable member's reply and that is that we're assessing the situation and the department is looking at the historical records and so on and taking all of the replies into consideration that we are getting and that the decision will be announced in due course.

**MR. BLAKE:** Well I have said that some of my friends in Rapid City are for changing the name and some of my friends in Minnedosa are against changing the name and I'm going to support my friends. That's how I've got out of it so far. I don't know how long that's going to last though, Mr. Minister. That was my . . . question on Western Region. There are many more but I know we're anxious to move on.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member for Minnedosa cannot have a position on this problem, it's even more difficult for the Minister.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(f)(4)(a)—pass; (4)(b)—pass; (4)—pass. Resolution 104(f)—pass; Resolution 104 : Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$15,372,300 for Renewable Resources and Transportation Services—pass. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, if it's the will of the committee to rise at this time we can start on Transportation Services . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise and report.

**ESTIMATES - HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I refer honourable members to Page 29, Resolution 60(h)(1) Salaries, \$1,060,900—pass? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. ARNOLD BROWN:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that there were some questions that the Member for Crescentwood had asked the Minister. I wonder if he could answer those at this time.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I am on dental care for the third time. Yes, well the drop-off — my honourable friend can calculate it himself, he said fifty percent — there were fifteen that finished the course out of eighteen. That doesn't look like 50 percent to me. The Dental College did suggest at one time that the first year, once after graduation, that a young dentist would have to go in the rural area. When I suggested that in the House a few years ago about the medical profession to improve the situation up north, I was told that I didn't have the right to do it and so on. I think that something will have to be done but I would be much more impressed if the present members now, who would try to make the rules and I don't think they can, I think that they tried that in B. C. and the medical profession and I think that was not accepted, but if they did, and I think that wouldn't be such a bad idea, I would be much more impressed if they started by saying themselves, not just the future people who come. That is an empty gesture. That is a very easy thing to say when you obligate somebody else that is going to come after you. That has nothing to do with their dental program at all. They were talking about trying to get people in the rural area where they are needed so badly.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(h). The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. JAMES H. BILTON:** I am a little concerned. I believe the Minister is aware of what has happened in my area. I don't know what has gone before today but I apologize for being late. But in Swan River, I understand we have three clinics, three schools, and we have two dentists. And I brought it to the Minister's attention many months ago and I wondered why he allowed that situation to develop whereby we could have three clinics within an area of one mile. I can see the reasoning for it now, Mr. Minister, it looks as though that extravagance is going to continue. A year ago it cost us a million dollars. This year we are being asked for two million dollars and it just doesn't make sense in my humble opinion, Mr. Chairman, that that sort of thing is happening.

I appreciate that Swan River was in the pilot area and I indicated to the Minister at the time that I couldn't understand why such a situation should develop, particularly when they have a clinic in Benito and I believe the same care is extended to Bowsman. I have no objection to attending to the teeth of our young people but I can see that this expense is going to become so phenomenal that the people in Manitoba won't be able to pay for it. When I see the Health and Welfare, Mr. Chairman, up to \$430 million, which is more than was the total budget for the Province of Manitoba in 1969, I am beginning to wonder where we are going.

I have nothing against Medicare and the Minister knows when he brought this program that it would be like fighting motherhood to speak against this particular program and it is not my purpose, Mr. Chairman, to speak against the program as such, but I do believe that it is going like all other programs developed by this government, it is getting out of hand. And as I have explained to you a moment ago, if what is happening or what did happen to the pilot program is cognizant of what may happen throughout Manitoba when the Minister gets his way and makes it universal, my God, the cost factor is just going to be phenomenal!

And he knows as well as I know that this can't be allowed to go on. Preventative care, fine. We started out as I remember a couple of years ago with a pilot program of \$500,000. Last year it was \$1.5 million. This year it is \$2 million. And as I said a day or two ago on another program under the Minister's jurisdiction, where is this thing going to end? There is only one payer for all this and that is the taxpayer.

**A MEMBER:** You sound like Doug Campbell.

**MR. BILTON:** Whether I sound like Doug Campbell or not, I feel honoured that that privilege was extended to me, but somehow or other, Mr. Chairman, the brakes have got to be put on. These programs are all good regardless of governments that may be in office at any particular time. But somehow or other, some controls have got to be put on and I would like the Minister to explain to me why, in view of the fact that I explained to him the extravagance of the program in the area that I represent, that he allowed it to happen when it shouldn't have happened and he knows it shouldn't have happened?

A dentist took it upon himself to set up a clinic of his own with some four or five chairs. And I am not speaking for dentists and I am not speaking for that particular dentist and I know overtures were made by the department in discussing matters with local dentists. I don't want that nonsense all over again.

**A MEMBER:** What do you mean, nonsense?

**MR. BILTON:** Nonsense it is because you should not have gone to the expense that you went to in the particular area that I represent. And if you are going to do that all over the province, Mr. Premier,

you had better take a hand in this matter and call a halt to it before it gets beyond the public purpose to pay for it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to recap because listening to I guess about three sessions of debate on this \$2 million expenditure, I was less than kind to the Minister when I first started out at the beginning of the debate on this, except that I haven't changed my position when I stated that gathering in all the evidence from what I talked about the other day and comments by the Minister of Health which were most welcome in which he said it would take four or five years before this program would reach Winnipeg. And he said that even the day after the Member for St. Johns stood up and said he was going to have a universal program for every adult in Manitoba.

**A MEMBER:** When?

**MR. WILSON:** Well, you check Hansard. It is in there.

**A MEMBER:** I said but when?

**MR. WILSON:** Well, I have no way — just as I was predicting that this would never happen, the Member for St. Johns stood up and said it would happen, so we agreed to disagree.

In examining this cosmetic approach and the picture of hope for things to come which we cannot afford, we the taxpayers of Manitoba cannot afford, I welcome the stance the Minister has stated when he has said it will take four or five years for this \$260-per-child expense to reach Winnipeg because goodness knows if we had to multiply that times 100,000 or 150,000 or 200,000 children throughout the universal program for all children in the province, I am afraid we couldn't afford that if we were to combine that with other programs. Mind you, if the First Minister had some control over the expenses, the priorities of some of his other Ministers like the Minister of Public Works, then maybe some of these health care things could be stepped up a little, but the long-range plan of four or five years until it reaches Winnipeg is music to my ears because I knew and predicted that we could never afford a universal program in your government's term of office.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(h)(1). The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I just have a request to make to the Minister. One of the, I guess, underlying issues that has really appeared in all this debate is the degree to which there has or has not been fair and proper dealings with the dental profession. And I think that the Minister has asserted that he has conducted the negotiation on the part of the government with all the proper conduct that that requires. The dentists say otherwise. I am wondering simply if he would be prepared to table in the House the correspondence, both that he has received from the Dental Association and which he has sent in reply, so that it is possible to determine really where in fact the truth lies in this matter and we can determine whether the claims made that there has been a degree of unresponsiveness, that letters haven't been answered, that negotiations have not been carried out in good faith, that there has not been a proper *quid pro quo*. And I wonder if the Minister would be prepared to do that so that we can examine it for ourselves and then determine really where in fact the proper recommendation of the truth really does lie. I think this might dispell a lot of the clouds that hang over the question of the relationship between this particular profession and the government at the present moment. It might be prepared to air and open the thing more widely.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't want to start any precedent in this House. This is rather unusual but with the understanding that it won't be a precedent, I'll be only too glad to table everything on one proviso, that the memos to files, when there are verbal meetings that my staff took, they will also be tabled because there were a lot of meetings at their request, and there were meetings where I was requested to meet alone with them or with one individual and so on and quite a few things happened in those meetings. That was mostly at their request and I've always accepted. Another proviso, I'll have to check with them, if it's all right with the dental profession, then I'll be too glad to comply with it.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that response. I would like to make it clear that we are requesting primarily, you know, the formal designation. I don't think he has to glean up every last piece of paper.

The only other question I would have is: What time does he think he might be able to do this in, and whether it would be able to be done while his Estimates are still in course so that we would be able to deal with it on his salary?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I would imagine that we should have that before I reach my salary, Mr. Chairman. My director, I hope we'll let him go fairly soon; he's been at it for . . . and if that's the case, he'll get busy on that immediately. Of course, we'll have to get the okay from the association and I'll probably request that in writing so I can have something in writing also and then we'll get busy on it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(h)(1). The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** I thought I'd posed one or two questions and I would hope that the Minister will attempt to answer them for me.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to repeat the answers that I made. My friend will

have to read Hansard. We've

been at it for three sessions now. I will answer the direct question that he asked me once before, I think it was privately, I'll answer it officially now. Well I don't know if I should answer. I was asked a question but I was told, "Don't give us any of this malarky that you've tried to talk to the dentists" and that's the answer. The answer, that I sent my director of the plan, a special trip on two occasions, to Swan River to see if there was a way that we could use the clinic that was already there and if we could use the service of the dentist and I wrote these people — I could probably table that too — and there was no show of interest at all. I'm not saying that sarcastically or anything; these people are busy. They just weren't interested.

**MR. BILTON:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has overlooked the important part of my questions and my questions were the extravagance of the clinics in the schools in Swan River, when he was warned by myself before the equipment even arrived. That equipment is in there, Mr. Chairman, and that kind of money should not have been spent. If my memory serves me right, I understand something like \$100,000 was spent in equipment and it wasn't necessary. The town is only one-half mile square, Mr. Chairman. Why should they have had to equip three schools together with the schools in the surrounding areas which are 10, 15, 25 miles away? There could be some excuse for that but there's certainly no excuse for the expense that they put into those schools in Swan River and I want the Minister to answer that.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, there is no equipment in the second school. There's a new school that is being built and a clinic is being placed there. The equipment will be approximately \$2,000 not \$100,000 and it will be equipment that could be used by the same team so, you know, this thing of \$100,000 and the extra cost doesn't wash.

**MR. BILTON:** Mr. Chairman, it's not my purpose to misrepresent something that has been related to me and I tell the Minister most sincerely that that was related to me; those are not my words. He'd better be right that it was only \$2,000 because I will come back with the information to confound him. —(Interjection)— You bet I will.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Order please. ORDER PLEASE. I think we settled this about lying the other day. Now I don't want to hear any more of these comments from the seats. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews. Order please. I had recognized the Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

**MR. WALLY JOHANNSSON:** Mr. Chairman, before I proceed I think the Honourable Member should withdraw. He indulged in some clearly unparliamentary comments and coming from an ex-Speaker, I think, Mr. Chairman, that is very reprehensible and regrettable.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** Mr. Chairman, I require no redress from the Honourable Member for St. Matthews. He's still in his diapers as a parliamentarian as far as I'm concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I brought that information sincerely to the House as it was passed on to me by a knowledgeable person and if I have misinformed the House, I regret but at the same time, if I have done so, it has been on the advice of someone much more able to answer this question than I and as I said a moment ago, I believed the person who spoke to me at the moment and by God, if he's lied to me and I've brought information into this House that's an untruth —(Interjection)— you bet I will. But I don't require any chastising from the Honourable Member for St. Matthews. When he's been around a year or two a little longer, he can talk that way but he doesn't have to talk to me that way.

Mr. Chairman, I brought that information into the House and I suggest to you in a sincere manner as an honest opinion related to me and I felt I had the responsibility to bring it and I have a little bit of an idea, I have a little bit of an idea that the Minister's on shaky ground. How's that? What are you going to do with that?

**MR. JOHANNSSON:** Mr. Chairman, unlike the Honourable Member for Swan River, I am not in my second childhood but let us get back to the point of order. The Honourable Member said that the Minister was lying. Now, Mr. Chairman, there is no question about that. That is unparliamentary. He should withdraw . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Order please. ORDER PLEASE. I just said that the honourable members should not indulge in the word "lying" back and forth across this House. We had that out last week . . . Order please. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

**MR. JOHANNSSON:** Mr. Chairman, I'm very interested in the comments that we're getting from the Honourable Member for Swan River and the Member for Wolseley. They are criticizing the Minister for so-called extravagance. The Member for Swan River pulls out some rumour of a supposed \$100,000 expenditure on equipment in Swan River and I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, — I want to know what the policy of the Conservative Party is. Is the Honourable Member going to pull that equipment out of the school in Swan River? Will he deprive the children in Swan River of dental care, dental attention?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Order please. A point of privilege has been raised. Would the honourable member state his point of privilege?

**MR. BILTON:** The honourable member accuses me of bringing before this House a rumour. I thought I made it abundantly clear that I had every confidence in the person who related the information to me. It's not a rumour, Mr. Chairman, and I'm going to check it out. Is that fair enough?

**MR. JOHANNSON:** Mr. Speaker, this debate becomes more and more absurd. The Member makes a statement. Now when a member —(Interjection)— Well, we can understand, considering where the member is coming from. When a member makes a statement, when he makes an accusation, he should do so on the basis of evidence. He now tells us that he has provided this information by a source he thinks is reliable. Mr. Chairman, that is a statement that is remarkable only for its stupidity. If the member doesn't have the ability to check out his sources, he should keep his mouth shut until he does get that information.

**MR. CHAIAN:** Would the honourable Order please. member state his point of privilege.

**MR. BILTON:** I was accused of making a statement which was stupidity and I ask the honourable gentleman to withdraw that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That is not a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

**MR. JOHANNSON:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. We are told continually that the government is indulging in waste and extravagance. And yet . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order, please. . . Order please. I can find nothing here in Beauchesne's that deals with this situation. I am not here to judge on the mentality of any me just to adhere to the er, rules. Order please. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

**MR. JOHANNSON:** Mr. Chairman, all I hear from the Conservative Party is charges of waste and extravagance — we start with the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. And yet at the same time that party will not spell out its policies. They say that we should expand the Day Care Program. They say we are indulging in waste and extravagance. I want to know where they stand on the dental care program. I want to know, for example, will they cut back the program; do they stand for expanding the program? If they stand for expanding the program, where are they going to get the money, from the Honourable Member for Swan River?

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has explained that we are proceeding with this program as rapidly as the budget permits. Now, I want to know what the program of the Conservative Party is. I want to know. I simply don't want accusations of waste and extravagance. I want them to tell us, are they going to expand the program? Will the program, if the Tories are elected, which is a very remote possibility, will the program be expanded to the City of Winnipeg, to the Constituency of Wolseley, or will it not? Tell us.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(h)(1)—pass; 60(h)(2)—pass. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** I wonder if we could have a breakdown of these expenditures.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Medical Supplies \$125,000; Travel, Miscellaneous Transportation \$300,000; Fee for Private Dentists \$175,000; Transportation, Other Employees \$80,000; Transportation Other Than Employees \$2,000; Subistence \$2,000; Fee Services Citizens \$15,900; Educational Assistance \$12,000; Clothing \$2,500; Travelling \$76,000; Freight Express and Cartage \$7,100; Publication and Subscription \$2,700; Advertising Exhibits \$4,500; Auto Mileage Charge, Related Costs \$58,000; Computer \$13,000; Medical Services and Supplies \$35,800; Building Maintenance \$600; Postage, Telephone, Telegraph \$6,600; Printing and Stationery Supplies \$7,800; Professional Fees \$86,000; Contract Staff, Information Officer, Wage and Other Assistants \$10,000.00.

**MR. BROWN:** There seems to be well over \$400,000 in transportation and travel. I wonder if the Minister can elaborate on that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** Could the Minister tell me how many dental nurses or what have you are located in the Swan River Valley.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Two, Mr. Chairman, and this program seems to be the pride of the school division of that area, who are very pleased and have written me letters to tell me how wonderful a program it is.

**MR. BILTON:** Could the Minister tell me how many clinics there are located in the Swan River Valley. —(Interjections)—

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. I wish honourable members would address their remarks on their feet and through the Chair, not across the Chamber. You all know the rules; they are your rules, abide by them. If you don't like them you have got a Committee interessionally, change the rules, but you are not changing rules in the House here.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There are five clinics with one other being developed.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(h)(2). The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** I couldn't let that go by because it seems that there were two items for transportation and travel. One was \$300,000 and the other was \$80,000.00. I thought we were in the program of Denticare to fix children's teeth and we've got \$8,600 for professional fees. Why would we need a lawyer in the program to fix children's teeth? It seems like an awful lot out of a million dollars to

have \$380,000 for transportation. If you could just explain it then maybe we could get into the concept, because if the program is basically in the rural area, maybe the staff should be going out to see them rather than having them travelling to Winnipeg all the time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(h)(2). The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** Could the Honourable Minister tell me what it cost to equip those five clinics and what he anticipates putting in there by way of equipment this year out of this item?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The permanent clinic, the stationary equipment is roughly \$2,200 and the portable clinic is about \$926.50. And then there's some material and equipment that the team transports with them and it's used wherever they go.

**MR. BILTON:** Do I understand the Minister to tell me that the total cost of the five clinics is something in the neighborhood of 50,000.00?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** A permanent clinic cost is roughly \$2,218.00. If the five clinics are permanent, that's five times that. I said the equipment of a portable clinic is \$926.50, and then there's some equipment that stays with the team wherever they go. There's less of that, there's only that equipment for one team and that's around \$3,000, that's transported in the van. Some of the transportation is the van and the equipment, the other is the staff.

Of course this is not just the service; this is the first year. These clinics had to be set up. There was discussion, as I said, at times, with the dentists and so on and the, should I say, the start-up part of the program is included in there.

**MR. BILTON:** Could the Minister tell me the total cost of the mobile clinic that goes into Barrows and into Pelican Rapids and isolated points, that's located in the Swan River Valley, the total cost of it? —(Interjection)— You gave me the information of the unit that goes into the isolated . . .

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the equipment for — and this is the last time, under no circumstances am I repeating this again — the equipment for the specific portable clinic, just the equipment, is \$926.00. The equipment for a permanent clinic is around \$2,218.00. And then there's some equipment worth about \$3,400 that stays with the team, only the team, and there's only the one team in that area for all that area.

**MR. BILTON:** What about the transportation of this mobile clinic?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** You were talking about equipment.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

**MR. BILTON:** Well, I'm talking about the whole deal. You may be a little impatient, Mr. Minister, but we're talking about \$430 million of the people's money and \$2 million under this set-up.

**MR. CHAIAN:** Order please. Would the honourable member direct his remarks to the Chair and not to the Minister.

**MR. BILTON:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, but the Minister is showing a good deal of impatience and that's what he's there for and that's what he is paid for, to answer the questions. He's ridiculed the item that I brought up a little earlier, so be it. I'm trying to search out the total cost. He's forgotten the cost of the automobile or the truck or what have you that carries this material around to the remote areas, which could be another \$15,000 or \$20,000.00. There could be a good deal more, X-ray machines and those sort of things. It's all very well for him to say, "I'm not going to give you another answer." He's here to give us all the answers we ask and he better make up his mind.

The only reason I am trying to search out the actual cost in the Swan River Valley, Mr. Chairman, is that I made a statement earlier and the Honourable Member for St. Matthews, backing up the Minister, took his two bits, but if we can build this thing up, Mr. Chairman, I don't think I'm going to be too far wrong with what that person told me.

I'd like the Minister to come clean on this thing.

**A MEMBER:** He had better defend himself.

**MR. BILTON:** That's his job and he has no right to be making these remarks. If anybody should be humble at this particular time, the Minister himself should be and he better learn to be until we get through his Estimates or he has seen nothing yet.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend . . . with a cock-and-bull story that the clinic in Swan River cost — the equipment cost for one clinic \$100,000.00. And now he's trying to say he can read answers and I'm getting a little fed up with this kind of remark. He talks about a clinic, he asked about the equipment, and Hansard will prove that tomorrow, he specifically mentioned the word "equipment" and I told him what the equipment was and now all of a sudden he's talking about the whole program. Well of course the whole program is going to cost more than \$2,000, even an idiot would know that. —(Interjection)— Damn it, if you want to talk, go ahead.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. ORDER. I just suggest to the honourable members that we just simmer down a little bit. ORDER, ORDER. I'm just getting a little bit tired of trying to Chair this meeting and debate with an honourable member who is sitting on his seat. If the honourable member has any remarks to make, on your feet and do them to the Chair, not across the Chamber.

**MR. BILTON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your comments' but, Sir, if the Honourable



Minister would continue to provoke or suggest that I mislead this House, I'm not going to take it from him nor am I going to take it from you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. ORDER PLEASE. I am not suggesting to the honourable member that he's misleading this House and I don't think anybody else is. ORDER, ORDER. Now I'm asking the honourable member for the last time to maintain order. If he's not, he knows what the procedures are in this House. —(Interjection)— Order please. ORDER PLEASE. I do not intend to debate with the honourable member. If the honourable member doesn't like my ruling, he can challenge my ruling. Resolution 60(h)(2). The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Well, I just thought I would try to bring a little calm to these proceedings.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. ORDER. I don't think that remark from the honourable member was called for. The Chair will determine when there is disorder in this House and there is a procedure for dealing with it. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Mr. Chairman, I couldn't let it go by. The Member for St. Matthews stood up and wanted to take us to task for predicting the very expensive program which had been envisioned by the Member from St. Johns and which had been elaborated on by the Minister. We were simply saying, unless they can slow down the priorities of some of the other departments of government, then the Denticare program will have to be as the Minister said, it will have to be four or five years away. So in answer to the Member from St. Matthews, I don't think I'll see Denticare in Wolseley for four or five years, unless the economy all of a sudden takes an upswing and the Minister of Public Works buys two or three hundred fewer vehicles.

But basically we did ask a question, we were talking about \$1,027,600.00. We know how the program works; the Minister has explained that in the last couple of days he hasn't explained ' but the breakdown because when we got into the transportation aspect, does this include salaries, or what does it include? Is this just the moving around of these mobile units because your government on the other side has become very mobile. You have Legal Aid, mobile legal units going throughout the country; you have now the Denticare units going throughout the country and it seems that unless you can explain the transportation aspect which is a \$300,000 and an \$80,000 item, then we don't really fully comprehend — you know, we could then envision why it costs \$260.00 per patient. If we could get the information as to why the transportation costs seem to be so high in comparison, well, they're almost 40 percent.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, . . . expenses during the travelling of the teams, that's what it is. And the other is the actual, the title is misleading, the other is the actual mileage of the vans and the cars that are used for transportation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(h)(2)—pass. Resolution 60(j) Community Field Services (1) Salaries \$9,592,000.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland. The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This appropriation represents the professional health and social services field delivery system of the Community Services Division of the department. These are the professionals who deal directly with our clients that are the front-end workers of our department.

This multi-disciplinary field force delivers comprehensive public health and social services to the people of Manitoba. The basic services offered cover the broad field of medical public health, the child welfare in areas where these services are not offered by Children's Aid Society, family counselling services, home care services in rural Manitoba, home ec services, community mental health services, community mental retardation services.

Examples of major services offered in the medical public health area include: immunization of pre-school children, school children and adults against communicable disease such as polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and measles; preventative treatment planning and/or services concerning rabies and infectious hepatitis; distribution of vaccines, life-saving drugs and drugs for diabetics and cystic fibrosis; prenatal teaching; postnatal home visits to assist mothers of newborn children to provide better care for these children; provision of child health clinics to offer immunization of infants and pre-school children and counsel mothers in child care and nutrition; provision of a varied range of services to all adults, including the elderly; co-ordination and delivery of home care in rural areas. In the City of Winnipeg, home care is being delivered by the Care Services but these workers are gradually being redeployed to our regional multi-discipline teams to provide more various types of support to the Home Care Program.

With respect to the child welfare, my department staff delivers this service in the NorMan Region, Thompson Region and Parklands Region, Interlake Region and the unorganized territory in Eastman Region. Child welfare, as mentioned earlier in these Estimates, is delivered by Children's Aid Society and Jewish Child and Family Services in the balance of the province.

My department offers family counselling services to varying degrees in all regions of the province.

Over the past 20 years, the department has offered limited community mental health, community mental retardation services through the department's institution. Some three years ago, we initiated a major thrust to redeploy community mental health and retardation workers into the Community

Field Service system. Now some 60 community mental health workers and approximately 47 community mental retardation workers have been deployed to our various region services teams and they are working in harmony with other health and social services professionals in the community, drawing specialized support and expertise from the Selkirk and Brandon Mental Health Centres and the Manitoba School for Retardates. It is our objective that these workers will deal with many relatively serious cases right in the community and thus reduce hospital admission and acute hospital care.

Concerning home ec, my department, through the Home Economics Directory, is co-ordinating the field work for 11 workers working for the Department of Agriculture, six home economists in the north with the Department of Northern Affairs, and 11 home economists with the Department of Health and Social Development. These field programs provide services in home management, budgeting, food buying, and nutrition. Overall we are attempting to provide a comprehensive health and social service to Manitobans.

With respect to allied health and social service agencies, both government and voluntary agencies, my department is attempting to co-ordinate field operations to the greatest extent possible to avoid overlap and duplication of services. This is an area that we had covered previously up to a certain point but this is where the field staff is in this item here, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** I wonder if we could have a breakdown on this salary \$9,592,000.00. I would like to know how many positions are in that salary and how many psychiatrists? A general breakdown if one could get it.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There were 672 ½ last year; there are now 695 ½. Regional Directors 8; Medical Health Officers 10; Public Health Nurses 191; Public Health Educators 8; Child Welfare Workers and Family Counsellors 101; Mental Health and Mental Retardation Workers 113; Services to the Aged 7; Home Ecs 8; Home Care Workers 56; Services to Other Regions 4; Miscellaneous Service Staff 32; Clerical and Administrative Support 157 ½.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. EINARSON:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether I heard the Minister quite correctly but he mentioned Home Economists. I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many home economists were removed from rural Manitoba and put under his jurisdiction when he talks — I believe he mentioned 11 and 6, there was about 17 home economists that he mentioned there. How many of those were taken out of rural Manitoba and brought in under his department?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** None, they are just being redeployed in the field. They are still under the Agricultural Department. I have 8 in my department, but they work in co-operation with our people, but they are still in the rural areas.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to differ with the Minister of Health when he says that they still are under the Department of Agriculture and they're still with rural Manitoba. I would like to say to the Minister that I'm given to understand that this is not right, that there are about five home economists removed from rural Manitoba, home economists who were providing services to such things as 4-H Clubs and the Minister of Agriculture gave us the excuse that the home economists were transferred to the Minister of Health and Social Development. So, when the Minister says they are still under the Minister of Agriculture's portfolio, I would like to have him explain, and what part he had in playing the role of the home economists going from the rural areas under his department and being transferred, I'm given to understand, some to the City of Winnipeg and some to Northern Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, having made those comments, I have no objections to home economists being staffed under the Minister of Health if they are providing a service to the people of the City of Winnipeg and to the people of northern Manitoba. But I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, when those people have been taken from the rural areas of Manitoba and have made a sacrifice.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister from the seat of his pants says that's not true. I want to find out who is telling the truth' the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, I had nothing to do with any transfers. Secondly, there are 11 still that are covered by the Department of Agriculture in the rural areas. We had 11 in our department, three in the rural areas and eight in the city and there are six in the north under the Northern Affairs Department.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** Thank you. I wonder if the Minister can give us a list of the Community Health Centres that are being funded under this program and how much funding — (Interjection) —

**A MEMBER:** . . . we're on (1) now.

**MR. BROWN:** Okay.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some comments in relation to the Minister's statement where he indicated, and he was kind enough to give me a copy, concerning the new thrust

of redploying community mental health and retardation workers into the Community Field Service system. I find that of some interest, Mr. Chairman, because . . .

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, excuse me, on a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry state his point of order.

**MR. SHEAN:** It's a question, Mr. Chairman, as to whether the Minister has made that statement available, is that what the Meer for Fort Rouge is working from?

**MR. AXWORTHY:** He read the statement, you weren't here.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I know he read the statement but is the Member for Fort Rouge working from a copy of the statement.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** It's a statement in my notes that I read. It's the only one I have and my honourable friend asked me if he can look at it, and he's looking at it and he'll give it back to me. If you want to look at it, I'll show it to you after.

**MR. CHAIAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, there is obviously a great shortage of paper going on with the government now. I suppose we should hire more scribes in the department . . . called me in the wrong places.

To get back to the question that I really had was, concerning his description that the department has now undertaken, a new thrust into the area of Community Health Services and that this is now the new approach that is being taken by the department to deal what is generally considered to be one of the most serious areas of health problems in the province which is not being met, I would like really to raise with the Minister the following kinds of situations.

In 1975, the Manitoba Medical Association, their Report on the Committee on Mental Health which indicated that one of the many difficulties encountered in the mental health field is that many of the personnel in positions that have mental health involvement are ill-trained for these positions. They then go on to describe in fairly graphic details that there is a desperate shortage of psychiatrists, almost virtually no clinical psychologists, social workers who are not trained in any way by the faculty of social work to do the job, and that general practitioners who may be used as a resource are not being used. They then went on to conclude in no uncertain terms that there was a tremendous gap between the theory of the delivery of community mental health services and the reality of not having the people to develop the service.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister has made an announcement but has avoided so far dealing with that particular assessment that has been made by not only that group but I think also that the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses made similar comments about the lack of trained people to do the job in delivering mental health services in the community itself.

I would really like to suggest at this stage that there is a serious reservation in my mind about whether in fact we are really able to provide the role that is stated here if in fact there isn't the kind of personnel available to do it. So I would really like to ask the Minister, first, what has been done to rectify the serious shortage of psychiatric help, particularly in rural areas and in northern areas where it is almost non-existent? Secondly, has there been any efforts made to try to recruit the general practitioner in small rural areas where oftentimes they are the only medical personnel available, to provide for initial screening and assessment work?

What has been done to train either psychiatric nurses or social workers to do the initial field work and bring them up to the standards that are required to deal with that particular aspect of health services, all of which were major critiques that were levelled at least two years ago in the program? Either the Minister is a miracle worker and has brought these things all of a sudden up to brand new standards, or in fact that the program is trying to survive with less than adequately trained personnel which, if that's the case, it's probably a serious mistake. Or, thirdly, the program in terms of the community is not penetrating or as widely applicable as the Minister seems to suggest in the statement that he read.

So I would really like to know which really is the truth of the matter in relation to the delivery of health services to the community in the mental area.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I did not want to interrupt my honourable friend because I feel responsible for leading him in that direction, but let me assure him now that I have no intention, even though this might be a difficult area where I think that I've admitted in the past that we've kind of slowed down on some of our policies and review things. But I can tell my honourable friend that right now we are talking about field staff, the salaries, and I want to give them — it's very difficult to stay on the one item. I wanted to give my honourable friend and the Members of this House, Mr. Chairman, an idea of what these field people were doing and as I said many times it's a single unit delivery. But I can assure my honourable friend that we can have quite a debate on this on the next issue when our people, the experts and our people on the mental health field will be here. This will be, I think, on Page 31, (d) I think, anyway, it's the next — when we get down to Medical Services and especially Psychiatric Services, Institutional Mental Health Services, so all the policies of the people in the

community versus the hospitals, all those things, those points will be discussed fully at that time.

I tried to explain a bit to give an idea what these people were doing' but this is the administration of that, the salaries and other expenditures and so on to run this service.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, as in the past, I'll comply with the Minister's request to defer discussion. I'd only say, though, that maybe this once again illustrates how inadequately in effect is the form that we have in dealing with this because as I go through this Estimates book, the area of Community Mental Health problems appears in five or six different areas. I think it would help if the Minister was prepared to bring this stuff together into one combination so that we could talk about a program, not bits and pieces — administration, community health. It's very difficult to focus on a program when it's divided into several . . . Maybe then we should be getting some direction from the Minister in terms of saying, "Let's bring this together and talk about the combined thing and reorganize them in that way," because we are talking ultimately about a program to a series of consumers and it's very difficult for us to make comments on it when it's split into so many pieces.

I just want to make that comment because my degree of frustration in going through this department is that every time we turn a corner, there is another corner to turn. I'm afraid that sometimes it's beginning to turn into a labyrinth more than it is an examination of how we're spending money. —(Interjection)— Well, we try. You know what happened to him. I have some other comments to make then, about this part of the department.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I find it very difficult, also, but I think we have tried to improve that. We are dealing with different departments within the department, with the proper staff. We started with resources, of course, it is obvious that they are going to talk about other things because resources is for everybody. And then the Community Field Services, as I said, it's a single unit delivery, you are rendering all kinds of services for different people. I would suggest that this is mostly administration. I might say that in my 20 years here I have never seen that we took so much time and I'm not complaining on any of these ideas. We went out when it was the policy and we talked about staff and so on when we were talking about administration, and this year we added a kind of a description under all the items. And it seems to me that when we go to Medical and Rehabilitative Services which comes under the Chief Medical Director of the department, and it's got the office of the Chief Medical Consultant, then of course, I suppose that if I make a statement of what he does well then it would open the whole thing. It's quite difficult, because if I don't make these statements, I'm accused of trying to evade something and believe me, Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to give all the information that I have.

If we turn the page on Page 31, I think it's quite clear, Psychiatric Services provides support services to community-based mental health system, includes Forensic Services, Community Services to Children, staff support at the Winnipeg Psychiatric Institute and so on, then the Institutional Mental Health, that'll be the large institutions, Brandon, Selkirk and Eden Mental Health, and also this would be the time to discuss the Community Residence that we were talking about and the work in the community, so I'm going to try to co-operate. I ask people to be patient, I find it as difficult as they do, but I don't know of any other better way.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to point out one interesting item in these Estimate Books, for the Minister's concern, that in Section (j), his description reads "Consists of field resources delivering social services, vocational rehabilitation, child and family services, and mental health and mental retardation services." Catch the phrase, "Delivery of services" under (j). Under 61(b) Co-ordinates the development and delivery of community mental health services, again we have another delivery of mental health services. Under 61(c) Provides rehabilitation services to the physically and mentally disabled. Under section 61(d) Psychiatric Services, Provides support services to community-based mental health systems. You know, we've got four sections all saying they're providing community mental health services, so Mr. Chairman, I daresay that I am confused, other members of the committee are, I even begin to suspect the Minister is confused, and God knows what the people who are delivering those services are if it's being paid four different ways under four different Estimates. I'd hate to be the accountant in that department, I'll tell you.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we could probably write a book on the idiosyncrasies of governmental finance, but I'm not prepared to do that this evening. of the questions I did have, if we can switch subjects, is in the 1976 annual report dealing with the question of Public Health, Nursing Services, Caseloads by regions, that's on Page 222 of the report. There's a very interesting kind of aberration, I guess you'd call it. If you go through each of the different regions of the province, Central, Eastman, Interlake, Norman, Parkland, you find that in the delivery of caseloads, there is, between 1975 and 1976, maybe an addition of 10, 15, 20, 25 cases, except in the situation of Interlake, where there's almost 1,000 additional cases in one year. Mr. Chairman, I would really be fascinated by the explanation why it is that in 8 out of the 9 different regions, the increment is maybe 5 or 6 or 7 percent. This is Table 5, Page 222 in the Annual Report, where it describes the Public Health Nursing

Caseload by region, and it points out that in the Interlake district, in 1976, the caseload was 2,450, in 1975, the caseload was 1,479, almost 1,000 new cases in one year. Now that compares, let's say to the Parkland which was 3,213, versus 3,331, or Westman which was 3,627, 3,295. In other words, all of a sudden, in one region of the province, there was a massive epidemic in the Interlake region which no one reported, or that there was all of a sudden a massive influx of public health nurses who were scouring the countryside for caseloads, or in fact it's a typographical error, which, if that's the case, it should have been caught. I would really like an explanation, Mr. Chairman, on that figure.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I can see the concern of my honourable friend, now not to guess, it is felt that maybe they were doing more immunization in that district than they'd done before but I'll verify it to see if that is indeed the answer.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister — I'm as confused as the Member for Fort Rouge I think — I'd like to ask as a point of information, is this the resolution on which we discuss the services of a registered nurse and the LPNs?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No.

**MR. EINARSON:** Then, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister, where do we discuss that particular item?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** If my honourable friend is talking about public health nurses that are working in the department, yes, they are amongst these field staff. If my honourable friend is talking about RNs in general that are working in hospitals and so on with which we have no direct relationship, but we could discuss any policy or anything on nurses under the Health Services Commission, because they are paid through the Hospital.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, another question in the same area of confusion to the Minister. Going on the basis of his directions with respect to the parameters of the discussion at this point and what those parameters should be, I would ask the Minister whether we can get at the kinds of policies, the kinds of philosophies, the kinds of programs encompassed in these service deliveries that are covered under this item, if we leave it to Item (k) and come to General Purpose Grants. At that point will it be then in order to discuss the whole range of policies and philosophies and approaches taken towards the programs that he spelled out in his statement of a few moments ago.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, except those that have been covered already, there are quite a few that we've covered already. It is difficult and I can understand how the members feel because I have the same trouble and I've had to go around with staff quite a few times to find this thing out and I still find it difficult. In the department, we have Resources, we have the Community Field services under an ADM, we also have the Medical and Rehabilitative Services and Mental Health under the Chief Medical Consultant who is the Chief Psychiatrist for the province, that's his bag, and then we have also the Social Security Division. But it's not just like 4 different departments. These people deliver the services for all the policies that are determined somewhere else. They are then passed on to the Field Staff because it is a single unit delivery. This is something that we've been working in that direction and they work as part of a team. They have all the service from the expert in those departments and also the people in the field, the social worker, the public health nurses, and where we deliver the services for child care and so on, but I think that if my honourable friend wants to look at that, that we've talked about public health nursing quite a bit, we had a good discussion on that. We certainly covered Home Ecs., we covered Child and Family Services, we've covered all that. We were quite a while on that, but Mental Health, Mental Retardation is yet to come.

The questions that you're dying to ask — I know what's coming up, — I'm not trying to evade that, we'll be talking about that when we talk about institution and so on. It'll be much easier for me because then the Chief Psychiatrist and the medical consultant and his director will be sitting in front of us and it will be easier for me to get the information.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, let me ask the Minister this. If you take one specific area, for example, of social action, necessary social action, such as the native problem in Winnipeg, the migration of native peoples into Winnipeg and the many, multitudinous needs and services in that field. There's no specific area in the Estimates under which we can approach that as an isolated subject. That ranges over and overlaps half a dozen of the divisions and the branches that we're looking at in the Estimates, but that fragments the subject so badly that it becomes impossible, either for the persons on this side of the House or the Minister and his colleagues to approach it with any continuity. All I'm asking for, I'm not trying to be difficult, I'm asking for some direction. If the Minister suggests that all those things should be left till we get to his salary, then we can handle them all under his salary. — (Interjection) — Well, I suggest that it makes the continuity of examination very difficult if you have to take a social area like that and look at it under 6 or 7 different sub-headings. It seemed to me, obviously I was under an incorrect impression as were two or three other members on this side, that the Community Field Services Section, Sir, was a catch-all that would permit examination of that kind of a subject. But if it won't, then I'll wait until there's some direction from you or from the Minister

as to where we can approach it.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I do agree that it's not easy. But I think we're complicating things now. If you turn back to Page 28, all right, let's start from the start. On the Executive function, that's easy enough, and then there was the Resource Division, which is mostly administration. Maybe it's my fault maybe I was too lax on some of these things. I've tried to give the information and I've misled the House, certainly not intentionally.

If we look on Page 28, we have under the Community Operation, we have Medical Public Health Services. That's quite clear, 3(b). We talked about public health nurses, I gave the number of nurses, the new people we had, the people working in the community, the importance of this public health services, immunization, and all that. Then we had Child and Family Services. Well, I don't have to say too much about that because we all participated fully in this. There again, there's public health nursing. Health Education, then Home Ecs which was very clear and I gave the information about the people on agriculture but I repeat it tonight, I gave all this information at that time. Continuing Care is Home Care, we had a good debate on Home Care, then we had the Dental Services. That is in this service, in other words, you have a director that sets the policies, that works on the policies, the expertise is there, and then you have the people in the field and this happened to be the field staff.

I never should have made that statement. I tried to make that statement to show exactly what they were doing before I was asked, to try to anticipate some of them. Well, all these services that we're getting all over the place, they deliver them to the natives as well as anybody else. If we go on with this, I think even in this area, a lot of the questions will be answered. There's some areas that we make certain grants to the native people and so on, this will come out. It's not a question of misleading, there's no way that I can mislead you because if we miss anything, then you can go ahead under my salary. I hope we're not going to start the whole thing over again because it's going to be quite difficult.

If there is something that's missed I don't mind any question, if I don't know, most of the time I might not know where the item is, I'll find out from staff but here we have Community Field Services. This is all the members of the team that are giving the services that we covered already. Some of them that are delivered by the department and the other ones that we will have a chance to really discuss. All our policy on mental health or lack of policy or reversal, anything, we will, I'm not trying to evade that at all. This is the group that eventually probably would be working in the community, as with this legislation that we brought in, that these people then will go on in the community as the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge was saying the other day, some of these clinics and so on, these people are then transferred to the community and they will work with them.

I don't think there is any easy way of presenting the information here. If we talked about policy when we talked about administration and so on, it would be quite difficult. So I guess we will just have to feel out our way. I'll try to assure you if there is some area that you want to discuss if it's not really on that item, but we're going to go ahead. But I certainly don't intend to restart the things that I mentioned already that are covered that some of the field staff is delivering. I think my honourable friend will because he was in the House and I think he will remember that we did that, but the point I was trying to make, this is practically the end of that, then we go into the programs in Mental Health and Mental Retardation and so on. You'll have all the chances in the world, so there's nothing that will not be discussed. Okay?

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, I appreciate the Minister's direction, Mr. Chairman, but I don't want to get into mental health. I'm prepared to get into mental health when we get there, but I want to ask the Minister some questions about the native problem and the migration into Winnipeg and how the Department of Health and Social Development is coping with it. That doesn't come under mental health and it doesn't come under any specific heading in the Estimates. It covers a half a dozen of them.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** If there is any doubt, I'll certainly bend over backwards and if something is covered somewhere else, I'll just have to tell you. I would say that a lot of these would be under the Social Welfare. That's part of the thing that will talk about that problem, I'm sure. Then as I say, these people, the services that the field staff is giving, this is for everybody in the area. We've had our battle as I said with the Federal Government and that is being resolved under the Treaty Natives and there is a sub-committee of Cabinet on that. Now right on the item that we're looking at, I think, we will talk about the training budget for some of these people and then there are certain grants that we make to some of the groups like the Friendship Centre, but if my friend has any doubt that maybe he can't find anything, I would suggest that he go ahead and make his comments.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, let me ask the Minister then just to start, and subject to your direction and his, Sir, whether since we're on a Salaries area here, what I'd be interested in to start with is how many native Manitobans we have in the City of Winnipeg, particularly in the downtown core area now, and how the totals break down in terms of non-status and Metis people and how that figure compare with the figures of one year ago and five years ago and how the departmental staff figures, working in that field, delivering social services to that community, compare in terms of

growth, if any, over the same time period. How many salaries are being paid now in that field that weren't being paid a year ago, or five years ago. In other words, how does the input of staff from the department compare with what I imagine has been a growth in the size of the community to be served. That would be a starting point.

I have a number of other questions in that area, but my first question, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister is whether this is the item on which we can approach that question?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, yes, certainly the question of staff is certainly covered here. There are community health workers. This is something that was started not too long ago. There are special courses that are given up north and even at Red River, I think and this is under the Department of Education New Careerist and there's ongoing discussion with the different departments to see what we need. To now, we have 22 of them that are working mostly in the Parkland, Interlake, NorMan and some in Thompson and I think that I mentioned the new staff concerned, that we had only an additional 28 but out of that there were 10 native people that will be coming in on staff this year, if my Estimates are approved, to work in the area right here in Winnipeg, in the core of Winnipeg.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Would the Minister be able to provide now or later a roughly accurate total of the number of native Manitobans who now live in the core area of Winnipeg, and the number of departmental employees working in the field of delivering social services to that community? / How many staff members of the department are working in terms of delivering social services to the native community in greater Winnipeg?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I find myself in a curious position because I think I can probably answer the honourable member's question for him, simply in the sense that about a year ago we were commissioned to do research for the Winnipeg City Police Commission on that particular problem and in part there is no answer to that problem. He's asking a question for which there is really almost virtually no research, but I could indicate to him that having looked at all the available resources that there were . . . The Canada Census statistics that are put forward, they are highly unreliable simply because of the sporadic nature with which they are administered in the inner-city area and also by the fact that the categories that appear on the forms don't necessarily capture one of native origin, the only thing they may register is if you are of Treaty Status. Other estimates that have been given by the Federal Department of Indian Affairs raises it somewhat higher. If he is interested however, the best estimate that can be made by native organizations working in the city is approximately 30,000 and increasing at a range of about 2,000 to 3,000 a year. However, that is simply a guess and what the member should also recognize in relation to that situation is that there's a high degree of movement and mobility from month to month and there's a high degree of movement in and out of the city. In fact, that's one of curious patterns of the migration of native people to the city, that unlike many other migrant groups that have come to the city, they have an opportunity to go back. It's a short bus ride back to the Reserve or back to some of the other communities, so that there's a high . . . There are ways of plotting it according to the weather.

I think also that I could indicate to him that in terms of looking at the actual numbers of workers, I can provide the detailed breakdown of that information if he's prepared to fork-up three bucks to buy the report that was done for the City of Winnipeg Police Commission, all that information is contained therein. But, I would simply suggest to him he's asking questions that really beg for answers because there's really no one doing an up-to-date census. In fact, I think, Mr. Chairman, it would be somewhat awkward to single out one group of people for that special study. I don't think that the question of native people *per se* is the problem in the inner-city, the question is those who are situated on a serious problem of low income, who are not able to cope with the kind of institutions we have in the city, who have a series of failures in their own lives, and also failure in part of ours to meeting them, and that a much more critical question from the point of view of this department in the delivery of field services, is the fact that there is a growing disparity between the income employment, occupation, age of people in the inner-city and those of the other areas.

The member may find it of some interest since other members of the House would like to find out that there's a growing gap in the conditions of people in inner-city and those of the suburbs. Those of Fort Garry are prospering, those in the inner-city are growing poorer. Unlike many of our other comments about making progress in society, we are in fact, falling back seriously in these areas - that there's an absolute and verifiable difference between the number who are unemployed, the number who are sick, the number who have low incomes the number who are aged, the number who require social services between the inner-city in 1976 as there was in 1966. Inner City problems there are getting worse, and the only thing I would caution the House about or this Committee about is that it would certainly be very wrong to assume that the answer to that problem is adding more social workers to the community field services in the Department of Health and Social Development. I think if the member was to investigate with some degree of personal discussion with those who are involved with the Inner City work; they say the last thing they need are more community workers

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delivering services. What they do need is some basic capital to start their own businesses, build their own housing, and start rebuilding their own community from their own point of view, not to have other people trying to hold their hands and provide more rehabilitative services. What they really need is to get some proper income would be the primary requirement. I would really suggest, Mr. Chairman, that this question of delivery of services in the Inner City, we should really be asking how, in fact, we can begin pulling back on them to some extent because that's really the wrong approach if we are concerned about solving the problems in the Inner City. The solutions to this problem in not necessarily adding to field service staff. I think the real solution is to give the people in the area some capacity to respond themselves, and I would therefore, raise perhaps a counter question to the Minister in terms of assessing the requirements for delivery of these services as he applies them to community field services opposed to taking the same amount of money and using it really for purposes of economic development and social development and using it to enable the people in those communities to become the deliverers of their own services, if you like, have a greater capacity to manage their own affairs and be responsible for looking after their own social health problems, doing it on their own basis opposed to delivering a service for them from outside workers.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I would agree with the Member for Fort Rouge that it's not just the question of social workers and working with them. I don't think that we can cut down too much because we certainly haven't got that many of a staff, but there's one thing, very important that both members missed, that many many of these services are not provided by us.

First of all, in the inner core, in Winnipeg, you have the City of Winnipeg administer the welfare for the unemployed people and that's where you are going to see a lot of this trouble area. They do the administration there and there are grants that come from the Province but they do the administrating. In the inner core of the city they are also responsible for the health services, the city is. And then you have the probation services, also, which doesn't come under me, and then you have the Child Guidance Clinic, you have the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg and the Jewish Child and Family unit.

So it is quite difficult. The staff that we have in that area, we have Child and Family Service Workers 30; Public Health Nurses 50. For instance, the City of Winnipeg has 50 nurses in that area; we have 40. Mental Health Workers 17; and Mental Retardation Workers 14. So this is a question that, again, I raise with the Member for Fort Rouge, how many natives? It changes so fast and some of them migrate to Winnipeg; there's a lot of problems. I think there's more than one department that has to look at that and one of the things is they are practically forced into Winnipeg by many of the different municipalities because of the higher rate of welfare in the city also, so they are coming into the city.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Meer for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should spell out my point a little more clearly. I think some incorrect impressions have been taken from my question. I appreciate the response of the Member for Fort Rouge and I defer to his knowledge of the topic area, but unfortunately the Member for Fort Rouge is not the Minister of Health and Social Development. I'm interested in what this government and what this Minister knows about a problem for all of us as Manitobans and particularly for the disadvantaged community who is at the core of the problem and what sort of knowledge in terms of populations, in terms of statistics and in terms of social development, department staff meers and staff-member input exists where that problem exists.

I couldn't agree more than I do with the Member for Fort Rouge when he suggests that the answer to the problem not only of the native community but the core area of the city generally, but I'm talking specifically of the native community, that the answer to the problem does not lie in more social workers. That was the reason for my question. I want to assure him that I wasn't suggesting there should be more social workers. I would like to know, from the Minister, we are talking about salaries in Community Field Services here, how many social workers and deliverers of social development services are working in this area on the problem of advancement and opportunity for the native migrants, and others, who have come into Winnipeg and live, for the most part, in the core area of the city?

The figure that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge gives me in terms of population of natives in the core area, was roughly 30,000. I would like to know what the Minister's figure is. I know what I think the figure is; I know what people in the field, at the Indian/Metis Friendship Centre and various other organizations have told me what they think the figure is. We now know that the Member for Fort Rouge says it's about 30,000. I would like to know what the Minister says it is and I would like to know how it compares with the figure of five years ago and on the other side of the graph, I would like to know how the staffing and input from the Department of Social Development compares, taking today's figures against those of five years ago.

If the conclusions point to an upward rise of social workers and counsellors in equal ratio to the



increase in population, then the Member for Fort Rouge certainly has a point and I have a point that I would be making myself and no doubt we would be making it together, because my information is that, at least in the area of youth, at least where young people are concerned in the native community in the core area, that they are counselled to death, that they don't need a lot more social workers and counsellors going in and trying to show them what they should do and what they should not do. They usually go to their peer groups and agencies in the field for that kind of advice, and that what they need more than anything else, as the Member for Fort Rouge has pointed out, is economic opportunity.

But that was the point of my questions. I think the Member for Fort Rouge may be reading impressions into the questions that were not there. I wanted to know what the Minister's reaction was so that I could then ask him, Mr. Chairman, what kind of communication the department was maintaining with the native community in particular in the core area in particular, and how modern and contemporary it was, and how directly related it was to the specific needs and requirements of that community as articulated by the members of the community themselves? If the answer is in simply adding on more social workers and counsellors, then I think the Member for Fort Rouge would find a community of interest and argument on this side of the House that we think that that is the wrong way to go, as he obviously does.

This was the reason for my questions, and that was simply a starting point to determine what, if any, initiatives are being taken to try to cope with a challenge to the Department of Social Services, to the community of Manitobans at large, and certainly to the Members of this House. It's not the problem of the natives or the other disadvantaged in the core area; it's the problems of this House and this department.

Just one other point before I sit down. The Member for Fort Rouge mentioned that the question is not one of the problems of native peoples *per se* in the inner core, that the question should be much more penetrating and much deeper than that. Well, I don't argue with that, but I'm starting with the problem that has developed and evolved as a consequence of migration, some of which is two-way, but even where it is two-way, there are replacements for those who have emigrated out again. People in the field, working in the agencies such as the ones that I have mentioned, would be the first to confirm that, that whether there's two-way migration or not is really beside the point, that the population of native Manitobans in the core area is increasing. So if some of them are re-migrating, or emigrating back out again, there are more new ones coming in to take their place because the population has increased.

As a starting point, Sir, I ask, what is this department and this Minister's approach to that problem? Is it the old classic, stereotype one of pouring more social workers in? Have they taken a fix on the market? Have they researched it? The Member for Fort Rouge says it is very difficult to obtain those figures and obtain those answers well, I would hope that the fact that it's difficult doesn't dissuade the Minister and the department from attempting to find the answers so that they know what problem they have to grapple with.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I suppose I can try an educated guess; I've been told that everybody has their own figures. What we have is there are approximately 35,000 native people in Manitoba and about the same number of Metis and roughly 14,000 to 15,000 of each in the city, so that would be roughly 30,000. So that's the best information I can give you on that.

Now on the other thing, we must remember that all of a sudden it seems that I'm asked a question that a number of different Ministers should be answering. There's the question of education which certainly doesn't come under me. There's all kinds of courses that are offered at Red River and at other areas that are given to help these people along. As I said, up to now, it's been very very difficult when we're talking about Treaty Indians, native Treaty Indians, that there's been some difficulty, I've reported that, with the Federal Government. The First Minister has been in contact with the Prime Minister of this country; finally we seem to be moving. We have a planning group in the sub-committee of Cabinet that is looking at that and are trying to co-ordinate mechanism in the core area also.

The only staff that we are talking about, the staff increase, and I won't apologize for that, we are trying to have under the new Careerist, to have some of their own people. I think this is probably where we have been lacking, by people that have trouble, some of our staff and so on, probably have trouble with the dialogue needed with these people and at their request, we are trying to get more of their own people. As I said, we hired 10 on contract this year that have been trained, to try to help them how to work with their own people.

Now, we're talking about development of economics, of education. We're talking about all kinds of things. Now, then if we are going to look at what is my responsibility there is the question of health, and as I stated, the question of health in the core area is delivered by the City of Winnipeg. This is something we'd look at, it would be just another headache but I think probably it should all come under the same department, and believe me it is not that we need an empire, we have enough, but I think that probably if we coordinated that, and that is something that is an ongoing discussion with

the City of Winnipeg and the department, especially at the staff level.

Now, still in the field of health, of course there are some of the services that they get, and they get an awful lot of service from the hospitals, the Health Science Centre and so on, and also the clinics, Mount Carmel and Klinik and Health Action Clinic. The welfare, the short term, the unemployed people again that is administered by the City of Winnipeg. We've tried to work with them and as I say the staff that we envisioned, aimed at these people, the new staff is only these ten new careers, ten native people that will work with our own. Now, I think this will come out somewhere, some of the training also, not only in the Department of Education, some of the training that we do, and then of course, one thing that I would like to see, to be quite honest with you, we might work unilaterally if that is the only way to get things moving. We have repeatedly asked the Federal Government, and I can say that originally the Minister responsible was quite sympathetic, he seemed to agree with us, but it is a very difficult thing that is going to be very difficult to administer, but we would like some kind of a deal with the Federal Government.

Most of these people are constantly on welfare once they start. We would like to be able to use the same funds that we would have if these people were on welfare, we would pay our share and then we would be ready to put in some more dollars to try to get them to work, to create some jobs for them. Without this it is very very difficult, we have some funds, we are working on that now, to work in that core of Winnipeg, but this would help greatly if we can go in and try to give them incentive and work with them. Of course, I think that the Manpower Committee of Cabinet, I am not responsible for, I am not a member of that committee, also is working in that area, and then I think you can look at practically all the departments, the Minister of Urban Affairs is certainly involved with that, with this problem, discussing the state of the city constantly; the Minister of Education, even the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, so I think that there is quite a few. There is no doubt that this is probably, if anybody could find a solution to this program, I think they would build a monument to him. This is something that is very difficult. I would like to have the answers, they're not easy, I read certain books on that and when I finished I was no further ahead, it was just that I felt a little more depressed to see where do you start. I saw this show, "Rita Joe" or something and it is the same thing, it just brought home the difficult time. Maybe I'm going to talk too much here, I think that in a way they have to take care of their own affairs. Like any underprivileged country, I think, and I'll get in trouble for sure when I say that, I think some of their people are probably exploiting their own people, so it is very very difficult, very difficult. It doesn't mean that we couldn't try it, but I would agree that the main thing is not to hold their hands, is try to keep them busy. I guess sports also is a thing that should keep them busy if you can organize them, there was an idea that was mentioned not too long ago that maybe bring some seed money to some of these institutions or groups, such as the firemen or anybody that might work with them. We would welcome that, but this is not something that is going to be solved from one day to the next and I think that we are making efforts in many directions, but this is something that we would need a round table discussion with many of my colleagues around the table to get all the pieces together. But in the field of social development and health, as I say, I don't apologize for that and I don't think that this is what the members meant when I'm talking about ten new staff of their own people, of new careers to dialogue with them and to understand them better. I don't think that anybody would begrudge that or feel that that is too many people. I think I mentioned the staff that we have in the core area, that's not only for those people, and I don't think it is exorbitant and I don't think that there is that many. I don't think that the department alone will solve this, I think it is many departments and the city and the groups themselves and the Federal Government, and I think that we are going in that direction now better than in the years that I have been in Cabinet. We seem to progress and to go in that direction, we're closer to being able to do something and think positive than we have been for a number of years.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I support the Minister's move into the area of New Careerists and using Native people in the New Careers Program and graduating them from the program to work with their own people. That is certainly, I think, demonstrably one step in the right direction. The Minister made a fairly emphatic reference during his remarks just now to the problems of health and what is being done for the Native community, or what is available to the Native community in Winnipeg in the area of health services. But that is only one part of it. I am not critical of the health services that are available, there are several types of citizens, several types of individual that the Department of Health and Social Development must be looking to in that field, though. It is not sufficient simply to be looking at those who have health problems and need medical services. There are those who have skills and have training and need jobs, and there are those who have no skills and no training and need that' there are those who are looking for education and training and there are those simply who migrate to Winnipeg because it represents some kind of escape route and some kind of rather elusory dream of perhaps a better life. They don't need the health services, they might reach a point where they do, but it is services in those areas and we are looking here at salaries in the field of departmental field resource delivering social services. It is really in that area that I was seeking to obtain some

direction from the Minister as to what the department was thinking and projecting for the immediate future.

The Minister is aware, I am sure, that people in that community want community controlled programs, they don't want government controlled programs. People in that community want an economic opportunity, and the Minister says that's an interlacing kind of requirement that involves many many departments and that is true, and one of the departments that it involves is the Department of Industry and Commerce. I would think that there would be some initiatives that Industry and Commerce could be taking in the area of providing capital, start-up capital, for economic projects, and perhaps even for the studies, the feasibility studies, the surveys that are necessary to determine whether such projects are practical. This seems to me, Sir, to come into the area very clearly and very distinctly of social development. My concern is that the emphasis, from the department's point of view, is still one of being there to provide the health services, which albeit are highly necessary, but in the other area that it simply becomes one of paternalism and social work. I plead with the Minister — (Interjection) — Well I am talking about his department. I plead with the Minister for some assurance that that is not, that is not the philosophy that is being invoked and employed now under his direction and under his leadership, that there will initiatives taken in the required areas, such as providing the necessary support, capital support for the economic opportunities that may be developed. Well he says that that is not in his department, but he is a member of the Treasury benches and he has a colleague in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce with whom he no doubt is in consultation on a regular basis. He is the Minister of Social Development and I would think — I don't know I've never been in a Cabinet and it may never be my fortune to ever be in one — but I would think that if the Minister were interested in social development that it would be perfectly within the parameters of his responsibilities to have discussions with colleagues such as the Minister of Industry and Commerce, to determine what might be done to relate programs that would provide social development opportunities, even if they needed some initiative from that other department. This is the kind of thing I am talking about, if it is just a knee-jerk reaction to provide social service in the area of counselling and psychiatric health and sort of the classic traditional social work approach, then I suggest that is old-fashioned, outdated and worthless.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Chairman, not that I have the illusion that anything I say will persuade the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, but since he seems to be genuinely interested in at least trying to plumb the depths of the problem, I would like to put some observations on the record. I will begin by saying that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, although I didn't get the full context of his comment, I think I caught enough of it to be able to agree that the nature of the problem that the Honourable Member for Fort Garry has been talking to for the past several minutes is so multifaceted, so comprehensive in the nature of the combination of social problems that no obvious answers really come forward. All we can attempt to do is try and to try at that, to make some progress towards a better adaptation of those people who have migrated from wherever their homes were, in sort of the Canadian Shield and other parts of northern and mid-northern Manitoba, who have migrated to Winnipeg, to attempt to help them to better adapt to the circumstances of urban, industrial living. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, the problem is so multifaceted that we might as well start off by identifying just some of the factors, and by the time I have finished I will have only mentioned really a small fraction of what is involved.

In moving to an urban industrial community there is first of all the problem of adaptation to urban life and living itself, and while it may be all very easy for us in this Chamber to think that that should be second nature to anyone it isn't that simple, there is a transition in lifestyle. And then even if many of these people who have made that migration or transition do begin to adapt to urban living there is an immediate, indeed simultaneous, requirement, the problem of adaptation to industrial work patterns and industrial hours. When you combine all these matters, indeed it can be intimidating and is intimidating I have no doubt to many of these people.

Now I am not pretending that miracles have been wrought, but there has been some change, at least certainly some efforts, of a systematic kind. There is after all' for example, acceptance of the general principle that as much as possible there should be people trained from among themselves — to put a very blunt expression on it, my honourable friend has heard the expression of "positive discrimination", or to put it another way to really go out of the general order of rules and regulation to attempt to make it possible for these people to train in such work as Family Life Counselling, Social Counselling, and that these people can work side by side with those who are professional in the field and hope to bring to bear meaningful counselling to families that are living in those parts of the city where they tend to concentrate when they move here from some of the outlying communities and reservations.

Now I don't think the Honourable Member for Fort Garry would say so, bluntly and in so many words, but there is such a thing as saturation when it comes to staffing with social workers. The mere adding of more and more social workers will not guarantee a solution, nevertheless there is need in

some cases, to see whether social counselling, native family life counselling, will be of some help in some cases, so you need some of those kinds of skills. And I repeat, you have a better chance if some of the counselling service can be provided in an ancillary way, at least in the initial stages by someone who is of their background and has that understanding, working alongside of the professionally trained people. Indeed we *ad hoc* have courses, admittedly of a special and nature, for the training of these people who really lack the formal academic attainment, but no matter, because often and I am sure my honourable friend will agree, often people who do not have the formal academic attainment can, if given a chance, by way of special adult training courses, they can make it and if they can then they stand a chance of serving a useful purpose in terms of bringing their knowledge and their counselling to bear on those of their fellow citizens who are having a hard time of it adapting to new patterns of life and in new and different settings.

Now, in addition to that we have tried, to some extent at least, slow the tide of migration from these communities because I think, that many would admit that it is not good if the migration trend is so rapid that it merely goes to aggravate an already existing problem. And here I can say that the province has, with the co-operation of the Government of Canada, put many millions of dollars into work activity programs, some of which result in the learning of work skills, work habit skills, and also occupational skills. But let no one think that it is inexpensive or cheap or less expensive to attempt to provide work activity and learning of skills than it is to provide welfare. Indeed, it is more expensive, but in the long run one has to hope that it is the better thing to do. —(Interjection)— Ah, that is the point, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Swan River would like to know whether this approach of spending even more funds on work skills and on work habits training is paying off and I have to say to him it's not something you can measure in any dramatic way in a year or two. It is a longer term proposition, but I think he would agree, I think he would, that it is better to take that approach at least for a number of years, not admit defeat, not admit that it is foredoomed, as being preferable to the alternative of welfare, passive welfare which, in a rather ironic sense, can be cheaper in the short run but which also really does nothing for the future potential of human dignity.

Now there is another problem which I'm sure my honourable friends will recognize and that is, and it's a peculiarity of a federal system, which is not to say that a federal system is necessarily bad. Indeed, I believe, Sir, that a country our size cannot function, cannot exist except as a federal system, but one of the peculiarities and frustrations, really, frustration is the word, of a federal system, is that whereas in one situation 10 or 20 families may be existing on welfare in some remote community, all of the welfare of which is paid by the Federal Government or if they are non-treaty, 50 percent of the cost of the welfare is paid by the Federal Government under the Canada Assistance Program, it's 50-50 cost-shared, in many cases, although it's getting better, not worse than goodness, where we have attempted to initiate special work activity projects, in many cases we couldn't get federal cost-sharing. So all of a sudden the lesser expensive cost of welfare, which I think we can all abhor as being the sort of last alternative, and which costs the province 50 percent, it was a case of either continuing that or trying something new, work activity, work training skills, work habits, costing more and no federal cost-sharing. So all of a sudden it's 100 percent on the provincial shoulders.

**A MEMBER:** Of more.

**MR. SCHREYER:** A hundred percent of something more, which in strictly dollars and cents, was a great frustration. But, over the course of recent years, the Government of Canada has, in many many cases, come around. Indeed, they have now formally come around and I for one will defend them. They have formally come around in certain specific cases where they are willing to allocate welfare dollars directly towards cost-sharing on work activity projects.

That should have been the case all along, but for since about 1964 it was somehow reasons unbeknownst to me' considered unacceptable to do that kind of thing, I mean federally. They've gradually, quietly changed it, and I for one hope that they don't now change their mind again and go back to the old, when I say old, I mean the post-1964 system.

So I say in conclusion to the Member for Fort Garry, that there are many projects and activities and experiments going on, some of them through the Department of Health and Social Development, many of them through the Manpower Committee of Cabinet, through the Department of Northern Affairs, and many of them where we are simply together with the Federal Government, making funds available to local community-based organizations so that they can get some money to do something, do something which will create a few jobs and provide a few job opportunities and work habits and I don't think we should regret it. But don't be impatient for immediate results because it just doesn't happen that way.

But a consolation, I think, to all of us, should be the fact that it probably, in fact I hope very fervently, will be better than merely following the route of passive welfare which in the long run not only costs money but is detracting of human dignity.

**MR. CHAIAN, Mr. Thomas Barrow (Flin Flon):** The Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was interested in the First Minister's dissertation but there were a couple of gaps in his story that I think is worth pointing out. The one that has

distressed me a great deal, and that is that he suggests rightly that the strategy that should be employed is one of developing opportunities for training and skills and he cited the work activity project as a primary example of that. I can indicate to the Minister that I developed a work activity project in this city, spent close to six months of my own life, I suppose, working on developing one which has now been taken over by the Provincial Government, the Winnipeg Home Improvement Project. And I can suggest to him that that is no easy task to set such a program up, in fact, it is a very difficult task.

What I'm coming to is that there was a time, Mr. Chairman, in this city, when federal governments, provincial governments, not the municipal governments ever, but at least those other two levels of government were prepared to support experimentation, community development if you like, organizing, involvement. That is no longer the case, Mr. Chairman. The ability to provide the incentive for those people who have some skills, and I think the test of that, Mr. Chairman, is this, that other than the one work activity project called WHIP which was organized by private people, plus the restaurant program at 185 Smith, there is no other work activity project in the City of Winnipeg working at the present time. Since the program has been by and large taken over by this department, there has been no new projects developed. —(Interjection)— Yes.

**MR. SCHREYER:** I don't know if my honourable friend is suggesting that there is something different happening in Winnipeg. I would ask him, is he not aware that in Brandon, Amaranth, Crane River, and in about 15 northern communities through the Department of Northern Affairs, SNNEP, Special Northern Native Employment Program, that there are roughly-speaking in the order of perhaps roughly 30 such work activity programs under whatever name?

So how can this be possible if our policy is prejudicial to work activity? In fact, it is embracing of work activity. I would like to ask him why he supposes in Winnipeg it is otherwise? And I would like him to indicate if he is not aware that we have allocated in excess of \$1 million two weeks ago for an inner-city work activity program.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I am aware of both facts, in fact, more than well aware, but I am saying that the evidence suggests otherwise, and that is, if we're concentrating on the City of Winnipeg as we have been in this discussion, talking about the problems, difficulties faced by native people and others to acquire a certain stake in this community, to get the first inches forward in terms of a skill, a sense of enterprise, a feeling of some self-reliance, then there has been no progress really made in the last three or four years, that other than those projects which were started — I guess the Winnipeg Home Improvement Project started in, I'm recalling now, I'm aging myself, in 1972, I believe, when I first got involved. I can sort of still bear the scars of that particular experience, in some ways, of getting it started.

I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that the issue as it is in the City of Winnipeg is obviously treated as a different case then because nothing new has been started here. And even though the \$1 million has gone forward, I think that what is really missing, again in that, is the approach to it. I don't think the application of \$1 million, almost on the basis of a make-work project, is really the way to go about initiating that kind of economic enterprise. I think that in the past, Mr. Chairman, we've presented resolutions in this House which have been defeated, by the way, by this government, suggesting the concept of neighbourhood development corporations which would provide development capital for minority groups in the Inner City, to provide for the development of their own business activity, their own training operations. In fact, I can recall another resolution which was also defeated by the amendments, I think put forward by the Member for St. Matthews, I hate to use his name when he's not here, but which made it out of existence, talking about the utilization of such funds to encourage other organizations to get into the business of providing work activity projects and training projects. Again it was defeated by this government, which makes me wonder if there has been a change in policy that the Minister is suggesting, to the City of Winnipeg.

I won't debate with him on what's happening in the north; that's a field I know very little about. But I do know what's going on in downtown Winnipeg and I can tell him right now, not very much. And the reason it's not very much is because a lot of the organizations that spawned up in the late '60s, early '70s when we were in the heyday of urban populism and involvement and so on, has been beaten back. I can think of the Self-Help Council which can't get a grant to continue; groups like Neighbourhood Service Centres which sort of struggles from month-to-month wondering where its next buck is coming from; other organizations like that which have been trying to do organizing, bringing people to a state where they can organize themselves into representing a program of their own making, of their own design and where they are involved.

And I was even going to suggest that the Minister should look at that work activity project that he . . . There was a time when the board of that project was entirely composed of workers in the project plus community people. It's now basically dominated by civil servants and I think that that is regrettable, frankly, I don't think that's the way it should have been done. I think it's a wrong approach because it meant that in fact what could have been a valuable recruitment of additional volunteer activism and citizen activism outside, was in fact being turned back from the point-of-view of taking it

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closer and closer under the rubric of a governmental department administration, which only complicates the matter.

And so many of the claims, sometimes very pious claims I've heard in the last couple of days about this issue, have in fact, do not conform with the reality of what is taking place. When it comes down to it, the simple problem is that there is almost virtually no capital available for minority groups to develop their own programs and enterprises in the Inner City area, something that we have recommended from this group for the last three years and have been turned back every time we have recommended it. It simply is saying that unlike every other migrant group that has come to this city, they don't have an original poke to start off with; they have been dependent for a hundred years so they haven't had the capacity to put a few coins in the stockings so they got something going. They really arrived here both devoid of any basic capital but also devoid of the means of acquiring it. Until you replace that through different financial institutions. I would suggest that one of the most successful ones has been the Midland Credit Union Society which was started through the Federal LIP Grant a few years back which is now using itself to put capital back into the hands of people who live in the Inner City. That's one of the more successful ventures.

So I simply say, Mr. Chairman, what I'm getting at is that what bothers me about the approach that has been taken, we're agreeing in concept but when we talk about the means of implementation, that the means here have been primarily ones against government-directed, government-controlled, and government-run. I would suggest that a much more effective strategy would be to put a much greater onus into the ability of those in the communities themselves to organize it and those who can help organize them, and let them develop it, and you simply fund it on a banking basis according to the needs that are demonstrated and as the requests come forward. And that's a very different approach than the one that is being taken now.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. SCHREYER:** I want to say very briefly that perhaps, and hopefully, there is really no major difference in the ultimate objective. But I have to say to the Honourable Meer for Fort Rouge, that the fact that we are, as a matter of policy, dedicated to assisting in the establishment of work activity projects of a kind that will ultimately result in work skills, occupational skills and work habit patterns, the proof of that is in the pudding. There are literally some several dozen of those under whatever formal name, not just in northern Manitoba but in other parts of Manitoba including the south, such as at Brandon and such as Amaranth and the ones that I mentioned.

I issue a challenge to the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge to ponder these two points and then to speak to them on some other appropriate occasion: Number 1, if we are to commit substantial amounts of additional funds to what is admittedly a desirable objective, how can he help us ensure that there is an input, financially, by the Government of Canada that is commensurate with what they would be standing ready to put in were it passive welfare? And that is a problem we have never been able to solve entirely satisfactorily although, as I said, there is some progress because of some change in attitude on the part of Government of Canada officials and/or politicians.

The second point is, how can this process, again I repeat, which we presumably agree on as to ultimate objectives, how best can the public funds be put to work in terms of the desired objectives without so much of it getting dissipated into what I call fluff, to put it bluntly, and that is to say, not towards the work activity and the projects themselves, but into the costs of organization and organizational staffing, the kind of activity that really doesn't result in very much happening, but all kinds of meetings and all kinds of studies and the like?

Maybe one of the reasons why in smaller communities, indeed even smaller cities, the process can work relatively well is because, in the case of Band communities, the Band Council is the local group to which this relates. In the case of smaller communities, the Community Councils; in the case of smaller towns, the elected Municipal Councils. Maybe in a large metropolitan metropolitan area, some different mechanism is needed; I'm not saying that that's not so, but I invite my honourable friend to help advise as to how to avoid dissipation of funds since money is always rationed, make sure it doesn't get dissipated into fluff and all kinds of what I call social animation, or **IT animation sociale**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

*The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and requested leave to sit again.*

### **IN SESSION**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

**MR. BARROW:** I move, seconded by the Member for Portage la Prairie, the report of the Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Tuesday.