



Third Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

28 Elizabeth II

*Published under the
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The Honourable Harry E. Graham
Speaker*

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VOL. XXVII No. 59A

10:00 A.M. Friday, May 11, 1979

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, May 11, 1979

Time: 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 29 students, of Grade 8 standing, from La Porte, Minnesota, under the direction of Mr. Robert Evanow and Mrs. Joyce Boulet.

On behalf of all the honourable members we welcome you here this morning.

I should also like to draw the honourable members' attention to the loge on my right, where we have a former Speaker of the Legislature, the former Member for Swan River, Mr. Bilton. We welcome you here.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. ABE KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directed me to report same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie that Report of Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, as most members of the House are aware, I have proclaimed today, May 11th, as Arbor Day. Mr. Speaker, the members have just opened up an opportunity for me to make a comment about what was to take place later on today, and that would be that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and I were to mark the occasion by planting a tree this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. on the west side of the Legislative Building. However, we have communicated with the Minister of Environment and hope that he could provide a better day later on this month, so we plan to have that ceremony some time later this month.

Although the planting of trees is a common occurrence on this special day, I believe the brief ceremony which we will be carrying out will mark an important step in the fight against Dutch Elm disease in our province. This new variety called Jacan was subjected to inoculations of the fungus and appears to be resistant to the point that it appears immune from the highly contagious Elm disease. In short, it offers hope for the people who want to plant Elm trees in Manitoba. I have been informed that the commercial nurseries will be receiving some stocks of the tree this year, and I trust that in the years to come it will become a familiar shade tree replacing those varieties susceptible to the Dutch Elm disease.

The development of this variety is a significant indication of a widespread desire to develop and expand the green areas of our province. I would like to recognize the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides, and all those children and those groups who have marked the occasion by planting trees.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, in place of a question this morning, although I realize that there will be a formal occasion for this, I would like to express on behalf of our group our deep deep sorrow on the passing of a deep friend and public servant in the province; one who has served in this Legislature and as well as Mayor of the city of Winnipeg, being Robert Steen. I'm sure that we all this morning, share a deep feeling of sorrow at the passing.

Friday, May 11, 1979

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, we all share the feelings of sympathy that have been uttered by the Leader of the Opposition and indeed I have already had the occasion to make a statement on behalf of the government and the people of Manitoba with respect to the untimely passing at a young age of a friend of many of us, the former Mayor of Winnipeg, Robert Steen.

There will be, as the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, another occasion when the formal resolution will be moved to be sent to Mrs. Steen and the family. I think it is appropriate that we note at this moment, the loss that the city of Winnipeg has suffered in the death of its foremost First Citizen.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture and to ask him whether it is still the policy that land sold through his department or the Manitoba Agricultural Corporation will have a reserve bid related to the cost of acquisition of the land, and not related to market value?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, it really surprises me that the member would phrase his question in that manner. I think that the way in which the land has been sold, the market value was established by offering on an open tender system of selling.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Honourable Minister's effort to reply to my question, but my question was related to the reserve bid can estimate the market and not to the manner in which one value.

The question: Is specifically the policy of the government relating to the reserve bid for property offered for sale by tender or auction, and is that reserve bid going to continue to be related to the cost of the acquisition and carrying charges or will it be related to the appraised value in advance of the sale?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, as the member is also aware the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation is operated by an appointed board and the policy of that board will be discussed with me, as the Minister.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, may I request the Minister to indicate whether it is the government that makes decisions as to the manner in which reserve bids are established or is it left entirely to the Agricultural Credit Corporation?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, as I said and have indicated to the House, I will be discussing that with the Board. The final sale authority comes by Order-in-Council as the member's quite aware.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well possibly, Mr. Speaker, I could ask the Minister for Government Services, in view of the fact that Orders-in-Council are required to support the sales as indicated by the Minister of Agriculture, whether it is the policy of the government in the sale of lands by the government, by tender or by auction, to set a reserve bid related to the cost of acquisition and not related to the appraised value.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to take that question as

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Honourable Minister would, in investigating this question, inform us as to whether or not Cabinet, of which he is a member, was appraised of the appraised values as a reserve bid in regard to the — Mr. Speaker, I note the Premier is shaking his head and I agree with him — I was starting to ask about information being given at Cabinet. I agree that is not information that should be made public, but I would like to know whether the Minister of Highways will reflect in his investigation on the previous policies of government so that we can get a clear statement of government policy on the manner in which

a reserve bid is established and whether or not the Agricultural Credit Corporation has worked in accord with government policy or in variation to it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'm more than prepared to reflect on many aspects of government policy. I'm prepared particularly to be concerned about how, through the policies of my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, how best we can ensure that a continuing growth of young farmers is made possible in this province. Those are precisely the kind of matters that concern this government and my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RONALD McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the First Minister. I'd like to ask the First Minister that in light of his admiration for the policies or the political approach of the Social Credit Government in British Columbia and their gerrymandering or altering the political boundaries in such a way as to be to their own benefit, I wonder if the First Minister could indicate whether he'll be bringing forward to this Legislature for approval the provincial election boundaries as is.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, without accepting in any way the comments, which I can only presume would be totally false, made by the honourable member in the preamble to this statement and without commenting further on his exhibition of bad losing, I can merely say that the question that he finally got around to was asked a few days ago.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if he could, for my enlightenment and the enlightenment of people here —(Interjection)— well, Mr. Speaker, the members across keep hollering and I have difficulty understanding how in '77, 47 percent of the popular vote is an overwhelming victory, and in '79, 47 percent of the popular vote is a crushing defeat. Mr. Speaker, I have trouble understanding that particular . . . but I wonder if the Minister could tell us, even if he doesn't accept the facts from B.C. in terms of the gerrymandering that took place, I wonder if the Minister could tell us, does he intend to make any changes in the report, the recommendations of the boundaries as have been provided by an independent commission? Does he intend to play with those boundaries?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned to my honourable friend at his first question, that question has been answered with respect to the report being considered by the Executive Council and ultimately will be brought before the Legislature for consideration.

With respect to his other point about B.C., which he seems to wish to inflict upon the people of Manitoba this morning, may I say that given the choice first of all, between 49 percent of the public vote and 46 percent, I, like the Social Credit, would choose 49 percent.

Secondly, reverting to comments that were made by the Minister of Agriculture with respect to Dutch Elm Disease, he said that the new branch had been made safe against the rampage of a disease called Dutch Elm Disease. May I say that the vote in B.C. probably indicates that the people of B.C. have been inoculated against an equally bad disease, Socialism.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In light of the First Minister's remarks, Mr. Speaker, and the First Minister's admiration for the political tactics of his fellow government in B.C., and Mr. Speaker, also in light of the fact that the policies of this Provincial Government are causing considerable difficulty, Mr. Speaker, for his Federal Conservative candidates, I wonder if the First Minister would call a provincial election so we can get this thing straightened out.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, only 18 months ago, 49 percent of the people of Manitoba registered their approval of the programs and actions of this government. Is my honourable friend now asking for the best two out of three?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, since it will be two out of three, whether the First Minister likes it or not, eventually that will happen. It's interesting to see that the Conservatives are so doctrinally opposed to Socialism, that they have now adopted Social Credit as their blood brothers. It's interesting, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the First Minister a question, in view of the fact that the Prime Minister as a drowning man looking for a life jacket, has now raised the Constitution as an issue — I would like to know whether the First Minister finds that there are any legal problems associated with him governing in such a way as to achieve what he feels are the aspirations of the people of the Province of Manitoba — whether he regards constitutional change as a necessity for him being able to govern in this province?

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Speaker, the short answer to my honourable friend's question, which he is well aware of, is of course, no. No Provincial Government in Canada that I am aware of, nor indeed the Federal Government, is in any way inhibited by the present status of the Constitution with respect to the carrying out of those responsibilities that governments have across the country.

The issue in a word, as raised by the Prime Minister at a recent election rally, as I have said on other occasions, is a silly election issue. It is not an issue that carries with it the serious import that the Prime Minister would try to have the people of Canada believe resides in whether or not The BNA Act is patriated immediately back to Canada or not.

The position of this government in concert with the other provincial governments of Canada, and I'm sure in concert with the position that was taken by my honourable friends opposite when they were in government, was that of course we would like to see the Constitution patriated to Canada; all political parties subscribe to that, but to say that patriation without a proper amending formula is desirable is quite another question, and to say that if that question isn't answered the whole unity of Canada will be affected is of course election silliness, and I'm sure that that opinion is shared by my honourable friend as well as myself.

May I say, Mr. Speaker, by way of comment to the introduction of my honourable friend's question, he made some comment about Social Credit and Socialism, may I say, Mr. Speaker, that his comment reminded me of the statement that the Right Honourable Winston Churchill made when Nazi Germany invaded Russia, and he had been an implacable enemy of Soviet Communism for years, and he started talking about his stout Russian allies and somebody said, "Well, what do you feel now about Communism in Russia?" and his answer was, he said "If Hitler invaded Hell, I would have something good to say about the Devil."

That maybe sums up our position with respect to the B.C. election.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's enlightening and will be enlightening for the people of the Province of Manitoba to know that my learned friend will embrace anything, including the Devil, in order to try to avoid a Social Credit government including Social Credit.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable First Minister for his answer with respect to his capacity to govern under existing laws. I would like the First Minister to advise me whether there is anything in the existing Constitution, The BNA Act, which would prevent a federal government from doing whatever they wished to in order to achieve the aspirations of the people of Canada? Whether constitutional change is necessary to achieve any of the objectives of any of the political parties, the Liberals, the Conservatives or the New Democrats? Is constitutional change a prerequisite or can those things be done now? And Mr. Speaker, I indicate that my learned friend has an advantage — I have to ask the question, he will be able to answer it — I wish it was the other way around.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, without wanting in any way to infringe upon the rule of the House that forbids legal questions of legal opinions being sought or being answered, I think I could phrase my answer in such a way recapturing the words that I said before, that by consensus and by and without confrontation and without unilateral positions being taken by the federal government it has been amply demonstrated since 1867 that The British North America Act is that kind of a malleable instrument by which the eleven governments of Canada can and have done — by devising policies and programs that were in the best interests of the people of Canada and of the separate regions of Canada — those things that are needed to be done and they can still be done under The British North America Act, which is still a good Constitution for this country. It needs some areas of improvements but to say to the people of Canada that it has to be patriated immediately, and that it will be patriated even if the provinces don't agree, is the kind of confrontationist attitude that serves the public interest ill and, Mr. Speaker, is not guaranteed in any way to help the unity of Canada.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, one last question. Then I take it that my friend's answer is somewhat different than is his previous answer. Although he will say at all costs including Social Credit, no New Democratic Party government, he will not say at all costs no matter what the consequences, we must patriate the constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM: Yes, I have a question to the Minister of Highways. I am just wondering if the Minister could advise when Highway 235 will be back in operation for travelling. The highway has been cut for approximately two weeks now and ranchers are having to cross on the other side to get hay, and I've just got calls from up there and they want to know just how long before that road will be replaced back so they can get hay for the cattle. They're having problems there.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I can empathize with the problems that the particular farmers and ranchers are having in that area. I know it well. But I remind the honourable member that many thousands of farmers in the Red River Valley have had upwards to 125 provincial roads totally cut off for the last several weeks and will be cut off for several days and perhaps weeks to come. Obviously we need the co-operation of the weather to correct this situation. I have issued instructions to the Department to commence as soon as possible with all remedial and maintenance work on an overtime basis to attempt to get our provincial road system into shape at the earliest possible moment, but I think the honourable member can appreciate that we need the co-operation of providence and weather and a lot of sunshine and some hot winds to make that happen.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister. Yes, I can sympathize with what has happened down south but in that situation most of the livestock have been moved out of the area and have access to feed. In the area that I'm speaking of, this is the second time that the highway has been cut and the cattle are on the wrong side and they will not co-operate. It's not the question of whether the ranchers will co-operate it's the livestock that do not want to co-operate. They have to have feed and some of the ranchers have been phoning me and asking me so that they would know if it's going to be tomorrow or the day after.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Has the honourable member a question?

MR. ADAM: They want to know whether it will be today or the day after tomorrow.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I will see what if any special action can be taken in this particular instance and transmit that information to the honourable member before the day is out.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether or not there was a reserve bid on the disposal of assets of the Rural Water Services Branch by public tender.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, the sale of the assets of Rural Water Services was handled by the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and perhaps he could best answer that question. It was sold on an open public tender basis.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of Public Works would want to answer that question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, the inventory, and we are talking about inventory, as is the practice by Government Services, was circulated through to all government Departments initially. Substantial amounts of the inventory were found to be required by different departments for different purposes; that reduced the inventory considerably. A further look at the inventory declared a significant portion of the remaining, next to obsolete, and as the Minister of Agriculture has indicated, tenders were let out for the remaining inventory and were sold to the highest bidder.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the inventory was sold to the highest bidder. I asked the Minister whether an evaluation was done to determine the actual value of the unsold inventory, or at least if there is a book value figure that we can compare with the actual price received?

MR. ENNS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that was done. I would have to refer back to my office for the specific figures involved.

MR. USKIW: Would the Minister then, Mr. Speaker, undertake to advise the House as to any differential between the value of the assets disposed by public tender and the amount received?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, the other day the Leader of the Opposition inquired about the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker Centre, and asked if there was any brochure material which contained information about the centre. I'm quite pleased to pass across the House to him a photo copy of the brochure, which has been sent around to all of the provinces.

I can say by way of further information to him, because I didn't have the figures in front of me at the time, that our advice is that to date the federal government has contributed \$300,000 toward this centre; the government of Saskatchewan has contributed \$600,000 toward the Centre; the government of Alberta \$100,000; and the government of Ontario \$100,000. Manitoba, as has been noted, is contributing \$50,000 toward this centre. It was hoped and expected that all eleven governments of Canada will be contributing to this centre, which, as my honourable friend will see from the brochure, is intended in a general way to resemble the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, which has *memorabilia* and historical papers and so on for university study, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines, Resources and the Environment.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, several days ago the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet asked a question about the disposal of some shares in a company in which I had held shares. I've been waiting for several days for him to return an order that I could respond to that question. I can advise him that they were disposed of in early December of 1978.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Housing. In the review of the Housing Estimates, the Minister indicated to members that the waiting list for single parents seeking public housing is something in the order of four months, in large part because of a turnover of 35 percent in family housing. However, in following up the constituency case, I've been informed by the Winnipeg Regional Housing Authority that the waiting list is between one to two years, and that the turnover rate for 2-bedroom units, which is needed by single parents, is very very low.

My question to the Minister is, why are there contradictions between what he tells us in the House and what his staff tell people seeking public housing outside the House, who are eligible for that public housing?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MHRC.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I informed the members in my Estimates that we placed people, single parent families, the last ones in 1978, into accommodation who had only been on the waiting list for four months. I am assured of that by my staff and I will check with it, and I'll find out from the Regional Housing Authority why they are making that particular statement and who they are making it to. —(Interjection)— Well, as I said, if they're making it. I can say that many times we have many more applications, but before they're screened to find out if people qualify, or if they want to go in, or what area they want to live in, changes considerably.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes, I'll await the specific answer of the Minister to my question.

I'd like to ask another question to the Minister of Education. He indicated a few weeks ago that he or his officials would be meeting with the Transcona-Springfield School Division to discuss the whole issue of the cancellation of school buses in South Transcona. Has he, or have his

officials, met yet with the people of the Transcona School Division on this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I understand that particular problem has been solved.

MR. PARASIUUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister. Since it's been solved by the school district assuming 100 percent of the transportation costs for a semi-rural area, is the Minister still prepared as he indicated before, to meet with that school division to discuss being more flexible in the provision of transportation grants to school divisions that have semi-rural areas within them, or newly developing but sparsely populated subdivisions, so that these school divisions aren't induced to build expensive —(Interjections)— I'm asking the question, if these people can't follow it, that's their particular problem — so that these school divisions aren't induced by provincial cost-sharing to build expensive schools prematurely, when they could be busing students instead?

MR. COSENS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can't agree with the honourable member's suggestion of some type of inducement. I think he's trying to find a cop-out for what was a mistake, I would suggest, in the building of a very expensive school that is not at all filled with students at this time. I am quite prepared to discuss this matter with the Transcona Board, and I understand that arrangements have been made for a meeting in that regard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a final supplementary.

MR. PARASIUUK: Yes, could the Minister confirm that the Transcona School Division, which does not want to build a new school in Lakeside Meadows, but would rather bus students from that newly developing subdivision, to schools within the inner part of Transcona, which aren't fully filled right now, have requested a transportation grant from the province of Manitoba and to date have been turned down on that request?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, we have these particular matters under discussion at this time. I can't make any particular announcement pro or con in this regard while these things are under discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.3\$

HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Honourable Member for St. Johns asked me about the fate of the North Winnipeg Y Summer Recreation Program for Handicapped Children. I'm pleased to advise him that funding has been approved that will enable us to maintain that program in place throughout this summer, as in the past.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, may I thank the Honourable Minister of Health and inform him that about a week ago the Minister of Labour made that statement to us in the House, and it has already been confirmed. Nevertheless, I thank him for catching up with the information, and I appreciate the fact that the concerns of the parents involved have been taken care of.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Health. Relating to the announcement of some sort of disturbing report in Ontario as to the possibility of danger of radiation in x-ray facilities in hospitals in Ontario, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would undertake to have that report studied and see the extent to which it could be applicable to Manitoba, and make whatever necessary investigation there should be to ensure that whatever precautions can be taken are being taken in Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I've already asked for that. I've conveyed the newspaper reports on that particular situation to the Manitoba Medical Association and to other medical officials here and asked for a comment and a reaction.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago the Member for The Pas made a typically fictitious statement in the House in relationship to four councilors allegedly resigning in Cormorant due to some problems they were having with the Department of Northern

Affairs. I'm sure the Member for The Pas will be pleased to hear that no councilors have resigned in Cormorant, that the mayor did, for a period of a day or two, because of a particular personal business problem that he had, and today he is back as mayor of that particular community.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, one, to change his comments from the typical way in which he answers the questions, Mr. Speaker, but Mr. Speaker, the four councilors in Cormorant did resign, according to the mayor, that they withdrew their resignation after a meeting. So, Mr. Speaker, there was nothing incorrect about the question I asked to the Minister the other day, this Minister, Mr. Speaker, whose answers have more ignorance or fiction than they do information.

Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Some time ago my colleague from Flin Flon asked the Minister about the overnight change of gas prices at all the gas stations in Flin Flon, and the Member for Burrows asked a similar question about the City of Winnipeg, and I asked a question, Mr. Speaker, about the 10 cent differential north of 53 charged by the oil companies themselves for gasoline to retailers, and I wonder if the Minister can now report on that situation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): All I can report, Mr. Speaker, is that the matter is being investigated.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, in the City of Winnipeg in at least one section of the city, it did take two days for the price change to take place this time rather than overnight, and the price has jumped from 75 cents to 95 cents in a period of two days throughout all the gas stations in that region. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know exactly what this Minister has done, this Minister of Consumer Affairs has done. What action are his staff taking? What is the nature of the investigation or the study, and has in fact anything at all been undertaken to assist the consumers in Manitoba?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I will say as I said the other day when the Member for Burrows asked the question, the market forces are the best protection that the consumer has. Prices vary up and down, and because they go up on one occasion does not mean that there is anything untoward happening. It depends on the particular competitive position, supplies and matters of that nature, to determine what the prices are going to be in the City of Winnipeg. There is ample competition in this city to ensure that the consumer is getting his gasoline at prices that are competitive.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Consumer Affairs appears to be the Minister of Corporate Affairs, as with most of the other Ministers on that side of the House, I wonder if the First Minister would undertake to find one member of that side of the House who is willing to actually do something to assist the consumers of this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I believe the question was, is the government prepared to do anything to assist the consumers of Manitoba. It may well have escaped my honourable friend's attention but for the last 18 months that's what we've been engaged in by lowering taxes, lowering expenditures —(Interjection)— by lowering taxes, lowering expenditures, bringing government back under control and finally giving the taxpayer a better break for his dollar after the unholy mess that my honourable friend and his colleagues left us.

MR. McBRYDE: The Honourable Member for The Pas with a fourth question.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a question to the First Minister. In light of the policy of his government, Mr. Speaker, that the marketplace can completely look after the consumers and that there is no need at all for any government intervention to assist the consumers of this province, I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if this First Minister and this government would do the consumers a big favour and resign as government.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the statement was made by my colleague or by members of this side of the House at any time that the marketplace was the only regulator of prices. It is generally regarded, Mr. Speaker, as being the best regulator, and I think all reasonable people, socialists excepted, would accept that pronouncement. But with respect to resignation, Mr. Speaker, I really don't think that the people of Manitoba would want the extra cost put upon them so that they could return incompetence to Manitoba in the government, or at least have the opportunity to return it. But, Mr. Speaker, before too long my honourable friends will have an opportunity to test their electoral mettle in some vacancies that we have in this House and we'll look forward to seeing how well they do.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the same Minister in regard to the prices of gasoline at the pumps. Could he explain why, when gas was 75 cents in the City of Winnipeg, that the price of gasoline in towns like Dauphin and other towns are 20 cents higher a gallon, and never change?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: I think my honourable friend, whether he wants to admit it or not, knows the answer to that question just as well as anybody else.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, last week I was asked by the Member for Burrows the names of the companies that were supported in a show in Edmonton that was sponsored by the Southam Group. I might say the report that he got the name from, Mr. Speaker, there was 152 grants given in that particular report that were different grants, and I'd like to say that 115 of them were granted by my honourable friends opposite before October of '77, and they — well, I have no quarrel with them, that's fine — Mr. Speaker, it was J.B. Agri Manufacturing Company of Morden who manufactures truck boxes, a new company, Quickfield Company of Winnipeg, temporary grain storage company, D. J. Richardson Manufacturing Company Limited, who manufacture sprayers, Loewen Manufacturing of Altona, who make cylinder bars for combines, Global Plastics, Winnipeg, who are a small company; Ajax Manufacturing Limited — round bale movers is their manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, the nice part of it is, the estimated business that these companies received by having their products made available and shown to the farmers of northern Alberta was \$414,000.00. Five of the six companies were able to help their distributors in that area and four of the six were able to appoint new distributors to help sell Manitoba products in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW: The Pas? Mr. Speaker, I do wish you'd get those constituencies straightened a little bit. Flin Flon is the capital. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Can we give the Honourable Member for Flin Flon the opportunity to ask his question?

The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: This question concerns the 24-hour program, where one, Joe Clark has refused to appear for one-half hour any place, any time, at his leisure, to appear on "24 Hours", and he has flatly refused. My question is this, Mr. Speaker, is he so disappointed and disgruntled with the inept performance of this government that he is afraid to face the people of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a follow-up to the line of questioning that was put to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, in light of the fact that the Minister indicated that the marketplace is the best way in which to protect consumer interests, perhaps he might consider to take under advisement a recommendation that his portfolio be abolished along with the department.

MR. SPEAKER: There is only one minute left in the Question Period.
The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Previously, during both Estimates and Question Period, we've entrusted the government to investigate a number of grants under the Private Sector Youth Employment Program, specifically we brought to their attention four grants made to J.D. Construction Company; Metrico Enterprises; G.A. Junkin Company; and Waseco Underground; all receiving maximum benefits and all located at the same address. Can the Minister responsible indicate what the status of that investigation is at the present moment?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: I haven't completed that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm that according to a decision made by the Manitoba Labour Board dated May 20th, 1977, that the Board had little hesitation in finding that those four employers are under common control or direction, that the operations for all employers are associated or related, and that for the purposes of the Manitoba Labour Board ruling, those four employers would be treated as a single employer, and information of that sort would tend to indicate that they had, if not by fact, at least by intent, violated the Private Sector Youth Employment Program provisions?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the decision of . . . if it was May 20th, 1977, or what might have transpired in the companies operations between that particular date and the date that they applied for the student help.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY BILL

MR. JORGENSON: I believe that there is unanimous consent, and at least if there isn't, I would like to ask for a unanimous consent to proceed with all stages of the Supplementary Supply Bill that the First Minister is about to introduce.

In connection with that, I might also ask if there would be any objection to returning into Committee of Supply if there is time available. As my honourable friends know, we will be going into Committee of Supply on the Supplementary Supply Bill, and rules prevent us from going into Committee of Supply twice in the same Session.

I would also like to ask leave, if that would be agreed to before we proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there is no objection to proceeding with that Order of Business, and when I say that, I can't say whether there will be lots of discussion on it, whether it will go through the House today, but we can proceed with that Order of Business as far as we can go, and we have no objection to going into Supply twice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor.

MR. SPEAKER: The Lieutenant Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba: "Estimates of further sums required for the services of the province for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1980, and recommends these Estimates to the Legislative Assembly."

The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister for Manitoba Telephone System, that the said message together with the Estimates accompanying the same, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable, the Minister of Health, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY — SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats (Radisson): The Resolution before the Committee is: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a further sum not exceeding \$5,000,000 for Flood Control and Emergency Expenditures. Flood Control and Emergency Expenditures, \$5,000,000.00.
The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of the Minister of Finance today, I will give a brief explanation of the need for this Supplementary Supply Bill at this time.

Bill 52 reflects the need to deal with the current flood situation in the Province of Manitoba expeditiously, and the need for immediate additional spending authority. The government is requesting an additional \$5,000,000 at this time. Members will have noticed, Mr. Chairman, that the Main Estimates of Expenditure provide only \$309,000 of spending authority under Appropriation 18, Flood Control and Emergency Expenditures. At the present time there are no firm estimates of total flood costs and it is unlikely that any will be available until the waters recede even further than they have at the present time, and the extent of damage can be verified and costs estimated by inspection teams. The total cost will exceed by far the amount that we are asking the House to approve this morning, but this will at least get the operations under way.

As in past flood emergencies, it is intended to constitute joint provincial-federal inspection teams, supplemented by municipal officials as necessary, to check damage and estimate cost to restore flood-damaged facilities and structures to their pre-flood conditions. It is obvious to all, Mr. Chairman, that the 1979 flood costs will be substantial and we welcome confirmation of the sharing of these costs by the Government of Canada. The guidelines for peacetime disaster costs, eligible for financial assistance, are presently being discussed by staff from federal and provincial departments, with a view to clarifying their application to the 1979 flood situation.

It is hoped that the announcements can be made in the very near future, confirming all aspects of inter-governmental cost-sharing, and setting out the limits and terms of financial compensation to individuals and small businesses suffering flood damage.

As members will appreciate, the government has already incurred fairly large expenditures in relation to the securing of necessary materials, labour and supplies, including such items as sandbags, pumps and the use of heavy equipment, which have been necessary to construct and to put lifts on dikes and other preventive measures, and to facilitate the flood fighting operations in general. These invoices, of course, are awaiting, some of them already awaiting to be paid. Later, compensation payments to individuals and small businesses will begin as soon as the Disaster Assistance Board compensation limits are set, and the claims can be processed.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Chairman, I am hopeful that by leave Bill 52 can pass through all approval stages and receive Royal assent, if possible at today's sitting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable opposition. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, given the existing formula, and that is that the province pays the first \$1 million, the first dollar per person per capita, 50 percent of the next dollar per capita, 25 percent, I believe, of the third dollar per capita. If I —(Interjection)— yes. Eventually, the Federal Government pays 90 percent — now, we're dealing here with a figure of \$5 million. Will you ask the Minister of Education, no, perhaps not the Minister of Education, because I've had trouble with his arithmetic before — maybe the First Minister can tell me how far this \$5 million goes, given the fact that there will be federal funding, or is this \$5 million going to be spent provincially and then recovered?

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend has correctly divined the procedure. When the Budget is brought down, I think he will see that there is already being factored into it a figure

of approximately \$2.5 million as additional revenue, to offset the expenditure of the \$5 million that we are voting. In other words, we are voting this amount; there will be a recapture of about \$2.5 million on this amount and then, of course, the subsequent figures will go on according to the formula, with the province spending the money recapturing by way of revenue from the federal authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Now I then appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that this figure is intended to reflect total spending, and I say that knowing that it can't, that the estimate is at best an approximate guesstimate to show how nebulous it is, and people will understand if even warrants have to be issued or otherwise, to deal with that problem. But the \$5 million, the \$5 million is intended to deal with the spending. There will be a recovery of \$2.5 million in the Budget that's presented, and I guess the minister has leaked one Budget figure, that there will be \$2.5 million for flood control, for the revenues.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I haven't leaked it at all. I think I've done what the honourable member could do on the back of a cigarette package, just figured it out under the formula.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, you can't have it quite that easy. The fact is that you didn't have to put that in, in which case I would have accused you of picking up revenue through this item, and it's not an expenditure, it's a revenue item. Because if you didn't put in the federal recovery, and you've got this \$5 million spent, the federal would send money back, so there'd be a recovery of money in the Budget, but you say it's got to be in there, so you've leaked one figure you can't have it both ways. In any event, when the ; Budget comes I will look for the figure.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that these types of expenditures are an object lesson, and frankly from time to time, although nobody is happy with what has occurred, and I want to warn the minister that I am concerned with the establishment of compensation entitlement and the level of compensation entitlement at the peak of the crisis and during a federal election. And I want to warn the First Minister that last time that happened, in 1973, the Federal Government came to Winnipeg and said that they would pay for —(Interjection)— 1974, no, it was during the election, I'm sure it was during the election campaign —(Interjection)— the federal election, that's right, I keep thinking of the 1973 election, that's the one we won, that's right. But it was during the 1974 election they came to Winnipeg and said that they would pay for cellars that were flooded by virtue of rain. And, Mr. Chairman, that was done at that time because the Federal Government was in an election, and the province was in the position of certainly going along with it, I mean, we were in an impossible position of saying, no, we're not going to pay for flooded basements in Winnipeg. The Federal Government is coming along with the money — 90 percent, my friend, the Member for Seven Oaks, tells me. And I tell the minister that, although certainly there should be social responsibility for this kind of problem, that the level of compensation should not be set at something which the public generally should not be expected to pay for. And in this particular respect, Mr. Chairman, I think that it's interesting that the hated principles of Socialism are abandoned on the other side. I do believe that we have social responsibility for some of these problems.

Well, Mr. Chairman, Socialism means that when there are problems, which should not be carried by the individual alone, society generally gets together and says, we are going to look at these problems. And the Conservatives are quick to see that when it comes to drainage, when it comes to highways, but, Mr. Chairman, if there was a disaster 20 years ago to deal with people becoming ill, they would say that that is an individual responsibility: sick people is the responsibility of the individual; sick land is the responsibility of the state. Now I am happy that my Socialist friends on the the other side are now able to see that rugged individualism, and responsibility for one's own problems, is not a principle that they will carry to the . . . my friend said to the devil or to hell, that they will stop short of hell and that there are . . .

And indeed, Mr. Chairman, whenever there is a real difficulty, whenever there is a real problem, we go to Socialism. We say, Mr. Chairman, that all of us co-operatively and with a common effort, are going to deal with the problems of one of us and any one of us. It's from each as to their ability; we are going to collect from everybody in society, whether they are hurt or not, it's not user pay, it's not flood victim pay, it's everybody pay, and to each according to their needs. And what are the needs? The needs are those people who are flooded, and my citizens in Inkster constituency can accept that; they can accept the fact that they are going to get together and pay, because their fellow citizen who they identify with, has a problem which they are not going to say, "You look after it yourself, you be a private individual, you be a rugged individual, it's your problem, you should have built your house on stilts, or you should have done something else and, in any

event, we can't be responsible for your disaster."

You are not saying that' but you did say that a year ago; you said that to the citizens in Tyndall Park. They were flooded three times within a space of two years, and it was done to them for no reason of their own, and they had the same problems, Mr. Chairman, the same problems — their cellars were flooded, their property was ruined, they were given no compensation despite the fact that what happened to them came, not through any reason of their own, but because their elected body had wrongly planned for the sewers in their community.

But were my friends Socialists at that time? No, at that time they were Capitalists; they were free enterprisers ; they said, "That's your problem," but it's not your problem when it happens to the people in Morris, when it happens to the people in Emerson, and when it happens to people in other areas.

So, Mr. Chairman, certainly we agree with this type of Expenditure. We warn that you should not base flood compensation on a crisis situation; you should base it on what is necessary, desirable, and imprudent (sic) in the long run. And Mr. Chairman, I say that because I show you what you have done to one segment of the population who were hit three times, I repeat, in a period of less than two years, I think it was three times in one year, had the same type of damage, made the same type of request for compensation, and were told, "You, the individual, must look after that, yourself. We are not going to accept social responsibility for that kind of problem."

I think, Mr. Chairman, that we have to be careful as to how we deal with these questions, but I do welcome the opportunity to prove that social responsibility for individual problems, and there are many individual problems located here, and it's not going to be the user or the loser who pays; it's not going to be the argument that I get from my honourable friends — user pay principle — the guy who is going to have the flood, he's going to have to pay for it; the guy who has to get from north Winnipeg to downtown Winnipeg, he's been told by this government over the past three years — "loser pay." No, he's been told "loser pay" because it's generally the people in the lowest income group, and what the government says is, "Since you're a loser, since you haven't made it, you pay."

But with flood compensation, we adopt a more civilized attitude. We h don't go quite as far as ell, which is what the First Minister said that he's prepared to do rather than to go to Socialism, apparently not quite that far, stopped short of hell. What is that place? Limbo, in between. And we, Mr. Chairman, are not going to object to this.

I told my friend that we will try to get as far as we can with it, and I don't expect that we won't be able to get all the way with it, but I want the members of the other side to reflect, first of all, on the question as to how much you do, and the figure should not be based on the crisis, it should be based on what is a rational program at any time and, secondly, I welcome the feeling of Socialism that emanates when their friends are in trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up with a few questions to the First Minister.

One of the areas of concern that I have is a reference to the payment for the Army and the work that Army personnel have done with respect to the flood. I was somewhat surprised to hear that there is a strong lkeelihood that the province will be expected to foot the bill insofar as Army personnel in patrolling the dikes. This seems to me to be an unusual and rather peculiar type of situation. The Army that is to serve Canada, both in peacetime and war, should during a period such as this, we find that its costs are thrust upon the provincial community, when in fact, the Army serves the entire Canadian community. So, prior to my proceeding, I would like the First Minister to indicate what indication he has received in respect to payment of the Army personnel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, restricting myself just to that question, my information is that the responsibility of the federal government is for the pay of Army personnel and that all other associated costs up to the present time at least are to be borne by the provincial taxpayers; that, however, is a matter that is currently under negotiation with the federal authorities. It has not, as yet, been resolved and my honourable friend will recall that in my letter to the Prime Minister of a few days ago, I highlighted that point and suggested that the costs occasioned by the use of Army personnel — and may I say, the Army personnel, the Forces personnel provided exemplary service to all of the citizens of Manitoba in this crisis — that that cost should also be part of the disaster formula. That is being negotiated at the present time.

MR. PAWLEY: Following up and pertaining to that particular area, and I'd like to raise some other questions as we go along — probably the First Minister could deal with them all.

I'm just wondering if there's any earlier precedent pertaining to Army personnel, and whether or not the provincial community has picked up the costs of service from Army personnel in the past?

Insofar as Manitoba is concerned, I believe that there were earlier occasions, and the Minister responsible for EMO could indicate where, in fact, bills have been submitted from the Department of Defence, Ottawa to the province, and it is my recollection going back some years ago, that in fact, the province negotiated non-payment of those bills. I'm not sure what the situation is insofar as other provinces are concerned, but I believe that there is certainly a basic issue involved there.

Secondly, I'm wondering . . . I understand and I'm asking for clarification if I'm incorrect, that compensation pertaining to spoiled grain will be a matter of further negotiation with the federal authorities, as well as drowned livestock and poultry; that that will be as well an issue that will be dealt with in the negotiations that are to take place.

I'm just wondering insofar as secondary residences are concerned, I believe that it has always been the policy, provincially, that there is no compensation payable in the event of flood damage to a secondary residence. I'm wondering if the First Minister would comment as to whether that policy continues insofar as the Red River flood situation is concerned?

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, first of all, grain and livestock again referring to my letter to the Prime Minister — grain and livestock were specifically mentioned as two items that should be formerly included in the formula and discussions are proceeding on those two items at present. My information by way of hearsay is that they are proceeding quite satisfactorily on those two points.

With respect to second residences, summer homes, and so on, it is my impression and only my impression at this stage because the formulas have not been set as yet, that the precedent heretofore has been as the Leader of the Opposition states that second residences, summer homes, etc., were not part of the compensation formula.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to just conclude by indicating that of course the Opposition will give its support to this request for moneys. I believe that I should simply comment as well that insofar as support by the Opposition, insofar as universal or public responsibility for matters that are brought about as a result of a critical situation that affect health, and life, and safety, property, really are matters that should be borne by the entire community and though it is quite consistent on the part of the Opposition, that it assume this position, we cannot help and we do have to stress the point that it is somewhat interesting to make note of the fact that the government though it's the party that is now in government certainly didn't share this type of attitude towards many other social areas where there were in fact problems involving health and life and of course Medicare is the prime example.

I hope that the negotiations pertaining to the various areas that I raised will go along adequately. I know it's premature at this point to request any information from the government as to the amount that is anticipated to be paid out of the provincial coffers, that it's far too early for any estimate of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution pass. Resolve—that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$5,000,000 for flood control and emergency expenditures. Flood control and emergency expenditures \$5,000,000—pass. 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 Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson, report of Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of ways and means for raising of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of ways and means of raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS — SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kavnats: Supplementary Supply: Resolved that towards making good certain further sums of money granted to Her Majesty for the public service of the province for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1980, the sum of \$5,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund—pass.

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 Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson, report of the Committee of Ways and Means be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. LYON introduced Bill No. 52, An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Further Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1980.

SECOND READINGS

BILL NO. 52 — THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, 1979

MR. LYON presented Bill No. 52, An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Further Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1980, for second reading.

MOTION presented and carried

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable, the Minister of Labour and Manpower, that by leave Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider and report of the following Bill for Third Reading, No. 52, An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Further Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1980.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider and report on the following Bill for Third Reading, Bill No. 52, with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats: Bill 52: Section 1.—pass; Section 2.—pass; Section 3.—pass; Section 4.—pass; Section 5.—pass; Titles: Schedule (a)(1)—pass; Preamble—pass; Title—pass. the Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm sorry. I apologize for having been out of the room when the introduction was made. I gather by the First Minister, where he reported on revenues that are expected to come from Canada. Could he clarify how that will be shown in the Legislature and in the accounts of the province?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I'd previously indicated that the recapture from the Federal Government, which is estimated to be, and my honourable friend can estimate it from the federal formula, approximately \$215 million, or \$2.5 million, I should say, will be shown as a revenue item in the subsequent documents that are going to be laid before the House shortly on Revenues and Expenditures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill be reported.

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 Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

THIRD READING

BILL NO. 52 was read a third time and passed.)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, before calling the next order of business I would like to advise the honourable members that His Honour will be here around 2:30 to give Royal Assent.

GOVERNMENT BILLS — SECOND READING

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, will you call Bill 39, followed by Second Reading of Bills starting with Bill No. 14.

BILL NO. 39 — THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT (1979)

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 39, The Statute Law Amendment Act (1979), for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the bill was distributed on Wednesday of this week, along with detailed explanatory notes with respect to the provisions contained in that bill, and I trust that members opposite may wish to review those explanatory notes and I'll Stand the bill and deal with it later on.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Honourable Minister a few questions in relation thereto if he does not object to that. In the first place, can he explain why it is that the fairly substantial

portion dealing with Credit Unions is not in a separate bill?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in consultation with Legislative Counsel, the past practice has been to introduce a Statute Law Amendment Act very late in the Session, in the dying days, and in those circumstances there certainly should not be contained within that bill any major change in principle that really should be contained in a separate bill.

In this case we are introducing the Act fairly early in the Session. It will be followed later on by Statute Law Amendment Bill No. 2. The decision to incorporate the provisions referred to by the Member for St. Johns were made by me after consultation with Legislative Counsel.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, could the Honourable Minister inform us whether or not the Credit Union movement has been consulted in connection with these changes and has received notice of the proposed changes?

MR. MERCIER: I'm advised that they have been, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHERNIACK: Next, Mr. Speaker, dealing with the question of the interest from lawyers' trust funds, which it is proposed will now form part of General Revenue, will the Minister be able to make available to us soon an up-to-date review of income and expenditures in relation to the trust fund that now exists so that we would have an up-to-date comparison between what has been the practice and what then will become the practice on passage of the bill?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Finance earlier this week, or late last week, tabled in the Legislature a report on the status of those funds. If the member's requesting information as to the disbursement of those funds, etc. in past years, I would certainly be prepared to obtain that for him.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister. I'm not aware of having seen what the Minister of Finance may have distributed, and the Minister will accommodate speedier passage of the bill if he could give us this information.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in relation to the change proposed in proceedings against the Crown Act, could the Minister at this stage justify a change, which seems to me to put the Crown in an altogether different position than that of other parties to civil proceedings, and I remind him that this deals with the right to the Crown to determine who may or may not be examined under discovery of proceedings against the Crown, which is a complete, I believe, reversal of the laws that applies to all other parties in court actions. Would the Minister, before we deal with Second Reading, at this stage be able to justify that proposal in principle?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that probably a question of this nature could probably better be handled by debate on Second Reading.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, that's very well put on your part. Unfortunately the Minister, in introducing the bill, his contribution on Second Reading was to say, "Read the memo," and the memo, Mr. Speaker, only says what is being proposed and no justification in principle. I'm inviting the Honourable Minister, who still has the floor in view of the fact that he's permitted me to ask a question, to justify that proposal in principle so that we can then debate it on Second Reading.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the change in legislation in that particular section is very similar to that contained in the Ontario legislation and other provinces. It is meant to deal with situations where frivolous or vexatious proceedings are brought, and it's meant to allow some discretion in allowing who should be cross-examined on behalf of the province.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would not consider that it would be of greater benefit to the whole system of justice to let the courts determine what may be frivolous and vexatious rather than to leave it to the Crown to determine on its own behalf and its own vested interest what it thinks would be the right to deny discovery.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that when we allow questions of this nature it should be only for information, and I suggest the honourable member's

debating and very well may lose his right to debate later on. The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I have every intention of debating and I'm just saying that the Minister, for clarification, could be asked questions on the intent of the principles of the bill. If he refuses to answer, as he well may, then of course I will have to debate it without the benefit of his opinion in regard to the principle.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND READING

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debates on second reading. Bill No. 14, An Act to amend The Planning Act. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: We'll have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 18, An Act to amend The Natural Products Marketing Act. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 22, the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Education, The Public Schools Act, in the absence of the Member for . . .

MR. FOX: Let it stand.

MR. SPEAKER: As well as Bill No. 23. Is that agreed? (Agreed) Bill No. 35, An Act to amend The Workers Compensation Act. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: This matter, No. 36 and 38 stand.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Attorney-General, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Labour, and the Honourable Member for Emerson in the Chair for the Department of Attorney-General.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY — ATTORNEY-GENERAL

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Albert Driedger (Emerson): Committee come to order. I refer members to Page 13, Resolution 14: 1.(a)Minister's Salary—pass — the Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Last night we had started to discuss the Minister's involvement in gambling in this province, and let me be more precise. We were discussing blackjack casinos which come before the Lotteries Licencing Board, which is under the jurisdiction of this Minister. Before I go into that I would like to know, are there any other gambling endeavors that come under the Licence Board, or is it only casinos?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, we've dealt with the specific Item, Provincial Lotteries Licensing Board. I believe, under this Section, the usual procedure is for members if they wish to comment, to make their comments and then when they've completed their comments I can attempt to reply at the end to any questions that are raised.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, do I interpret now that the Minister does not wish to give me the information I'm requesting on the activities of the Lotteries Licensing Board?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I've indicated, we've passed the specific Item. We've referred to the Haig report, which is being made public, and, I believe, distributed to all members, which refers to all of the so-called gambling activities that are under that Board. I would think that the general reference to gambling, I suppose some people might term Bingos, and Raffles, that are licensed under that Board as gambling.

MR. CHERNIACK: I want to remind the Minister we're dealing with his salary which covers his entire activities on behalf of government, and therefore my questions are absolutely in order, but he has answered my question in relation to Bingo and Raffles. I guess I should have clarified; I'm speaking more of the type of gambling that takes place on a face-to-face basis between somebody who runs the gambling and somebody who participates by throwing their money in front of them in that way, such as in blackjack. Is blackjack the only type of gambling that is being permitted in the province in a casino atmosphere?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would suppose that the other forms of gambling licensed under the casinos, the use of various roulette wheels are forms of gambling as well as the blackjack.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I gather that there is more involved than just blackjack, and the reason I'm asking that is, I'm still trying to get clarification on the government's policy that limits it to twelve casinos a year in Greater Winnipeg. Now I gather that these wheels of chance are also involved in that, are they permitted for greater periods of time or what is the government's policy in that connection?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that the maximum of twelve licences is for a combined casino and blackjack operation.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well then, can I interpret correctly that all these forms of gambling, and that is in the casino atmosphere, as I'm describing it, is limited to twelve times a year in Winnipeg and involves blackjack or wheels of chance or any other games of chance other than Bingo or raffles, as the Minister stated? And on that basic, I'd like to repeat last night's question as to how did you arrive at twelve as being justified? Does the province approve of this form of gambling; but says it should not be in excess of twelve times a year? Is that it?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that was a recommendation of the Haig Report. It has been approved by myself and the Lotteries Licensing Board.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't pay any attention to the fact that it was approved, recommended, or otherwise by the Haig Report. That is now history and henceforth it's the government that makes the decisions, not based on anything but its own judgment.

What sort of investigation, protection, and ongoing surveillance is there conducted to make sure that the gambling is carried on in a legitimate, legal, and moral — moral, I mean in the sense of making sure that the odds are of a certain level so that the gambler gets a fair break rather than as may be done under the Sweepstakes, where he gets crazy odds?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that aspect was discussed under this item.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, that's interesting information which I don't challenge at all. I just remind the Minister that there are two Committees in operation and that the reason that the Salary is left to the end — and that's a fairly recent change — is to enable members and give them an opportunity to review with the Minister certain aspects of his job; all aspects of his job, and therefore I want to know: is he refusing to answer that question as to the surveillance, as to inspection, or is he just saying, "I've said it once, I refuse to do it again."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: I would refer the Member for St. Johns to Hansard in the discussion of this item, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: I appreciate that reference. Will the minister say that in Hansard, which I don't think has come out yet, that the subject has been discussed to such an extent that there's no more that he can contribute?

MR. MERCIER: I think that area was adequately discussed, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: Are you looking to see whether that Hansard has been published? And has it been?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I haven't found it yet.

MR. CHERNIACK: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Chairman, it is my impression that it was not covered and it then means that the minister, by trying to pass his Salary last night and by wanting to pass it now and I agree with him, and I would co-operate with him in having it dealt with and completed today, is saying that I am denied the opportunity to learn or to discuss with him the inspection and surveillance of gambling in Manitoba, because he's already discussed it with someone else and that it will be on record in the future. I challenge him to deny me that opportunity.

MR. MERCIER: I would accept the challenge, Mr. Chairman, if after the Member for St. Johns reads Hansard, if he's not satisfied it's adequately covered, we do have Question Period each day, or we'd be prepared to discuss it with him at any time.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, last night the minister refused to undertake to give us the report of the Magistrates Review Committee on the mess that is apparently taking place in his department in relation to prosecutions, and he said, well, I will produce it after he discovered two conditions.

One is: he wants his senior officers to finish reading it, admitting as he did that they're not going to change it; and two: he wanted to discuss it with the magistrates to see whether they had any objection. Now he is refusing to discuss lotteries with me because of a similar thing, and that is the fact that the discussion he's referring to is not available for me to peruse. If he doesn't know by now after the experience he's had in this Legislature as a Cabinet Minister, that the Question Period is no place where you can discuss policies and activities of government, then he doesn't know what the Question Period is all about.

The fact is he knows and he cannot say we can discuss it during the Question Period. He said "be glad to discuss it." He knows that all a person in opposition can do is to question it, and I'm saying that the minister is — for some reason which I guess only he is aware of — refusing to inform me and to discuss with me the proper surveillance, inspection and protection to the public in the operation of gambling casinos in the province and I resent that very much, Mr. Chairman, because as a member of the Legislature, the opportunity which is given to me is in discussing the Minister's Salary, and his refusal of yesterday is something that I've not accepted, and his refusal now I cannot accept. And I would like to request him again to tell me what sort of protection is being offered and given to the people of Manitoba when they are confronted with gambling professionals. And, Mr. Chairman, they are professionals as I understand it.

I was going to ask him further, and I'll ask it whether he answers it or not, whether it is not true that the associations who are given the authority to operate these gambling casinos in the province are not hiring professional operators to run the gambling process, and that these professional operators would have to be efficient in manipulating whatever it is that is manipulated in order to determine who wins money. And it is well known throughout the length and breadth of this world, at least of the enlightened western world which has so much respect for free enterprise, that professional gamblers are people who have to be watched very carefully to make sure that what they are doing is what it seems that they are doing, and that is giving a fair chance to those who enjoy the opportunity of pitting their money against someone else's to see who can win.

Now, I'm therefore very much concerned about the fact that professional gamblers in this province

are given the legal licence to gamble with the general public of Manitoba and the obligation, I believe, of the government and particularly of this Minister, whose salary we are now reviewing, to have proper inspection and to be able to assure all people in Manitoba that they are being protected, that the honesty the legality of these games is in accord with the way it ought to be. And the other one is, to ensure that there are fair odds being offered to people, or that the unfair odds are clearly told them.

For example, I don't like the fact that in the lotteries, people are being promised a million dollars and not told that the odds are strongly against their winning anything.

I think that if you go to Las Vegas where they have legalized gambling, the odds are very clearly posted I believe, that's my recollection, what is the protection being offered to our Manitoba citizens?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To the Member for St. Johns for his benefit, I believe the area of lotteries — this is for your information — starts on Page 3917 of Hansard, and it is my impression that the item-by-item discussion on these things are done when the Minister has his members or his staff with him, and that when we discuss the Minister's Salary, it's on a more general nature, instead of going through the whole Estimate again, item-by-item, and I'm at the guidance of the Committee.

MR. CHERNIACK: I appreciate very much that you have given me the Hansard, which now appears dealing with this. Whilst other members are asking questions in regard to or discussing the Minister's Salary, I will go off into a corner, I will read Hansard, and I will then come back to tell you whether or not I have additional comments or questions to ask in regard to lotteries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You've been helpful to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J.R. (Bud) BOYCE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I just have a few questions, it's with reference to the minister's responsibility for the Liquor Control Commission. I have a letter dated April 26 from one of the booking agencies in the City of Winnipeg, and she raises the point that, as a result of the government's policy vis-a-vis the Liquor Control Commission, there has been a distinct decline in the number of people who are employed in the City of Winnipeg in providing live entertainment in those facilities for which the Liquor Control Commission has some influence. I wonder if the minister can advise us if the government intends to continue this policy through the Liquor Control Commission.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the gentleman, I believe it's Mr. Morris, has written to me with respect to this matter, indicating he'll be following this matter up with a petition which he is organizing. I believe he is not opposing the policy of allowing taped music instead of live bands, but indicates in general a request to consider incentives for hotels to use live music. I have responded to him, Mr. Chairman, and requested him to meet with the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission in a preliminary way, to review this matter and ask the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission to report to me after his meeting with Mr. Morris.

MR. BOYCE: Well, Mr. Chairman, perhaps in trying to understand government's policy relative to this whole area, I can ask the minister a couple of questions. The Liquor Control Commission Act was passed as a total package to do a number of things. One, was to liberalize the liquor laws in the Province of Manitoba, but linked in with that was the position of the government at that time, and continued on up until a few months ago apparently, that for the privilege of purveying alcoholic beverages in Manitoba, the industry was going to be required to meet certain standards, and it was used as an instrument to raise the calibre of the restaurant services in the province, of the inns and hostel and hotel capacity in the province, and to acquire a liquor licence of the various kinds — the cocktail lounge, the beverage rooms, the cabaret licence and the rest, pretty stringent requirements were imposed. But once again, Mr. Chairman, it was as a total package. Now is it the intention of the government to lessen those standards in rather an ad hoc way, because if I could use an example, there's no way for a person who wanted to establish a watering hole that had sawdust on the floor. The Liquor Control Commission controls how many square feet, and how many doors, and how many this and that and the other thing — they're pretty stringent. But yet some people have raised the question that this is but the first of a number of planned reductions of the standards, which have been required in getting a liquor licence in the province, and perhaps the Attorney-General could advise the committee on what the government's intention is. It's very difficult, Mr. Chairman, to get the government to state in succinct terms what their

policy is, but perhaps the Attorney-General could advise us in this regard, just exactly where the government intends to go.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there's no intention to lower the standards that have been referred to by the member.

MR. BOYCE: Well perhaps the minister . . . you know, the government all through the Estimates in the various departments has given the committee this kind of a stonewall answer, when we say, we know, what is the government's policy on this? This is where the people of the province, through their representatives, Mr. Chairman, have the right and the responsibility to inquire of the government what they intend to do as far as policy is concerned. They're specifically asking this committee to approve a salary, and I don't think that that answer is quite good enough. What does the government intend to do in this area? Because here we have evidence before us that they have just on an ad hoc basis, reduced the requirement in the industry that in certain facilities, that live entertainment will be provided, but they have waived that requirement. Are they going to review the whole situation? Are they going to see if there is some need for upgrading the legislation? What is the intention of the government in this regard, Mr. Chairman?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, the member asked a very general question about standards, and I answered in a general way, that no, there is no intention to reduce the standards. With respect to this particular item, in addition to the fact that Manitoba was the only province to require live music rather than taped music, there was a concern, or an important factor in the decision, that with the introduction of taped music I believe, Mr. Chairman, this encourages more dancing in the beverage room, to take which I believe has a position effect on moderation in drinking, rather than people simply sitting down at a table in a beverage room, not getting up or doing anything, just sitting drinking — I think this widens the opportunities to dance, and I think it encourages moderation in drinking.

MR. BOYCE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I will confess that my question is general, but I could go through and ask specifics if the government wants to spend that amount of time in me asking specific questions, such as, is it the government's intention to reduce the square footage capacity? Is it the government's intention to change the requirements as far as washroom facilities is concerned? Is it the government's intention to reduce the requirements as far as carpets on the floor? But that seems rather ludicrous to me, Mr. Chairman. There are some horrendous powers in this Act, which are given to no other group in our society, such as some other arbitrary authority to exercise control over the industry. So, Mr. Chairman, my question was, is it the intention of the government to review the Act in total to see just exactly how it stands as far as an instrument for our society in this day and age, or is it the government's intention to pick pieces at it as they go along?

MR. MERCIER: There's no intention, Mr. Chairman, to reduce any of the requirements that the member's referred to. None of those matters have even been considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I haven't got the Act in front of me. The Minister says that none of the provisions have been considered. Is the Minister advising us that he has had no representation from any group within Manitoba's society who've requested that sections of the Act be changed? I think it's Section 33, some of the powers of the Liquor Control Commission. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I even had trouble with the former government in this regard where they arbitrarily reduced the seating capacity of a number of institution's beer parlors — as they were known in those days — and the Liquor Control Commission sent a notice on a Friday evening that some 18 beer parlors were having their seating capacity reduced by 10 percent for no apparent reason except that the Commission at that time thought it was within their power so to do. So on behalf of these people I even had to petition the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to review that situation. But is the Minister saying that he has had no requests from people in the Province of Manitoba to revise The Liquor Control Commission Act? Is that what he's telling this Committee?

MR. MERCIER: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, I was looking at another Item. Could I beg the indulgence of the member to repeat the question?

MR. BOYCE: Oh, the Minister is so disinterested that he didn't even pay me the courtesy of listening to my question. I have absolutely no questions for this stone wall Minister, Mr. Chairman. The people

of the Province of Manitoba will judge this government when they get the chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister what policy directions he has given to the Liquor Control Commission since assuming office?

MR. MERCIER: In what area?

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, in any area that the Liquor Control Commission has jurisdiction.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, if the member has a particular area he wishes to discuss, I suggest he raise it. I'm not going to repeat the history of 18 months.

MR. WALDING: Well, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister has made so many policy statements to the Liquor Control Commission and given them so many instructions that he can't recall what they all are, then perhaps we would have to go one subject at a time. I'd like to ask the Minister what policy direction he has set in the area of the Moderation Program.

MR. MERCIER: An advertising program?

MR. WALDING: The Moderation Program in general, including advertising on the electronic media and I believe in the print media too.

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, with respect to any advertising, that function has been transferred to the Minister of Health and Community Services because it's felt that that's the department that should deal with that particular area as I believe the Federal Government's Department of Health is involved in some moderation advertising. There has been, Mr. Chairman, no real change in this particular area, what we loosely call moderation policies by the Commission.

MR. WALDING: And did the Minister then instruct the Liquor Control Commission that it was to continue its policy of advocating moderation in the consumption of alcoholic beverages?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there has been no specific instructions given. Really business has just been carried on as usual.

MR. WALDING: Then I'd like to ask the Minister about the repricing of low calorie and low alcohol beers. I believe it was part of the previous government's moderation program as carried out by the Liquor Control Commission that in order to encourage the consumption of these low alcohol and low calorie beers, that they were priced lower by — I cannot remember the amount — than 5 percent beers. There has been a change, I recall, recently and announced by the Minister. Now, that would seem to go against any policy of encouraging moderation in that area and I would like to ask the Minister whether this was his policy directive to the Commission, to price those beers the same.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, this was considered by the Commission and was their recommendation and was implemented by the Commission. Basically the position of the Commission was that a lower price was justified in the initial years of the introduction of the lower alcohol content beer in order to encourage its use, but its having been on the market for as long as it has the subsidization of the price was no longer deemed to be necessary and was therefore discontinued.

MR. WALDING: Did the Commission make the conscious decision that this was contrary to its policy and the government stated policy of moderation? And did the Minister simply concur with it or was it his decision that the moderation program should be diverged from on this particular topic?

MR. MERCIER: Well Mr. Chairman, I did not object to it. I've asked the Commission to monitor sales and advise me as to the percentage of the market that that brand of beer maintains.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I have a news release from the Liquor Control Commission where it says over the signature of the Chairman, and when I can find it — it says, "The commission would note that the present beer price system sets a higher price for beer sold to licensees for on-premise sale than on beer sold to licensees for off-premise sale.

Now, this has created a situation where the on-premise consumer subsidizes the off-premise consumer. The general text of the news release is that these prices would be equalized. Now, I would have considered that if the off-premise consumer was being subsidized, that this would tend to encourage the drinking of beer at home rather than going out to a hotel or some other drinking establishment. It would, possibly, save on drunkenness in the streets, or the hazards of drunken drivers returning from such establishments. It could well be that this difference in the price had to do with the previous moderation program. I'd like to ask the minister now whether he feels that it is proper, in view of his stated support for the moderation program, that this change would tend to encourage more people to go out to drink beer than would drink beer at home?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman' one of the other concerns the Commission had with respect to that difference in prices was that licensees were required to maintain separate inventories for the sale of beer off-premise and on-premise, and there was a continuing concern by the Commission that there might be an inclination at various points in time to transfer inventory from the off-premise area to the on-premise area, and it's very difficult to control by the Commission, and that was one of the other significant reasons for establishing one price.

The facts are, with respect to the sale of off-premise beer as compared to on-premise beer, that the sales off-premise — a trend has been towards an increase in the sales of off-premise as compared to on-premise beer, and that is continuing, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: So what the minister is telling the committee, Mr. Chairman, is that he is prepared to see a further relaxation of the moderation program, and the encouragement of people to go out and drink beer merely for the convenience of hotel owners who are having some difficulty in keeping two separate inventories of beer on the premises.

MR. MERCIER: No, Mr. Chairman. What I am, in fact, saying is that the trend indeed, which is still continuing, is an increase in the sale of off-premise beer as compared to on-premise beer.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, on a slightly different topic — it still has to do with the sale of beer. The Commission recently increased the sale of beer at the same time that it accepted a smaller percentage mark-up, so that beer drinkers in this province would, at the same time, spend more for the beer that they were purchasing for their own consumption at the same time that the General Revenues were being reduced, in a percentage-wise because of reduced revenue to the province. So that the people, the taxpayers of this province, and the beer drinkers of this province were being hit twice; once, in reduced revenues to the Crown, and, once, in increased beer prices; yet at the same time, the revenues to the breweries will be increased by an amount that I saw estimated at something like \$3 million per annum. Does the minister have any comment on that?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that the Member for St. Vital can have it both ways. The purpose of reducing the Commission's mark-up in a minor way was to maintain a lower price for beer; if the mark-up had been maintained, the price would have been over \$5.00 for a case of 12 beer. I think my concern, and the concern of the Commission was to keep the increase as low as possible.

MR. WALDING: Can the minister confirm the figure of \$3 million in increased revenues to the breweries in Manitoba because of that price increase?

MR. MERCIER: \$3 million to the breweries? I'd have to accept that question as notice, Mr. Chairman, and check the detailed figures.

MR. WALDING: If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, I would just wonder in passing how that squares with the government's Restraint Program, and the fact that the education system, the medical system, and the hospital system are being squeezed by very small increases in the revenues that they are receiving this year; yet at the same time, the breweries are receiving a pretty handsome gift from the province?

I'd like to move on if I can, Mr. Chairman, to ask the minister whether he's given any policy direction to the Liquor Control Commission in the area of its Inspection Staff?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have. We have a continuing concern and in meetings with the city, the city has expressed a concern about greater number of inspections, particularly in the core area of the City of Winnipeg. We have, as a result of our meetings with the city, requested a Commission. They did meet with city representatives and the Police Department, and one area of priority we have established is the core area of the city and inspections in that area.

A second area, and a major area of concern, as expressed in, I believe the RCMP Annual Report, are abuse of alcohol under occasional permits and we are attempting to treat that area as a priority area, too.

MR. WALDING: Is the minister telling the committee then that he sees a need for increased surveillance and inspection in this whole area of liquor consumption in the province?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I've indicated two areas where concerns have been expressed about more investigations taking place. I've agreed with both of those, and those have been established as two priority areas.

MR. WALDING: I'm rather pleased to hear that the minister does consider it a priority and that he is suggesting to us that something is going to be done about it. I'd like to ask him if he can confirm the figures given in the report of the Liquor Control Commission that in the year ending March, 1978, there were 21 Inspectors, and in the year before there were 26 Inspectors; and that in the report of the Chief Inspector which ends December 31st, 1978, the Chief Inspector says that he has only 16 members in his department.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there was a period of time when, through some resignations, the complement was reduced — the complement of Inspectors is now back at its full complement.

MR. WALDING: I don't have that . . .

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'll undertake to supply the member with that specific figure.

MR. WALDING: Is the minister suggesting to us that that time there were some resignations extended for approximately 18 months?

MR. MERCIER: No, Mr. Chairman. I believe it was, in general, for a much shorter period of time — it may have been 2, 3 or 4 months where there was some ups and downs in the complement of Inspectors as a result of some resignations and transfers and delays in hiring.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pass — The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Still on this matter of Inspectors, Mr. Chairman, the Annual Report gives an amount of \$419.00 in Salaries for the 1976-77 year; and a reduced amount of \$394.00 for the 1977-78 year; and personnel in the Chief Inspector's Department as of March, 31st, 1978 as 21, which was down some 5 Inspectors from the previous year, and that goes back 18 months ago; yet, from the Chief Inspector's Annual Report, it would seem to be down a further 5 members as of the end of 1978, so that indicates a drop of 5 Inspectors in one year, and a further 5 Inspectors in 6 months.

Now, I'm asking the minister for an explanation of these figures given his concern for enforcement and his concern that he has stated that there may be breaches and problems with the Act. Why has there been a steady decline, it would appear, for some 18 months?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that that has not occurred over a period of 18 months. I can only answer at this stage in a general way by indicating that over a fairly short period of time there was a reduction in personnel through transfers, through some resignations, retirements, but that the complement is now up, and has been for some time, up to its full number; and that I have indicated to the Chairman of the Commission my concern for the two priority areas of inspections, as well as their other duties, that it is recognized as a priority by the Commission and treated accordingly. And there's no intention, whatsoever, to reduce the complement of Inspectors.

MR. WALDING: The minister mentions the words "a full complement" without being able to tell us what that full complement was. I recognize his problem in not knowing off the top of his head what all of these figures are, but since the total personnel in that department as of March 31st, 1978 was 21 and March 31st a year before was 26, we do have to ask what is the full complement for that department; and ask, you know, shouldn't it be, if anything, larger than it has been for the previous year, or the previous two years, since the amount of liquor being sold and consumed is more or there might even be a slight increase in the population of the province over the previous year.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I have to confirm it, but I believe the figure is 27. I ask the member's indulgence; I'll have to check that and confirm it.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate it if the minister would, at some time in the future, give me the full figure for that.

I'd like to ask the minister now about the — perhaps, leading from that, the number of disciplinary hearings, suspensions, and warning letters, et cetera. There seems to be somewhat of a decrease in there, a decrease at the same time that there is a decrease in the number of Inspectors. Now, I don't know whether this is a chicken-and-egg effect, but I'd like to ask the minister whether the number of hearings and suspensions, et cetera were the cause of less Inspectors being needed, or whether the less Inspectors caused a reduction in the number of hearings.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the advice that I have received from the Chairman of the Commission is that the reduction in the number of suspensions or letters or whatever was not the result of any short-term decrease that occurred in the number of Inspectors; that in fact, a reduction in the number of suspensions, et cetera started in and around 1977, and the Chairman's view is that there had been, during that period of time, better compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Commission.

MR. WALDING: Just to give the committee an idea of what I'm talking about, Mr. Chairman, I've extracted some figures from the Annual Report which would indicate that for the year ending March 31st, 1977, there were 88 disciplinary hearings; the following year, for which the minister had responsibility for some six months or so, that figure was 33; for 1977, there were 54 suspensions; for 1978, there were 17 suspensions; for 1977, 151 warning letters went out; 1978 — 86; caution letters in 1977, there were 19; in 1978, there was 16.

I'm asking the minister whether the industry was twice as law abiding, or somehow had grown a halo, or whether this was a decision either by the minister or by the Commission to, perhaps, go easy on the liquor industry in this province, and not treat them with the same severity that was in effect for the year before?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the advice that I've received from the Commission is that although during that short period of time there was a decrease in the number of Inspectors, that in fact, there was not any significant reduction in the actual number of inspections.

MR. WALDING: Is the minister then indicating to us that the Commission worked its Inspectors twice as hard during that time, or perhaps they put in a lot of overtime?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that's the advice that I received from the Commission. I don't know what else I can say than to indicate that there is no significant decrease in the number of inspections; that's the advice I received from the Commission after enquiring about this matter, after the statistics became available; there were certainly no instructions, as the Member for St. Vital has indicated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The hour being 12.30 p.m., I'm interrupting proceedings of the committee. It is my understanding that the members will gather in the House for His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to give Royal Assent and after that, committee will re-convene here.

SUPPLY — LABOUR AND MANPOWER

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members attention to Page 59 of the Main Estimates, Labour and Manpower, Resolution No. 77, 1. General

Item (c) Women's Bureau, (1) Salaries—pass; The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. We were on this item last night when we had the sad news about Mayor Steen and decided at that juncture to adjourn out of respect and previous to that we had asked the Minister a number of questions as to the activities of the Women's Bureau over the three previous years, and the Minister undertook to gather and collate that information and report back to us. My question to the Minister then, is he able to report on any of the questions that he took as notice last evening?

MR. MacMASTER: I have some of the information, Mr. Chairman, but I should advise that I don't think it's appropriate to go back three years. I'm prepared to go back to last year to compare last year with this year.

I had mentioned in my review, and here's a general statement in relationship to a study that took place last year then. I mentioned in my review of the Women's activities that the group counselling session called, "Choices and Changes" was a regular feature. The 1978 study related to this program and that's the study that we mentioned last year.

As stated in the Department's Annual Report, the study concluded that the sessions had in fact been helpful to the participants and that there have been considerable personnel and career impact on the participants.

Recommendations concerning length of program, breaks in the program for personal evaluation, presentation of information and use of some material for short sessions are being reviewed and taken into account in planning for future courses. That's one item, I have some others here.

There were two studies made in 1978 — these are interdepartmental but I am trying to give as much to the member as I can. One related to the evaluation of group counselling and that's the one I just commented on, and the other was a career selector update. Now this is a kit that is given out and needed updating, so they had an extensive review of it to see that the materials contained within were really fulfilling the job, and consequently there's been some changes in this year's kit that's being provided. And I have some more here.

In 1978 there was 454 individual counsellings. Now the only number I can give the Member for Churchill is what we project this year, and they project this year approximately 525. If we can be at liberty to project down the road, because of the increased publicity moneys that are available this year, and I believe it's \$5,100 this year and it was \$1,100 last year, we expect that counselling if we were to look into 1980, to naturally . . . from the additional advertising into further counselling in 1980.

Group counselling in 1978 — there were four sessions with approximately 100 participants, and in 1979 one has already been held and we are at least projecting two more of those group sessioning courses.

The member mentions — I don't know if he mentioned seminars or conferences but it's along the same line of questioning. In 1978 there was one held in Brandon and this year we are projecting four and we have them outlined: two for the Civil Service Commission, one for women in management, and one for private social agencies. I have a little bit more here.

Requests for information in 1978 was as in the Report, 1,150. To date is the best I can give from January to March 31st, which is the first quarter, was 395.

1978 — I've even gone farther I think than was requested but will give it all here that I've got. 1978, telephone enquiries, approximately 12,000. Again the first quarter of this year 1979, there's 2,835. I think that's basically what was requested, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. That basically is what we had requested. I'd also asked the Minister to table any studies he felt comfortably tabling that have arisen out of the work of the Women's Bureau, and would hope that he would take the opportunity to do that when they're xeroxed or when he has made the decision as to what can be released and what cannot be released.

Last evening just previous to the adjournment, we were talking about postings and I wanted to comment on that for a moment because the Minister is absolutely correct in taking under consideration the wording of postings, not only for women in the workforce but other groups that have been disadvantaged socially or economically over the ages, who have had the avenues opened to them or have had, excuse me, avenues closed to them that were open to other persons. And postings, many times, scare people off who have not been a part of the workforce. They scare people off who don't understand the mechanisms involved and it's just a simple matter of wording. You don't really have to change the intent. You don't really have to change the qualifications or the requirements but you have to make the wording more approachable to people who have been out of the workforce and may be somewhat hesitant, hesitant about their own abilities and hesitant

about the requirements of the job. So you have to encourage them to come into the workforce and that's what I think that we have to do with most disadvantaged groups, to give them the opportunity to participate fully in the society in which they live, is encourage them to become a part of the mainstream. And that has its own rewards. It has its own rewards down the road and I am certain I don't have to tell the Minister of what some of those rewards are.

So I am pleased to see that he is taking under advisement the problem of the wording of bulletins and pleased to see that he has indicated that some changes may be made because I think they are necessary and it's a relatively new field. It's a relatively new area. So the Minister can be in the forefront of that and that's what I want to see this province as — in the forefront of changes that benefit society as a whole. So I am very pleased to hear that that is happening.

I'm also pleased, and the Minister can correct me if I have interpreted his remarks incorrectly, but I am also pleased to hear that the review of the activities of the Women's Bureau which was undertaken in 1978 have been supportive generally of the activities of the Women's Bureau over the past number of years, and that it has been an endorsement of the work and the activities that that Bureau is doing and that is good news to those of us on this side who have invested quite a bit of time and effort into making programs of this sort work.

The Minister last night said that the advertising would be \$5,100 this year, budgeted \$5,100, which is a substantial increase. I would ask him what advertising has already taken place, because I do not recall having seen any advertising for the Women's Bureau in recent months. So, what advertising has taken place and a brief schedule of what sort of advertising will be happening? Are we talking about newspaper, radio, TV ads, and when we can expect them to come about?

MR. MacMASTER: The first document, and I don't know whether it's a document or a poster that's being planned right now, is for the buses in the city of Winnipeg. That's the first major project that's under way right now, and we expect them through negotiations— I guess that's the word — to be in place late summer or early fall.

MR. COWAN: Yes, then I would just bring a point to the Minister's attention. He said that they had expected increased activity due to the advertising, increased activity during 1979, and yet we don't see this advertising hitting the streets till late summer or late fall. My question to the Minister is, why the delay? What is causing what would seem to be a rather long wait? If the posters have already been drawn up and the posters have been developed. And what other forms of advertising — is the \$5,100 going to be spent entirely on bus posters or will there be other forms of advertising, and when would they be hitting the streets, so to speak?

MR. MacMASTER: New posters are being made up, Mr. Chairman. That's the answer to the first question. Continued speaking engagements with the exhibits that I made reference to last night, at shopping plazas and shopping malls, that type of thing will be taking place. I can't tell the member whether it's next week but in the very immediate future. It's the posters that they're endeavouring to get up with the proper type wording and the proper attractiveness, that they want comprised within them. That's what is going to be going up.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I guess as all members in this House have at one time or another, I've done a fair amount of public relations work for my own campaign, for other campaigns, for the money, and I'm certain that most members have shared that experience, and I don't recall it taking all that long to commission, put together and to put in place posters, and it would lead us again to question the Minister as to specifically why will those posters not be in place until late summer or early fall which is halfway or three-quarters of the way through the year in which that budget is going to be spent?

While the Minister is preparing that answer perhaps he can indicate to us what other forms of advertising outside of exhibits, specifically, rather than ask a general question, will there be radio, TV, or newspaper printed media advertising emanating from the Women's Bureau this year?

MR. MacMASTER: The Women's Bureau has established that the largest number of women that they would be attracting or that would possibly be interested are that group that are staying at home and they feel that this staying at home bit will carry on during the course of the summer and it will be early fall, and I suspect that this is an established pattern, that they have in fact established that it's in early fall when the people get out and start looking for employment or become interested in employment, and I can only surmise that the women's organizations have established this as a fact, so they want them ready to go at that particular time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: The Minister speaks of women's organizations. Could he be more specific? Is he talking about the Women's Bureau?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes.

MR. COWAN: Okay. Then I would ask the Minister to revert back to a matter of brief discussion last evening that I don't believe we ' got satisfactory answers from, and that is: why was there total silence from the Women's Bureau when we had the forced sterilization of women workers at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting?

MR. MacMASTER: That was answered last night, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: I beg to differ, but that matter will clear itself up in time, I am certain, Mr. Chairperson. The Minister also mentioned that when women came into the work force at INCO, there were numerous changes that were made, that partitions were moved and there were washroom facilities that were changed about, and we all have undergone those sort of physical changes that have occurred when women enter a work force where they haven't previously been employed. I would ask the Minister if he can advise us as to how many women are working underground, in the Province of Manitoba, doing the actual work of miners? Because in my employment, which was a number of years ago at Sherritt-Gordon Mines Limited, I know they were making those sort of preparations at that time for women to be employed as miners, and yet to this date — and my information may not be as recent as it should be — but to this date I know of no women miners that are employed underground in the Province of Manitoba. So perhaps the Minister can update us on that and inform us if there are any presently working underground.

MR. MacMASTER: I would have no idea at this particular moment, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Does the Chairman wish to make an announcement, or . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not yet. I'll wait till they're seated, to the honourable member.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister, dealing with the promotional budget that he is speaking of, the Minister has really only said that there is a poster campaign contemplated at the present time and as the Member for Churchill has got the information that it is public transit displays, shopping mall type displays, and seminars, and since the Minister has also said that this is aimed at women who are mainly at home, I would have thought if that was the case, then perhaps there should be some radio and television promotional money budgeted. Because if you want to reach the people practically en masse, you have to use the media that today seems to be the one that people watch the most, and that is the television. The Minister hasn't so far said that within this promotional budget that there is any money for television advertising or telling of what the Women's Bureau does; Radio, which is I guess the second media with coverage contacting the general public — and women in particular — and then the newspapers. All we've heard from the Minister so far is a poster campaign and a seminar.

Is there any money within this promotional budget or advertising budget for the other types of promotion that can be taken, especially television, which I think is one and of course the producing of tapes in themselves and the costs of that are not that prohibitive? Maybe the television time is but perhaps — as I'll make a pitch later on when we get to Worker's Compensation that I think the Minister should explore — the possibility of approaching the television media in particular for some free time that they do have sometimes at the end of a program where they can get maybe a minute or two blurb rather than watching water bubbling down a nice little brook — which is quite nice, I mean, I don't knock that. But I think it would be a public service from the media and I would suggest to the Minister and through him to his Director that they explore that possibility with the media.

I would also like to ask the Minister if the Bureau has done a study or is contemplating a study on average wages in comparison for jobs of equal value or the same jobs; what the average wage — if they are of the feminine gender — what they are receiving in comparison to their male counterparts? And especially, I would think that such a study should be done within Government Services itself, because as I said last night, if we expect the private sector to do this then we as

employers in the Public Service should be setting an example.

I know that it was a question that always came up when we were in government. I don't know if there has been a recent study and how far have we progressed with upgrading of jobs as I said, of equal value or the same type of jobs. I know one in particular that used to be dear to the heart of the former member for Portage, Gordon Johnson. He used to raise the issue of people working at the homes in Portage, were by job classifications or descriptions of jobs but actually they were the same types of jobs where the female counterparts were receiving less money. I think some attempts were made to make sure that these types of positions, especially when it was within the Government Service, that we set that example and try to equal the opportunities for women.

And has there been also a study by the Bureau of the promotion of women being given equal opportunity for promotion within the Government Service? It is all well and good to say that we upgrade the job classifications but we don't see too many at the present time, senior positions being filled by women in the Government Services. I don't know if we even have a woman Deputy Minister within the department. If we have, then I would be prepared to be enlightened by the Minister.

But I would ask the Minister if he could answer those questions and if they haven't done a study, if they're contemplating that study, it would be of interest to the members on this side of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I would direct the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my right, where we have a group of Grade 5 students from the Centennial School at Lac du Bonnet. This group is under the direction of Mr. David Penner, and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

I would ask the members to join me in welcoming this group to the Legislature this morning.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, there is a project being undertaken by the Women's Bureau this summer in relationship to employment of women and the history of that. The Provincial Council on Women have informed me that they have a wide variety of information research material in relationship to Equal Opportunity, and basically generally speaking, the things that the Member for Logan has mentioned. I know of at least one meeting and I think there is a second one being set up in the near future to review the kind of things that they have and some of their concerns, which I think relate directly and quite possibly they have that information. I have good reason to believe they have a fair amount of information in regards to those particular items and I'll be pleased to meet with them and will be meeting with them in the very near future on those particular items.

MR. JENKINS: Then it's my understanding then that there hasn't been an actual survey done by the Women's Bureau as such. Has there been anything within the Government Services itself, where I agree that it would be much easier for the Women's Bureau to make a study of comparative wages for comparative jobs, or jobs of equal value or even the same type of jobs, to see if we have progressed anywhere in the past few years since the inception of the Women's Bureau in itself? It would be interesting to note, and interesting information not only for members of this House but I think for the interested agencies outside to know how far we have progressed within the Government Services. Is there equal opportunity being given to women for promotion; for promotion to the highest posts that can be held within the Civil Service? As I said, I don't know at the present time that we have a woman Deputy Minister. I'm looking forward to the day that we do because I think that there are people within the Civil Service that have those capabilities who could perhaps reach that rank within the Civil Service.

The Minister who didn't reply as far as his promotional budget was concerned with regard to the television media, the radio and newspaper, and I would look forward to the Minister giving me a breakdown if they have that type of a promotional advertising campaign in place or getting it into place and how soon could we expect to see that on the T.V., radio and press.

MR. MacMASTER: I am informed, Mr. Chairman, that the selection or the posters that go up have a far greater impact and a greater drawing effect than either radio or T.V., but I would like to assure the member and this is the reason : I have been informed that that's where the emphasis is put because studies have indicated that that has the greatest impact. I would like to inform the member that he makes a very valid suggestion in relationship to free spots on T.V. and we will certainly be following up on that.

I should also inform the member that there is an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department

of Tourism and the lady that is the Director of the Women's Bureau, Shirley Bradshaw, has very similar status because she reports directly through to myself, and does not go through the bureaucratic system of Directors, ADMs, Assistant Deputy Ministers and up to Deputy Ministers, but does in fact report directly to myself.

MR. JENKINS: I thank the Honourable Minister for that information. We've already I guess started our study, because I have elicited from the Minister that we have an Assistant Deputy Minister and we have in the lady Mrs. Shirley Bradshaw, who heads the Bureau that we're now discussing, reports directly to the Minister and that indeed is heartening news.

I would, however, suggest to the Minister that I don't discount the value of a poster program, but I know that the media that seems to have the greatest appeal today and has the greatest viewing audience, is certainly not posters and seminars; it is the television media. And I think that the department, if it is putting the majority of its eggs in one basket on a promotional feature of poster and seminars, you are going to reach, sure a certain amount of people, but you're not going to reach the amount of people that you're going to be able to reach by the use of the prime media; and I think it's a good example today that all we have to do is turn on the television and are certainly being bombarded. If anyone was not aware that there is a federal election under way today then he must be blind, stone deaf and incapable of those two organ senses because we get this message from the political parties, and a substantial amount of their promotional and advertising campaign — I was going to say propaganda but I won't — is aimed at the number one, I would say the television, that media, followed perhaps by radio and latterly by the newspapers. I know we have posters too, we have lots of those around. But I think the impact that is coming forth, and it will be interesting to note who has the slickest campaign and who can sell themselves best, and I guess we will have to wait with anticipation until May 22nd.

But I do believe that the department should be looking seriously, and I'm not speaking on partisan grounds now, I am looking at the department as doing a service to the women who are in the work force, who are anticipating going into the work force, and I'm not knocking the poster and seminar promotion, but if you want to reach the people, even to tell them about where seminars are going to be held, you're going to have to use ancillary types of promotions to get people aware that you have a display, say out at Polo Park Shopping Mall, with people there ready to answer questions — perhaps at Unicity Mall or the one on McPhillips, Garden City. I know that a lot of people go there, but many of the people that you may be wanting to reach may not be in those malls at the time that you're set up for that type of promotion.

So I would suggest to the minister that perhaps he takes a second look at the other types of advertising, and again, I'm glad that he will follow up the suggestion. I keep making it, it's an annual suggestion I make to the Minister of Labour, I make it to two or three of the ministers, that they do use this time, the Fourth Estate — I guess we include the television and radio media in that. I'm sure if the right approach was made to them that they could make some time available, especially for projects that are of public interest and public welfare as a whole.

I would like to also ask the minister about the WestMan Region of the province, which we had a part-time co-ordinator working out of Brandon. Is this going to remain a part-time one or are you going have a full-time program co-ordinator in that area?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass; (2)—pass — the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, that will be a part-time basis on this year. We will evaluate the requirements for future consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. I understand that in the past, the Women's Bureau has had summer students come in and help them do special studies, and do special activities. My question to the minister is if there is an intention this year to continue that policy of having summer students come in and supplement the activities of the Women's Bureau, and if so how many are they planning to have come in and for what purpose?

MR. MacMASTER: There'll be one coming in to involve themselves in that study that'll be taking place this summer on employment opportunities and the history of it for women in the province.

MR. COWAN: I also understand from previous Estimates that there were two new careerists that were assigned to this department, and I'm not certain whether that assignment ended this year

or the previous year, but I would ask the minister if he could update us on the activities of those new careerists, if they are still in the department and if not, how they were terminated, in what manner and where they obtained employment otherwise in the system as per the original contracts of that program?

MR. MacMASTER: I understand that one resigned and the other was terminated April 20th and is involved in a training program with a — I don't know the agency, but there is another agency that she's being upgraded in right now in a training program, and I don't know the name of the agency.

MR. COWAN: For my own edification, and the edification of my colleagues, Mr. Chairperson, would those new careerists have been included in the Estimates for previous years or would they have been an outside item and not show up in the Estimates?

MR. MacMASTER: Not in the Women's Bureau's Estimates, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: So, in effect, while the minister is telling us that he has one more fully funded position, the fact that there were two summer students last year, and there'll be only one summer student this year; and the fact that there were two new careerists, and they are no longer with the department would indicate that the department, or the Women's Bureau, is actually operating at a reduced staff. Is that a correct interpretation of the situation?

MR. MacMASTER: I understand that there was one summer student last year, and there's one this year, and the one resignation took place early last year.

MR. COWAN: So we still though have a reduction in the staff with the loss of the one new careerist. In other words, we had a 1 and some percentage staff man year with new careerists, not knowing when the person resigned early in the year, but assuming that she had, I assume it was a she, that she had operated for part of the year, we actually do have a net reduction in the number of people servicing the Women's Bureau.

MR. MacMASTER: I don't wish to get in on a mathematical debate, but if there were five last year plus a training new careerist, I don't really believe that compares with six full-time people this particular year. I think it's an increase this year.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Well, that will remain a matter of interpretation, and not wishing to become involved in that sort of a wrangle, I'll proceed but I would like the record to be clear that I, myself, do interpret it as a loss in staff and capabilities.

It is my understanding that the department operated on a policy of flex-time for its own employees. In other words, that its own employees could manipulate their own hours, so as to bank hours, so as to come in later, leave later, or come in earlier, leave earlier, and to build up overtime for holidays during the summer, and special event holidays. Can the minister inform me as to whether that is still the standard policy within the Women's Bureau?

MR. MacMASTER: There's still flexible hours, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Thank you. And then to clarify the matter, the employees who are banking hours now will be enabled to use those hours to extend their holiday periods?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass; the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: I'm sorry, did the minister indicate that . . . I was looking at my notes. Did the minister indicate that was in fact the case?

MR. MacMASTER: The time that they have banked and earned they are certainly entitled to take, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Now we know that the time that they have banked and earned they are entitled to take. Is that policy continuing? Will they be able to continue to bank time and take it on holidays?

MR. MacMASTER: If it's overtime, Mr. Chairman, I would assume that there is always the option

for the running of the department to either give time in lieu or pay it, or if a third arrangement or a fourth arrangement or a fifth arrangement is satisfied practically to the operation of the department, then I think it would be acceptable.

MR. COWAN: Yes. I'm not certain that I heard the minister correctly. He's saying that it's the department's responsibility to determine whether they will give time in lieu of overtime, or pay overtime rates. Did I interpret what he said correctly, or is it a mutual decision that has been made and will continue to be made between the employees and the employer?

MR. MacMASTER: I think that under the circumstances of the particular department and their wide variety of hours, that there has to be flexibility in relationship to the operation of that department.

MR. COWAN: Yes, but the question to the minister, Mr. Chairperson, is, who decides what sort of compensation arrangements will be made for employees of the department who have to work overtime? Who decides whether they will be given time off in lieu of time worked or if they will be given their overtime rates?

MR. MacMASTER: I think they're very capable of working that out themselves. I'd rather not have to make a stiff and hard rule in relationship to the operation of that particular department.

MR. COWAN: Just so we understand that that is being worked out between the employees and the employer on to use a favourite word of the minister, on a co-operative basis — is that the correct assumption that it's not being imposed by either one party? Very good. I'd ask the minister then, who is responsible primarily for the speaking engagements, is it the Director, or does the entire staff go out on speaking engagements?

MR. MacMASTER: That would depend on the nature of the speaking engagement, and that's worked out by the Director of the Division.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. Last night we got briefly into the moneys paid the Director under this item, and the minister's answer to our questions concerning the extreme differential between moneys paid the previous director and this Director is 20 years Civil Service work history, that the Director that is now occupying the post has. Perhaps the minister can use more specific and detail some of the qualifications for being the head of the department, or the Director of the Women's Bureau, that this particular person has brought into that office with her.

MR. MacMASTER: It would take quite a period of time to put together a history sheet on the qualifications of the particular person in question, the majority of the time spent within the Civil Service Commission in a variety of positions, and having a variety of qualities, qualifications, years of experience in a large number of areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, perhaps to narrow down the list, can he be specific as to what activities would be directly related to her activities as director. In other words, what work history has she accomplished that would tend to lead itself into a position as Director of the Women's Bureau, around women's activities? I'm perhaps not phrasing it properly. What experience has she had in the field of women's employment activities or women's support services activities that would tend to lead her into this position?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Annual Report, dealing with the Women's Bureau, it states on Page 17: "In co-operation with other government departments, programs were developed to aid women receiving social assistance to become more economically independent, and considerable emphasis was placed on assisting women to explore a variety of jobs traditionally performed by men, and in gaining access to appropriate training."

I wonder if the Minister could elaborate on the program and how successful has it been. I imagine these are single parent women — how many have we been able to . . . what assistance does the department give them in upgrading their job skills, and how successful have we been in placing people in employment to make them financially independent of the state assistance? I think most

people would like to see people be able to become financially independent, to become not dependent upon the state. I think it's a good program. I just want to know what success rate we have had with it and what assistance has been given to people who wish to take advantage of this program? Could the Minister give us a brief outline of how successful the program has been and how many successful applicants, and how many we've been able to place in employment?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, in this year alone as of late February, there were six courses that were held mainly in the Winnipeg and immediate area. They involved 65 women, and of the 65, 15 have been able to go off Mothers' Allowances; 10 found employment; 14 were seeking employment; and 19 were put on training programs.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister elaborate? How does this compare say with the year 1977 — how many people did we have in that type — is this a new program, or is it a program that's been in place before? Are we being more successful as we gain experience with this program and been able to upgrade their skills, and place these people into the work force?

MR. MacMASTER: We do not have the data going back that far. These are courses that were run recently, which we have identified and will, hopefully, as we move down the road, keep following up and seeing what assessment of the program can take place to, I suppose, satisfy ourselves to that very question, just how successful it is being.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, also still dealing with the report, it states on Page 16: "One result of this increased female labour force activity, was a steady demand for both individual and group counselling from women wishing to re-enter the work force or upgrade their skills. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of group counselling sessions, a study was undertaken during the past year. The study concluded that the sessions had, in fact, helped participants and that there had been considerable personal and career impact on the participants."

Other than counselling for those wishing to re-enter the work force, were there any courses set up where they could upgrade their skills or bring their skills up to a marketable value in the work force, and how successful has this program been? How many people are we talking about, and how many have we been able to place in the work force? I imagine we should be able to have something, since there was a study undertaken, perhaps maybe it's not completed yet, but if the Minister could give us what the evaluation of just how valuable this program has been, whether it has been a success or a moderate success, whether it's been a failure, or what? If the Minister could elaborate on that, perhaps we could . . .

MR. MacMASTER: I'll get that for the member, Mr. Chairman.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, going back to Page 17, where the Minister says that really this is the first year that they are really getting any data together on those on social assistance. Could the Minister elaborate on the last sentence where it says considerable emphasis was placed on assisting women to explore a variety of jobs traditionally performed by men, and in gaining access to the appropriate training? What types of jobs is the Minister, in his report, talking about? He said, I believe, there was course assistance for the people — a certain number, I didn't get all the figures that the Minister gave me — where are these programs being conducted, are they at the community college level, or at the vocational schools that we have here in the city and the province? So if the Minister could give us a bit of information on that, how many . . . I think the Minister said 15 at the present time are on course, is that correct? —(Interjection)— 19. Are any of these courses done in conjunction with the federal Manpower Training Programs that are set up, or are they strictly of a provincial nature? If the Minister could give us a bit of information on that, it would be appreciated.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, that is part of the counselling process, Mr. Chairman, attempting to help the women get into the workplace, and attempting to direct them to appropriate training programs and courses, some federal, some provincial, some through Manpower, some through the community colleges. It's a wide variety of counselling that takes place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour being 12:30, I am now leaving the Chair and will return at 2:30 p.m. Committee rise.