

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 20 April, 1982

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Phil Eyer (River East): Committee will come to order. We are on Item 2.(b)(2) Industrial Development.

The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to follow up on some of the projects that were moving along fairly well. The Prime Laboratories with their legume inoculants had been approved by FEARO, a DREE offer had been accepted, and they had planned to locate in the Town of Selkirk. They changed their minds for different reasons and the search was under way for them to locate in another place in Manitoba.

This was one that the Federal Government was exceptionally interested in to have come to Canada; they have published a book on it. It was because of a speech made by the previous Minister of Agriculture that got these people enthusiastic to come to Manitoba. I just wonder where that stands at the present time because it is a very important one for Manitoba and its research and development that we would be looking for with our agricultural industry.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister.

HON. MURIEL SMITH (Osborne): Mr. Chairperson, the project referred to by the honourable member has now got the new name of FOR-DAK and it is looking for a suitable building in which to locate, so it's still very much alive as a potential project.

MR. JOHNSTON: The DREE offer has not been withdrawn or anything while they're looking for a place; it's still their intention to come to Manitoba. I mean DREE offers are made to go to a specific location and I would hope that the DREE offer is still available, although they're still searching for a spot to move to.

MRS. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the DREE people have offered an extension to this company in their application. We agreed that it looks like it has potential, they're developing a product which will fix nitrogen in the soil and, as we all know, this is a vital stage in the growth process, so it is still alive.

MR. JOHNSTON: I just have some that DREE offers were approved on that I'd like to ask. Wescott Fashions Ltd., they had their application approved and it's public knowledge; it was in the paper for 1.9 million investment for an estimated additional employment of about 100.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I would like to just delay responding to that. It was in process in the previous year and I can reply a little later as to what

the current status of that application is.

MR. JOHNSTON: The Canadian-Anglo Machinery Company had received a DREE offer with our support assistance from our department to work with DREE to get that from \$1,100,000.00. Have they moved ahead with the custom machinery plant?

MRS. SMITH: Yes. Just to back up, DREE has approved the Wescott Fashion and so they're going ahead.

MR. JOHNSTON: Well, they've approved it and they've accept it and they're going ahead in other words

MRS. SMITH: Yes, both Wescott and Canadian-Anglo Machinery Company have been approved by DREE and are proceeding.

MR. JOHNSTON: Shell Canada Limited, the Minister has announced that they didn't come to Manitoba or didn't continue with their new plant in Brandon. The reasons given were interest rates. As I recall, the interest rates were higher last fall when they were planning to move ahead and they expanded their option on the property in Brandon. I think they increased their money on the option from \$5,000 to \$30,000 and the decision not to come is because of high interest rates. They were well on the road to doing it when the interest rates were higher. I'm sure that everybody worked on that very hard to have it come to Manitoba. I would ask, have they dropped the option on the land in Brandon?

MRS. SMITH: Yes, it's regrettable that we have to report that they have but the reason behind it — (Interjection) — Well, maybe I'll carry on and if he has a comment he can fill in later.

The reason for the dropping of the option is not the simple one of interest rate change or high interest rate. The reason has to do with Shell's situation with regard to their petroleum reserves and they have decided because of the current situation in relation to the whole oil industry that they had to retract somewhat and they have considerably reduced their emphasis on the agri-chemical side of the industry. This is a retrenchment on their part based on their relative role in the overall petroleum industry. So, regrettably the investment that they had hoped to put into Brandon shifted down to — well, not just a low priority — shifted out of the feasible project that their head office was willing to enter in on and the decision was not taken easily or because of any lack of co-operation or enthusiasm on the part of the Manitoba Government.

MR. JOHNSTON: Did the announcement of 3M go to Morden? They did move ahead but did they also keep the option, or purchase the large tract of land that they were originally planning to purchase?

MRS. SMITH: 3M is occupying a 40-acre lot of land

and I understand that was the larger amount that they had initially considered. Is that better, Walter?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D.M. (Doug) GOURLAY (Swan River): Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister whether she's had staff members from the department working on the development of a meat packing industry in Northern Manitoba?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I'd ask the member to elaborate on his question.

MR. GOURLAY: I'm wondering whether the department has any personnel from the Department of Economic Development pursuing the feasibility of establishing a meat packing industry to serve Northern Manitoba?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, there is some study going on of the options. I trust that the proposals by my colleagues on the Beef Stabilization Plan will make such an industry development a more highly probable development. As you know, the purpose of the Beef Stabilization Plan proposed by the government is to promote the total industry and to encourage people in the beef field to keep their cattle through all the stages of development and provide a ready source to any meat packing industry that could develop in the province. So, I would see the probability of such an industry development hinging very greatly on the willingness of farmers to take up the government plan. The plan, of course, at the beef end of it is a voluntary plan and it's based very much on the willingness of farmers to build the total industry, not to just take part in one component of the industry and sell off their animals through middle people to specialists in the finishing end of the industry. We hope by the kind of program that we've proposed that there will be a real incentive for Manitoba farmers to get into all the phases of the beef industry and, in fact, develop something that will add more value here in Manitoba and very much improve the economic situation. The client that is interested in developing the meat packing industry is going to make a DREE application in a few weeks and at this point in time, we're governed by the usual confidentiality requirements around those sorts of applications.

MR. GOURLAY: Well, my reason for asking that question, of course, I guess it was a couple of years ago, there was a North Feeding the North Conference held in The Pas. There's been follow-up meetings as a result of that particular conference. However, just recently the Valley Meat Packers in Swan River, who do a considerable amount of processing at that location and transport meat products into northern communities, had indicated that information brought to them indicated that there was some activity in the development of a meat packing industry at some location in the north. I would suspect it would be at The Pas. I was just wondering just what activity was coming out of the Department of Economic Development with respect to the overall feasibility and whether or

not this was a fact. I appreciate the answer that you have given.

I wonder, a further question to the Minister, whether there's been any recent activity in the Swan River area with respect to the development of a wafer board plant or chip board? I think two or three years ago the Weldwood people indicated an interest in that area and I'm wondering if that has developed any further in the last few months?

MRS. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the department are active in the first project identified, the meat packing industry. They are assisting with feasibility studies and DREE applications in northern areas. I guess that northern conference on food production did open the eyes of many people to the potential that does exist in the north. So often we've thought of the north as having very limited economic development potential and yet what we're finding by greater attention to some of the second-stage industries, if you like, is that, in fact, such an industry can become quite viable in that setting. I hope that we will be able to assist that project to a successful stage where they can take off.

With regard to wafer board, the wafer board industry or plant; because of the general conditions in the construction industry and the market in general in forest-related products, that particular project is in a hold position. I think we're not likely to see a real development there until there's some recovery shown in the forest products industry as a whole.

MR. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering whether the Minister has any discussions with her colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs with respect to the development of the Manitoba Main Street Program whereby expertise from the Department of Economic Development might be able to assist with the Main Street Manitoba Program.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, because the main thrust of that program is a cosmetic-type of change to a municipality or a main street having to do with sidewalks, lighting, seating, changes in the curbs for disabled persons, the program fits much more comfortably into the Municipal Affairs Department. My colleague and I, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, are in regular consultation and if there is any constructive role for us to play you can be assured that we will do so.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has made a statement that I am quite interested in. She has indicated that there are discussions going on with a packinghouse industry, is that a new packinghouse industry that is planning to develop in Manitoba or an expansion of a present packinghouse facilities?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, it is a new one in the northern region.

MR. DOWNEY: One of the further comments that was made by the Minister is that she, as the Minister of Economic Development, is depending very heavily on

her colleague's and her government's newly introduced Beef Program that is going to be the new economic stimulus of the agriculture sector in her words, and I'm taking it as such. Is that what I understand that she feels is going to be a new major thrust in the whole of the packinghouse industry and if so, does she plan to move into the packinghouse industry or support the packinghouse industry in the same way in which her colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, intends to move into the feedlot business, that there would be government participation in packinghouse facilities through the public sector, is that some of her intentions?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, has elaborated in great detail the stages of the Beef Stabilization Plan. The intent of the plan is to develop a strong industry in the Province of Manitoba going from all stages of the cow-calf to the — I keep forgetting the agricultural terms but the fattening — what is it you call it when you keep them from — well, you don't slaughter them first — the finishing through to the slaughter and the packinghouse stage. Up until now, these phases of the industry have been handled by different persons and that has meant that in the exchange or the sale of an animal from one business group to another, that there is a certain profit taken off and that in many cases the most profitable end of the operation and that is the packing end of it, the slaughter and the packinghouse, takes place outside of the province. Now the intent of the new plan is to encourage, not require, but to encourage by virtue of its voluntary membership component, encourage farmers in Manitoba to build the industry from one end to the other. That means they must make a commitment to keep their animals for several years and to market them for slaughter in Manitoba. It means that we must provide some kind of financial incentive to enable farmers to hang onto their animals that long and to carry them to the final stage where they're ready to be slaughtered. The program, as outlined by the Minister of Agriculture, does not have public control or, should we say, it's not intervention, I guess control is the word — it doesn't have that as its goal. It has the goal of facilitating farmers knowing where the financial pressures will come as they build the industry.

In the final analysis, the success of the program will depend on the desire of Manitoba farmers to build that industry. It's our belief that there will be more economic benefit to the total population of Manitoba, and of course, to the individual farmer if they're willing to develop the capacity to take the animals right through the whole cycle. If the willingness is out there, it's not something that can be done by government alone; government can assist and encourage and help people over the tough stages. If there's response in the farming community, then that program will in fact build a strong and viable beef industry in the province. If the will and the desire is not there among the farming community, well, they need not join and that program will not be fully drawn upon but I think I agree with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, that our role as government is to enable, in difficult economic circumstances, the farming community to build this industry. It's a co-operative

effort. We have a role to play and the individual farmers have a role to play.

At the packinghouse end, our role is to enable that to develop in Manitoba, not to get excited about controlling or running this for some sort of ideological reason. I submit, if the honourable members will read carefully the details of the proposed plan, they will see, in fact, that is the design of the program, that is the intent of the program and that is certainly the sense in which the program can be made successful or not, depending on the desire, the voluntary desire and choices of the farmers of Manitoba.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, I am somewhat concerned about the way in which one or two or maybe many of our colleagues have led her down the garden path, because what she has told me in this last few minutes is if a cow-calf producer who is now an individual who is living in any part of Manitoba who would normally produce a calf crop in the spring of the year from his cow herd, and in the fall of year if there was a profit to be taken, that the government is now not advising those particular individuals to take that profit. That they could take their livestock to a sale facility, whether it was the one in Brandon which was unfortunately destroyed by fire, whether it was the one in Ashern, or whether it was the one in Roblin, anywhere in this province where the producer of those calves could take them to that sale facility, the Union Stock Yards in Winnipeg, could take those calves to that facility and put them on sale to be purchased by a feedlot operator in Manitoba, in Saskatchewan, or in Ontario or wherever the highest bidder came from to take those calves and produce a profit for that individual. That is now not in the best interests of the livestock industry, that you're going to give it strength by taking away that profitability at that particular time and tell the producer you shall not, if you're in the program to build a better beef industry, but if you stay in the beef program or enter this beef program that you now feed that animal through even though you don't produce grain and you have to buy all the inputs; that a year from now you can market that animal and it'll be sold, must be sold, if the objective is to sell it directly in Manitoba; that you're going to now force it to be sold and slaughtered in a Manitoba slaughterhouse; that beef in the United States is higher; that the producer cannot sell it to that particular outside market; that if Ontario wants to pay higher money for that beef, or Vancouver, or anywhere else on a live-weight basis, that restrictions will be now placed on that farmer that he has to slaughter that animal in Manitoba because of the economic benefit that we're all supposed to get from this new beef program.

I submit to you, Madam Minister, through the Chairman, that it won't work because the whole Canadian beef market and the pricing mechanism is established in the U.S. and North American continent; that beef flows live and dressed all over wherever the highest price dictates, whether it's a stock calf or whether it's a slaughter animal, then that's where the producers will eventually get that animal to that particular market. It's traditionally worked the best through the beef marketing system that has been established in this country. I submit to you that it will

probably continue that way even though, with all good intentions, you are trying to introduce a government program that will do all the grandiose things that have been tried prior to 1977.

There was a program which had the same kind of principles, to establish feedlot operations, to support the cattle industry in excessively times and when the times got better, they would pay money back to the province, and that the option to buy the cattle were there to have them slaughtered in Manitoba. All those grandiose things that governments, in theory, think can be done, but it just doesn't work. I, again, feel that your interference is going to further muddy the waters as it has done in Saskatchewan and we've certainly seen depressed beef prices some few months ago because of the intervention of the Saskatchewan government. All it does is further distort the natural marketing and the movement of beef in the North American system. When you get producers of a commodity tied into that kind of a program for six years, you're entering them into a program in which they are in a no-win situation.

In fairness to you and your Minister of Agriculture, all we can do is wait until the proof is in the numbers of people that participate. Goodness knows, they need a support program, but they don't need all the additives they get with the one that is being presented by the government today. They need a one-time payment to equalize them with Ontario and Alberta. They don't need a Beef Marketing Commission to direct their beef through — which she would refer to as an orderly marketing system — because as she has indicated, in the rest of the economy of this country that we can't or she can't influence what's happening there. I, again, submit that she can't do it in the beef business because of the overall marketing system in which we live.

I would dearly hope that they would get the idea out of your mind, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, that there is an automatic profit the minute you produce a slaughter animal. There are too many feedlots that have gone out of business in this province to prove otherwise. That has been one of the areas that have had the extreme difficulties as well as the cow-calf producer. I cannot see where the economic development is going to take place through the kind of a program that you're suggesting. I would just suggest that you're going to cause further management decision problems with the beef producers; it's going to cause inequities, particularly when you get to the marketing of cattle that are either questionable for — they could either go to the further finishing in feedlots or they could go to the slaughter house. If a mistake is made once they go to the slaughter house and they grade a "B" or something less than an "A," then you're doing nothing more than costing the taxpayer who is trying to support the industry and the beef producer who is putting a commodity on the market that is not quite finished. They're called two-way cattle; they're cattle that should go to an open market selling system and the cattle buyers, the people who are professionals in their field, make that decision whether they should go for further finishing or to a slaughterhouse. But once those animals have been slaughtered for butcher purposes, there's no recourse. You have a commodity that's both undesirable to the industry,

the consumers, and I think it's an ill-conceived concept that again I have to say I do not believe it will work in its present form.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, the question of this program has been fully debated in the agriculture Estimates. I guess the involvement of Economic Development in this field is that we have certain interests in developing healthier industries — and I say industries — in the Province of Manitoba.

Some of the principles that we observe are that, if you're trying to develop a healthy industry, the more components of it you can include in your province, the more value-added that you can accomplish, the more benefits there are for the people. So, that is why we have an interest in retaining the full cycle of the beef industry here in the province. The farmers can catch that vision of their industry and help it to grow, or it being a voluntary system, they can opt not to and that will be a choice they make, but we feel that our role is to make possible the developing of a healthy and more integrated industry.

Another economic principle we're concerned about is that if we can eliminate an increasing number of middle persons in the industry so that there is less taken out in profit at the different stages of the industry, that we can produce a more economical product for the consumers which is our concern. We're not only trying to maximize profit to the farming community. We're trying to see that a valuable product is produced and available to consumers.

I submit that the approach of the Honourable Member is putting the principle of short-sighted maximizing gain ahead of developing a total industry for the province and that we are making an appeal to the farmers of the province which they have perfect freedom to accept or reject; that there is an opportunity here. There is an opportunity for them as individuals to get a wider and somewhat more complex view of their industry, to add more value here in Manitoba and to ensure more security and eventually more profit for themselves. That is the purpose of the program and as I say if the farmers are of the mind set that whatever has been is okay, that traditional ways of marketing are the best, they are free to make that choice.

I submit that some of the rules of thumb that have governed the beef industry in this province have been that somehow there were cycles, that one could predict the cycle, that one could ask for public support when times were tough and then as one saw the market opening up and the opportunity to make a profit, then one could say government keep out. Now, I submit that we all in Manitoba and certainly in the farming industry have more to gain by looking at the industry in a connected way and that we have more to gain by asking for the kind of public support that just doesn't bail out in difficult times but helps to develop the integrated stages of the industry, so that more value is added, so that the lowest reasonable prices are available to the consumer, that we really can build an industry that will last. I guess it's in opposition to the concept of one-time payments that assist a farmer when in difficulty. We're saying, okay, assistance is available but it's in the form of an incentive to encourage you as a group to build a total industry in Manitoba.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief. I guess the concern that I have is the idea that the Minister has that these middle persons — I would call them middle-men, as I think is a more understood term in the business world, but to satisfy her we can call them middle persons — if she looks at the front page of the Brandon Sun probably of last Thursday, she would see that there were some 20 some people employed at the Brandon Auction Mart that was destroyed by fire. Some 20 some people were earning a living through a farmer-owned co-operative marketing facility. They handled some 120,000 slaughter cattle and feeder cattle last year. The profit for those middle persons that she refers to is some \$42,000.00. That to me, Mr. Chairman, is a pretty small amount of money when you consider the hundreds of millions of dollars that were put through in livestock sales for a company to retain as a profit on the investment that they had. That's not calculating the head office staff; that's not calculating the truckers; that's not calculating all the input that goes into operating that middle man operation that she refers to. So, if she plans to replace them and that kind of a system with a bureaucratic system of halving a beef, I wish her well, but I feel very sorry for those people that she's replacing, those people that now have jobs.

Then we'll use another one. The Minister of Municipal Affairs is sitting here. He's aware of the livestock organization at Ste. Rose and the one at Ashern that's owned by the producers; there's people there that are employed. Those people will no longer have to worry about their jobs because this present Minister of Economic Development supported by the Minister of Agriculture is going to change all that. Those jobs will become redundant and filled with civil servants sitting at a telephone at a packinghouse desk and that's who'll be doing the work. So, I have some serious concerns and reservations about the whole thrust and I want it on the record to show that I think that it's totally unacceptable to the farm community as it is to the packinghouse and the marketing institutes that are now in place and I think will continue to be in place, Mr. Chairman.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, the people identified by the honourable member have the right to choose whether to pursue the system they think will work or to plug into the system that we are proposing. It's my belief that in today's tight economic situation that mere survival is going to require a willingness to change. Standing still and relying on yesterday's patterns and attitudes is going to lead to decline. A willingness to change may ensure survival, may, it will not definitely ensure survival. To thrive and grow in today's economic climate is going to take an open mind, a willingness to see the connectedness of things, to think over longer time frames and be willing to work together. Now, the cow-calf producers are going to have an option. They can choose whether they wish to plug into the opportunity that we are offering or not. We feel that offering that opportunity of a different way of organizing their economic activity is our responsibility. We feel we have done that and we respect the right of the individual farmer to make a choice. Let's review the situation in a year and in two years and see how well it's working. We're certainly

committed to looking at that.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, two concerns, the people that I was referring to that are part of the marketing system do not have the choice that she refers to. It's the beef producer who has the choice whether he or she enters the program. Those people who are now unemployed by Manitoba Pool Elevators in Brandon, if that facility is not used by the producers to sell feeder cattle and to sell the fat cattle, then their jobs become redundant. The people at Ashern who work in the facilities, their jobs, they don't have a choice. The policies of the government would be in fact putting them out of a job. That's the point I wanted to make. The fact that the Minister says we should review it in one or two years, she's asking the producers to sign up for six years, to give 4 to 8 percent of the gross returns of their livestock production to this program. So, I would think that the concerns that are being placed before the Minister should be reviewed now before the producers are asked to enter a six-year program rather than ask them to enter a contract for six years, and then say two or three years down the road they'll review it. That's not acceptable as far as I'm concerned.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I believe and I know my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, believes that our farmers aren't naive anymore. They know that the industry they are a part of — (Interjection) — well, I think that the myth that they live in a completely individualistic free enterprise, self-determining world really is a naive belief. I can understand people holding it but I can't understand people who are hurt by the cyclical ups and downs of the marketing world, particularly in the beef area. It's a cruel cycle if you happen to be caught in the wrong end of it and if as at present that cycle doesn't behave in any regular fashion as used to be counted upon so that the planning and the calculation that goes on by a farmer is upset.

We submit that the market system is not a self-correcting system; it is not guaranteed to give a fair or optimum benefit to the people involved in it. Therefore, we have to use our God-given brains and resolve to understand the components of an industry to see what can be done constructively to produce a healthy industry, and from our point of view in Economic Development, add the most value here in Manitoba and provide the most security. Now the program that's come forward is designed to do that, but it's designed to do that only if the farmers want that kind of industry development here and if they're prepared to volunteer to be a part of it. If they choose not to, that's their prerogative. If they choose to enter into it and catch the excitement, if you like, and the challenge and the greater gains down the road, then we will in fact all be the gainers here in Manitoba. I would be just as happy to move on in the discussion, if the honourable members are, in fact, so prepared.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed? I have a speakers' list. The Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, I don't wish to prolong the Estimates at this time but listening to the Minister, I must confess, while this may not

necessarily win me any votes back home on the farm, but I have to express nothing but awe and admiration for this Minister and for this government that suggests to us in this committee meeting that they are prepared to make substantive and fundamental changes to assist them of the production of food for all our people, and we're all consumers; that is going to be a major improvement. Mr. Chairman, most people in this world devote the better part of their working day and the better part of their disposal income simply to feed themselves. It so happens that for many different reasons, but certainly one of them is the system that we operate under, that in this country since the 50s we have steadily been able to decrease the amount of effort and that portion of our disposable income that Manitobans and Canadians need for food. In the mid-'50s I believe that figure was in the area of 26, 27 percent, today it's about 18 percent. The leaders in that field, of course, is the United States, our neighbours, who are roughly spending 16 percent of their disposable income to feed themselves. That country has, of course, the least regulated economy in terms of food production in the world, perhaps. Canadians, Manitobans are now spending about 18 percent of their disposable income to provide a reasonable level of nutrition and food.

I, on the one hand, would like to play the devil's advocate. I would like to joint that group of favoured professionals perhaps that have very restricted entry into fields as I determined the other day in the Minister of Agriculture's Estimates. I have two sons, and one of them may want to be a turkey farmer and want to be prepared to sell turkeys to his fellow neighbours and city cousins, but he can't do that, he's prevented by law. If he wants to sell turkeys for 20 percent less than what is the going price, he'll be put in jail. My other son may want to milk cows for a living, and does that very well, but if he wants to sell it for 10 cents a quart less than Modern Dairies sells it for, what Silverwoods sells it for, he'll be put in jail, he can't do that in this country. I'm just pointing out in a little way what regulation really means, and we should be aware of that, and so when the Minister speaks in very flowery terms about providing the very best of all situations, let's remember that we are all consumers in this world. Let's also remember why a dozen Canadian eggs sell for 75 cents a dozen in Minneapolis and 95 cents a dozen in Winnipeg. There's a reason for that. Now, Madam Minister, let's at least be conscious of that. But, as I say, I'm enthralled by the optimism and the challenge that this Minister is prepared to undertake in revamping the manner and the way in which we have provided food as food producers, as farmers, that very basic commodity that all of us need. I just wanted to put that on the record and I will look forward four years hence, Madam Minister, as to how you'll succeed in this endeavour.

MRS. SMITH: Well, Mr. Chairperson, at least for opinion you won't have to wait four years. The food production system that we have in place in this country is changing. I don't know where the honourable member has been living the last years of his life, but I'm sure if he lives on the farm, that he has seen the conditions under which his farm is operating change. I don't know the specifics of your farm. I do know that what I

understand of the farming industry in North America, specifically in Canada, is that some rather significant things have been happening. For one thing, there's been a great deal of artificial chemical put onto the land, there's been a certain mining of the land and not necessarily a recognition that there's a limited amount of that, that can be done. That at some point, we have to pay back to the land what it needs, that it needs time to recover, that it needs time to regenerate and that some of the older, slower methods of farming and crop rotation and plowing back in summer fallow did regenerate the land although they did not make the quickest buck in the short run. In the long run, they may have made a lot of sense, but there's something has happened to the farming industry. For one thing people have been brainwashed, I believe brainwashed, that's my opinion, into thinking that the large farm highly mechanized, highly supported by chemical fertilizer, herbicide, pesticide is automatically the best and that so what if they end up owing more to the bank and paying higher prices for fuel, for chemicals, that somehow in the marvelous market system of ours things are supposed to work out.

I submit that there are some things that might not work out. We may be depleting our soil which is the very basis on which we all depend. We may be allowing a specialization and a refinement of our seed types to be occurring through plant breeders, rights, moves and so on, so that the very genetic material on which we all depend for our livelihood is becoming deprived of its capacity to respond and generate new forms that can overcome ailments. We have allowed our Canadian system to move into specialization in fewer and fewer crops. I've been pleased to see the diversification that's started to occur at least in some of the grain crops in recent years but, in general, we've allowed our Canadian system to become more and more specialized, we've allowed fine land arable land to be moved into nonproductive use, and I submit that this may have looked good in the short run because the market forces seemed to indicate there was better profit to specialize, but in the long run it may be suicidal because it reduces the capacity of our country to produce the diversity of food crops that we need. Trade looks good when transportation costs are minimal, but with the price of oil shooting up and the reliability of that kind of a food production system grows, we may find that what we have created is not an economic miracle but an economic disaster.

Now, I'm deliberately painting it in extreme terms. I don't think we're in that quite that bad a situation, but I submit that our choices are not whether to carry on with a system that's working very well and is somehow stable and a system that we are proposing which is somehow new, frightening and different. Our choices are rather going on with a system that in many ways is heading in a destructive direction, that does not vote well for our future capacity to feed ourselves well or economically, and that we have the opportunity in this current time to make choices about how we use the land, what kind of things we grow and the way in which we organize our food growing capacities here in Manitoba.

I submit that the healthy development of the full stages of an industry like the beef industry is a valuable option and farmers do not have to choose it but

we, in our consideration of the important components of the food industry are recommending that approach.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Madam Minister, the difference between you and me is that I am an optimist; I'm also a cattleman. I believe that our genetic scientist will eventually produce a cow that will produce, not a calf, but a litter of five and eight and that they will feed and sustain themselves on rusty tin cans and clean up our environment while they're at it. That genuinely is an optimistic viewpoint that free enterprisers and entrepreneurs have, and before you scoff at it, what has happened genetically in the livestock industry, surrogate cows that will carry very valuable \$10,000, \$15,000, \$20,000 calves in them by implant, etc. etc., one should not take too lightly about what can happen if given a free rein and if offered an incentive to do so.

Really, the question and I don't want to prolong this debate because we are now talking in Agriculture and you are the Economic Development Minister and you don't have to particularly, I know you may want to, defend a particular status quo of a particular type of farming or something like that, but I'm talking about production. I am talking about what are we providing for our citizens. What we have provided for our citizens is the lowest possible price for food, some 18 percent of their disposable income. They can do many other things with income. They can support political parties and get them elected if they want to; they can support leisure at the lake; they can support going to cultural happenings and broaden their living experience that way, in a manner, in a way, which very few other groupings of peoples, civilizations have other than here on the North American continent.

You have quoted from time to time the Japanese experience. They spend about 35 percent of their disposable income on food. Western Europe spends about 28 to 30 percent of their disposable income on food. It is only in this country that we spend as little as 18 percent of our disposable income on food and you have the —(Interjection)— no, no, I'm not saying the gall. I say the courage and that's why I say I admire her courage to tinker with that system. I happen to think that we have in many ways already restricted further progress by not allowing the bringing together of technology, of bringing together capital, whether it is big firms or multinational firms of considerably enhancing our processing industry here in this province. That has not happened just under your Ministry, Mrs. Minister. That's happened under Conservative Ministries; that's happened under my Ministry back in 1967-68 when we had opportunities of providing many hundreds of jobs. I won't exaggerate, perhaps even thousands of jobs, in expanding the processing industry in this province.

It is my belief, Madam Minister, that the biggest direction of the Department of Economics should be that the excess food that we have the capacity of producing in this province should have the biggest amount of labour input into it; that we should be processing it to the greatest extent; that we should do far more exporting of finished product rather than the raw product, but that takes a certain amount of appre-

ciation that capital, business, requires their elbow room to make this happen. That isn't always happening under our current restricted Marketing Board legislation and I don't put that at the feet of this Minister. That's happened under many different jurisdictions including a jurisdiction that I had at one particular time. I'm simply putting it on the record and I'll agree with the Minister.

I won't pursue the argument much further that it's a very admirable role for the Minister to assume that she can and that this government will considerably improve in terms of the net product. The net product is providing nutritious food for Manitobans at less cost than it is today.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, maybe in this lengthy interchange, we are arriving at some common understandings and that is that our goal is to provide nutritious food for our own people at moderate cost. I think we can agree on that. I think where we have to disagree and I would just like to itemize some of the issues. I think you are possibly a year or a year-and-a-half perhaps my senior. You were raised in that same era where we were encouraged to trust unquestioningly in the ability of scientists to solve all our problems and to bring greater plenty if only we would put more money into technology or, at the same time, into business, into capital investment.

I submit, technology and enterprise can do a great deal. In some respects they can do things that we haven't yet imagined, but there are also the possibilities of limits to what they can do and I think to have a blind faith that technology can solve all our problems or that, at least, pursuing any technology is good and that we don't have to sit back and look at the cumulative affect and make some judgment calls is a very dangerous sort of faith. I don't share that faith. I am very interested and supportive of scientific development, but I think there also has to be a kind of judgment that looks at the possibility that we may deplete our soils; that we may seriously reduce the genetic capacity of our seeds to regenerate; that we may so add preservatives and so on to our food that we reduce its nutrition; that cost to the consumer is not the only factor. There is also quality.

If we trust in whatever agricultural policy produces quick profit to the producer, we may end up in hurting the common heredity of all of us, the soil, and we may end up not always delivering the best nutrition at the most reasonable cost to the consumer. So, I think we shouldn't go into any of these issues with a blind faith. Curiosity, openness, willingness to evaluate, yes, but not a blind faith. I think that we are after good nutrition, reasonable use of our land, as much self-sufficiency in food as we can reasonably manage given our climate and reasonable profit for the people engaged in all the activities in the chain of the food production cycle. I submit that is what we're after in other industries as well. We think that it's a balanced approach and that it does not rely blindly on what I think are really outmoded beliefs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: I have a short question regarding

Porky Packers that was established at The Pas some 10 or 12 years ago and it only functioned for a short time and was closed down because it violated a municipal by-law. I'm wondering, the Minister indicated that there was some feasibility work going on in the North with respect to establishing a new meat processing facility. Does this involve the future use of Porky Packers, by any chance?

MRS. SMITH: The future use of what?

MR. DOWNEY: Porky Packers, at The Pas.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I can say no, but that we would rather keep confidential the name of firms that we're dealing with. I think that's the basis on which we work with them.

MR. DOWNEY: I'm not seeking the name of the firm that wants to get a new facility going, but I know that the Federal Government and I'm not sure about the province, did put in a fair amount of money in the facility that is sitting there and hasn't been operating as a complete meat processing. I am wondering if there has been a change in the municipal zoning there that this facility might be used in part for such a project?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I don't know about the particular proposal that the member is referring to. I really don't have anything specific to say about it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to be clear on one thing. The person or persons making DREE application or proposal which means there must have been some research done ahead of time or else there's no sense going with the proposal, am I to understand that there would be a packing plant in The Pas that would slaughter cattle, then pack a product and put it on the market under a name brand, whatever the name brand may be and that the Provincial Government may be involved in establishing that plant with the DREE applicant?

MRS. SMITH: Well, Mr. Chairperson, I never mentioned a town in the north; I never mentioned which animal was being considered I never mentioned an active role for the Provincial Government other than in feasibility study. So, I guess the answer in sum to the honourable member is, no.

MR. JOHNSTON: But we are looking at a new packing plant that would be established then on the basis of the program that the Minister of Agriculture has and that plant would be slaughtering and producing a product. We don't know who it is, but the product would have to have a name and would have to compete on the market with other companies or maybe it's one of the bigger companies that is taking a look at the feasibility, but we are looking at another packing plant in northern Manitoba. Let's put it that way.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, the most I can say is

that there is a DREE application for a northern meat industry plant and that is the long and the short of it.

MR. JOHNSTON: The Minister said that the involvement at the present time is feasibility study. Would it be the intention of the government to consider having a joint venture in this plant?

MRS. SMITH: Well, Mr. Chairperson, we are open a lot of possibilities now and in the future, but this particular project that I referred to earlier is a DREE application. DREE meaning Federal Government not Provincial and that's where it sits. There is no current plan or intention of the Provincial Government to be involved in any formal way.

MR. JOHNSTON: I have another question on another subject. In Manitoba, we have on Black Island probably the best silica sand that there is. At the present time, we have that sand come down to Selkirk and it's shipped in many places in North America, but one that I would mention. It goes to Alberta where they make bottles and the bottles are shipped back to Manitoba to be used in the Manitoba bottling industry and there was a lot of work being done to try and establish a plant that would use that sand either in bottles or in lamps or in dishes or whatever. I know that there was a group went down to New York to a convention. I believe it was glass manufacturing companies that they attended and they were working very sincerely to try and establish an industry to use that sand in the Province of Manitoba. Is that still being worked on?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I'm informed the specific project the honourable member is referring to was in fact dropped during his tenure. There is not at present another specific company looking at that possibility, but I guess we've been alerted to the fact that we do have a rather special quality of silica sand in Manitoba and that's one of the opportunities for development that we will be keeping in mind.

MR. JOHNSTON: Yes, there was more than one dropped during the last administration, but there was an insistence, I guess, on my part that we keep trying very hard to use that resource of Manitobans in Manitoba. I would sincerely hope that effort is still being made.

MRS. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, there is another firm actively looking at the glass production, but their intention would not be to use that particular sand. However, I think the honourable member has raised the issue and identified the potential of that sand and I think that's often how good ideas develop. Someone initially investigates; it doesn't look feasible from their point of view, but in the course of time someone else comes along, perhaps with the right piece of the puzzle and an industry can in fact develop.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to move from (a) to (b). My question, do you want to pass (a) and (b) or just let me . . . or (a).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: (a) is passed already.

We're on 2(b)(2).

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to ask the Minister, there isn't an increase in personnel in Industrial Development according to the sheet I was supplied with. In fact, it appears that it's a decrease of two people and yet, the Other Expenditures are up about \$126,000.00. I wonder if the Minister could advise us what that increase is for.

MRS. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, two people were transferred out from the printed vote to the time when we did our Estimates. In fact, it was during the honourable member's tenure. One was transferred to Regional Benefits and another to Communication and Creative Services. The basic increase in our expenditures is largely accounted for by a second part of a two-part vote to Superior Bus.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2. (b)(2) —pass — the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A.R. PETE ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I know that you have allowed a great deal of latitude and I am sure that we should not be discussing in depth, as we have done the Department of Agriculture. However, I feel compelled to make a few comments not to leave on the record unchallenged some of the remarks that were made by my honourable friend, the Member for Arthur, in that he indicated in his opening remarks that the government was, with its new program for Beef Stabilization, intending to take control of the industry. As well, I think he mentioned the intention of the government to take over the operation of the Pool Auction Mart in Brandon and I think that the record should be clear that is not the case. I think the Minister of Agriculture made that statement in the House, I believe, yesterday.

Mr. Chairperson, I was in Brandon on Thursday. It was not possible to get hold of the Pool people there on Wednesday because of the fire and I went down and had an on site inspection. In fact, I was there Thursday and Friday as well. Mr. Chairperson, it is certainly a very unfortunate occurrence that happened there and when I was there, the dead animals were still in the building and the roof was caved in. It was an unbelievable mess and, Mr. Chairman, it was really a gigantic operation to try and clean that out. The advisory group to the Manitoba Pool held a meeting, I believe that meeting was held on Thursday, and there was some enthusiasm to reopen the auction mart on the part of the adviser; that's what I had been informed by the manager there. However, the Directors of the Pool were to meet yesterday, that is Monday, to discuss the matter further. Now the suggestion that the facility would be closed because of an effort on the part of the government to, at least, attempt to try and save the livestock industry is a bit unfair because in speaking to the manager of the auction mart there, he indicated that yes, there were some questions as to whether they would reopen again, but in view of the state of the economy of the beef industry, and it was not whether or not there was a beef program in place, but it was rather the overall condition of the beef industry at the present time.

I wanted to make that statement, to not leave on the

record the statement that the government is trying to take over the facility in Brandon. I believe that, Mr. Chairperson, there is room and the program has not been finalized, there are still discussions taking place with the beef producers in the Province of Manitoba and there are going to be further meetings held to discuss the program, and there may well be a role for a facility like there is in Brandon to continue and, in fact, I was advised when I was there that they were perhaps planning to change their operation to a rail grade rather than the way they have in the past.

The beef stabilization that we are trying to put together is in response to discussions with beef producers across the province. Let's say, for instance, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association who have recommended a stabilization program that the beef producers would put payment into a fund on every animal sold, that was a position that was put forward by the cattlemen association, and the other component is recommendations put forward by other producers and it is the combination of different views out there and different positions and it is an attempt, an effort to try and save an industry that's in very serious difficulty and in serious trouble at the present time and it's an attempt to try and rectify some of the weaknesses that is evident in the industry and causing many of our producers to go out of business, not only in Manitoba, but the same thing is happening in other provinces.

Because of the seriousness of the situation many of our neighbouring provinces have come forward with some very rich programs in some instances and the honourable member is naive, he is very naive if he believes that the Province of Manitoba is able to come forward with say \$40 million to save the industry in a one-shot injection of funds that we have just completed doing a few years ago, and that the livestock industry will be here again next year or the year after for the same thing because the nature of the free market does not provide cost of production and therefore this is an attempt. Mr. Chairperson, I'm not sure whether this will save the industry. It may be too late but, at least, it's an attempt to do something, and I've heard about comments from many people, many sectors, about the New Democrats and being with their heads in the sand as far as the Crow rate is concerned. I could reciprocate by saying that on this issue I think the honourable members opposite are indeed not progressive, they are not progressive.

I'm going to be polite, Mr. Chairperson, and say that they are not being progressive. I think we have to address this problem. The idea behind this is to try and prevent our 400 pound calves, our 500 pound calves from being shipped out of the province, finished in other provinces, slaughtered in other provinces, sold in other provinces, consumed in other provinces. This is an attempt to try —(Interjection)— We are not going to force, Mr. Chairman. Now, the members opposite would like to use the word "force." Mr. Chairperson, the honourable members like to use the word "force." I've heard the Member for Arthur say that word two, three times in his remarks, force, force, force and I hear the Member for Lakeside saying the same thing, and I recall, Mr. Chairman, that the Bill 25, I think it was, that forced every cattle producer in the province to have a check off on his cattle, it was not a

free choice. This at least, Mr. Chairperson, is free for those who feel that they cannot battle the free market anymore, that they have to have a longer term protection and it is absolutely voluntary, they may enter the program.

I submit that there will be room for the auction marts. There will be many other types of cattle that will not be going for slaughter. There will only be a percentage of the cattle going under the program if it is successful and there will be room for auction marts for other types of cattle. There may be room for the auction marts for assembling points for those cattle that may be going to for rail grade, there are all kinds of other alternatives out there. And I would hope, Mr. Chairperson, that members opposite would at least try and be more broad minded on this issue because the industry is in dire straits and something has to be done because the industry is gone if we don't do something, and I submit that a cash injection of even \$40 million to try and save the industry at this time will not help because they'll be back here next year for another 40 million and Manitoba is not a, you know, the Treasury is not a bottomless pit such as we have perhaps in some of our neighbouring provinces. So, Mr. Chairperson, I just wanted to leave those remarks on the record so as not to have any misinterpretation about whether the government is intending to take over this or to take over that, the program is voluntary and it's free for anyone to join or stay out if he so desires.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(2) — the Member for Morris.

MR. CLAYTON MANNES (Morris): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I'm holding myself back and I won't jump into the meat debate although the contentious comments made by the Minister, and I'd like to quote — she's talking about farming and I think she said, "It was leading to an economic disaster." She said, "It was heading in a destructive direction and that we'll all have to learn how to use the land." I think those comments cry out for some type of rebuttal but this is a new Session and I'm sure we'll have many opportunities to debate those comments later on.

This is the first opportunity I have had to sit in this particular department, the Estimates of this department, and the question I'm about to ask may have been covered. In this particular area I'm wondering if the Minister could indicate to us how many firms that her department is aware of that are prepared to expand in this province, bearing in mind not including those that may have made announcements to that effect. How many, let's say, with 10 employees and over is her department aware of are prepared to expand their production facilities in this province at this time?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I could sort of toss off numbers like twenty-seven and three-quarters or 3,293. I'd be presumptuous, I don't know precisely because firms in the current method of operation, unless they come and ask us for some kind of assistance or advice, operate on their own and that's as it should be for the large percentage of them. We are actively assisting 20 firms with their assessment of

investment here.

I did, just before we left the beef scene completely, want to bring up to date my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs report on the Brandon beef and just draw the attention of the group to the report made by the Honourable Minister of Environment today in the House in nonmetric for the benefit of the members opposite that the fate of the beef cattle in Brandon is now being settled in a pit 50 feet by 50 feet under layers of lime, cattle, lime, cattle and lime.

Seriously though, to get back to the numbers of firms that have intention to come here, our normal way of hearing from firms is that they either phone us up as is the want of a firm that's looking at investing in a province, they need to know information about our laws and there's a lot of information that can be obtained just by phoning the department. There's also specialists in each of the priority industry sectors who keep on top of what's going on either with existing firms or with prospective firms, not only here but across the country and sometimes in other countries, particularly the United States. They travel to events where there are collections of people in these priority sectors and they carry with them, of course, information about the prospects here in Manitoba, and if they can interest someone in an opportunity here, they will do so. So it's a combination of reaction to questions asked by industries and outreach to induce industries to come here, industries whose particular needs happen to match what we have to offer.

MR. MANNES: Thank you, Madam Minister. I realize full well that, of course, you couldn't know of the hopes or the ideas of all those firms that are prepared to expand, but two questions; first of all, you mentioned 20 firms. Are those that are interested in locating here at present, or in fact does that number include those that are now situated here and are thinking of expanding? Because that was the intent of my question. How many local firms that are now in existence are prepared to expand at this time in this province?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, on our active list we have in the neighborhood of seven or eight from outside the province and in the neighborhood of 25 to 30 firms in the province that are looking at expansion or new directions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(2)—pass.

2.(b)(3) Regional Benefits — the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would just outline this Regional Benefits Department.

MRS. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, this was a branch that was developed under the preceding government and was entitled "Industrial Benefits." The intention was to work with Manitoba suppliers and purchasers to maximize the use of Manitoba goods and services in all major Capital economic activities throughout the province. The initial function was to look at potential mega projects but this has been expanded to include mega projects or large energy projects to the

west of us and also to maximize purchases by the Manitoba Government, its agencies and other related institutions.

MR. JOHNSTON: Well, this takes in then the Industrial Benefits, as we call it. It's Regional Benefits, but does it take in the group that we're working in, Alberta and Saskatchewan, on the large projects out there, sourcing them to find out what Manitoba manufacturers could supply and having the information of what manufacturers do manufacture, to relate it to those larger projects?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, strictly speaking, that's a trade activity, but a lot of the data collected has some connection because with the Regional Benefits, which is primarily Manitoba based, we have developed this sourcing directory and that means the listing of all firms in Manitoba, what they can produce, the quantities, time frame and that sort of thing, along with the purchases that are made in Manitoba by major purchasers. The trade component of this is an extension where the same type of listing is applied to the trade field. There was, in January, a trade fair here. I haven't got the correct name of it here, but where potential purchasers from the Alberta energy projects came here and met with our potential suppliers and that was both to acquaint the purchasers with the capacities here in Manitoba and also to give the local suppliers some idea of what the opportunities were in Alberta, what the preferred methods of approaching the different companies were, and in general, to improve, increase their capacity to expand their business in a more active way.

MR. JOHNSTON: Well, the book on what Manitoba manufacturers produce has been there for a while and we have had seminars over the years, the past six or seven years come in explaining to Manitoba manufacturers what would be required on many projects in other areas. So, the Regional Benefits is basically, let me put it this way, that is being continued more under Trade Development than the Regional Benefits. One is the expansion of the benefits on all projects in Manitoba or looking at all projects in Manitoba from the point of view of purchasing practices of Manitoba manufacturers and government purchasing. Similarly, we had a show that had a group of manufacturers in Manitoba showing what they imported or what they purchased from out of province. This department is going to carry on and expand that work.

MRS. SMITH: Yes, it seems like an artificial distinction between the Trade group and the Regional Benefits, but functionally the Regional Benefits focuses on trade here in Manitoba and the Trade group work on export opportunities to other provinces, indeed to the United States. The type of inventorying of industrial production, of industrial services available, the running of seminars and so on here in Manitoba is an extension of what was done before, but as the program develops there's outreach to more and more groups, more follow through accomplished and the focus has expanded from the initial focus on expected mega projects to include the wholerange of Manitoba economic activity. The big marketing pro-

gram that will come this fall, it's the Canadian Institutional Marketing Program. So, it's partly trade and partly Regional Benefits, but, a sub-component of that is the emphasis on government institutions here in Manitoba purchasing Manitoba goods. So, it's a dual thrust by Manitoba and, if that isn't available, by Canadians.

MR. JOHNSTON: The Minister may not have the answer to this. Is it the intention of the government to change the purchasing policy of Manitoba corporations from the tender basis, where the lowest tender usually gets the work, or is it going to be giving a preference to Manitoba manufacturers even though they're higher?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, the policy of government procurement is under active review at the moment and we haven't as yet defined a policy for the coming year. The kind of things that we'll be looking at is what's being done in the other provinces, either as to price preference or in fact to regional preference within a province and whether it's a price differential or a kind of proportion of the market depending on what kind of employment they have in the province. We're mindful, in developing a government procurement policy, that we have to pay attention both to the need of local industries to have opportunity, at the same of maintaining a fair climate for tendering for companies from outside the province. I think any modifications we make will be gradual and clearly announced to tendering companies.

MR. JOHNSTON: I hope the Minister is aware that Manitoba is a very broad manufacturing base and we're only a million people and we don't use, as Manitobans, anywhere near the amount of production that we are capable of; that we turn out every year; that has been increasing steadily every year. If we — the figures are there — in Manitoba we are the second largest exporter percentage wise of all provinces, Ontario being first, and I stress percentage wise. If we start to have any rules on preference of purchasing or protection for Manitoba manufacturers, I would like to assure the Minister that other provinces will retaliate and will put Manitoba in a very awkward position. I think that should be looked at very carefully while you're reviewing the purchasing practices if the Manitoba government is going into a large project. I think that there are ways to see that manufacturers in Manitoba have a preference, but be very careful about publishing the same as B.C. does and the same as Saskatchewan does by percentage preference to their manufacturers because it will only backfire in Manitoba.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I think the honourable member is repeating what I said that we are aware of the sensitivity on the trade end. We are compiling the information and reviewing it about what is the practice in other provinces. As the member alluded to, we do have a relatively good record on the proportion of manufacturing exports that we enjoy. Forty percent of our manufactured goods are shipped out of the province as end products and that proportion is second only to Ontario. So, the concern that

the member expresses is one that's alive in our minds and we will be balancing that out against the desire to use whatever means we can to generate a good stable manufacturing base here in Manitoba.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(3) — the Member for Inkster.

MR. DON SCOTT (Inkster): Mr. Chairman, on this point, I'd just like to raise a concern that was brought to my attention relatively recently. It's something that I would not to see repeated and I feel very confident will not be repeated. It's gearing towards the — (Interjection) — well, in this instance, I can assure the Member for Arthur it will not be repeated.

We had a very, I guess you could call them an exceptionally forward looking firm in the province, it happens to be located in my constituency. It tendered on a very large government related contract. It was a low tender. This happened, I believe it was in 1978 or 1979, possibly '79 because that's about the stage the project would be in at that point in time and yet did not get the tender. Yet, it was a low tender for the project. The project was in tens of thousands of dollars and I think that it — (Interjection) — It was not done through Government Services; it was done through another department. It was an arm of government, if you wish. Okay? But, the people at the time in the industry had taken it to the point of going to the Minister and were told that they should best not do that because they rely on a lot of other government contracts and if they were to cause any disturbance on this one that it may cause them problems in the future. Now, that I do not — (Interjection) —

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. SCOTT: For the very same reason that they're afraid perhaps that something would happen to their future contracts as well. I would speak very much in favour of the Opposition at the time they have been asleep — (Interjection) — but, Mr. Chairman, I would urge to you the Minister that we do follow an example and do follow a position, where there is a close tender at all, that we do try and give preference to the local manufacturers where the greatest value added is in the product. We have an awful lot of cases where we're going outside the country, in some instances, to buy materials when we could be building them here within Canada. I'm speaking of the country as a whole.

If you look at the Japanese experience and a lot of this is just through their own patriotism really and it's patriotism not just by governments, but also by the individuals and the purchasing patterns of the individuals there, is that they have a strong preference for commodities produced in their own country and that's one of the reasons they are where they are today. That's one of the reasons — (Interjection) — but they have developed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

MR. SCOTT: They have developed industries throughout their country of Japan primarily by having a preference, not only on the government but on the

consumers themselves, in being willing to take the time to be able to develop their products. You just have to look and one example is computers where they were so far behind IBM and some of the other huge traditional firms and now the Japanese are the world leaders in the field and have machines that are quite a bit faster, many times faster than the fastest of the North American machines. So, there are strong benefits towards a government backing up the industry who are the employers of the people of that province and of our province, to back them up and to give preference to Manitoba and, secondly, Canadian manufacturers.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, there was quite a study of procurement policy done by the previous government and one of the interesting things about it is that it's one thing to develop policy; it's another thing to do the follow through and ensure that the policies recommended are in fact being carried out by all the departments. I think we can experience significant gains in our Manitoba purchasing just by applying the policy that's currently on the books. It does state that where quality and price are equal that buy Manitoba be the rule, so I think there is quite a lot of gain can be secured by developing that policy to the full at the implementation end and we are going to be carrying out a pretty thorough study of other possibilities in the tendering process in terms of promoting Manitoban industry. Some of the goals we would like to achieve for Manitoba industry can be better accomplished by other means, so the government procurement policy can do some things, but it can't do everything.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I had indicated to pass this item and I would only refer to the Member for Inkster's statements that if he had brought his concerns to the Department of Economic Development or the Minister of Economic Development, we had a group within our department that examined any complaints such as he's speaking of and followed them through very thoroughly. If he has a complaint, it would really be upon him to attend the Minister's offices and these are good offices to find out the particular circumstances of that particular order which obviously happened in a Crown Corporation and it can be looked into. Crown Corporations have boards; they have chairmen of boards appointed by governments, but the government still can look into the practices if the member has any concerns. As a matter of fact, if he had been a good citizen at all, he probably would have gone to his member at that time and complained and his member would have come to me as the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. 2.(b)(3) — pass; page by page 2.(b)(4) — the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister pretty well did outline the department. We touched on it in Regional Benefits. This department is continuing to

work with the sourcing program and work interprovincially with the other provinces and I hope that the other provinces are supplying you with the lists of projects that are being carried on in their provinces as we supplied lists to them. It was a co-operative arrangement that the Minister of Economic Development had arranged between them at a Western Economic Development Ministers' meeting and certainly the decision of the Ministers made it easy for the people in this department to be working with the government officials in other provinces and getting leads etc., for Manitoba manufacturers. I hope that is still being carried on with the sourcing program.

MRS. SMITH: Yes, it is.

MR. JOHNSTON: Just one other point on this, I have an article that came to my attention it's from the Export Development Corporation and the Export Development Corporation in this article has pictures of Mr. Lumley and all those fellows, the Mexican officials etc., where it states that the Canadian Government was putting up \$150 million towards the purchase — Mr. Lumley indicated an agreement marked the first use of a 900 million fund to establish a Federal Government to help Canadian exporters compete with Canadian Government subsidized exports financing from other countries and there was \$150 million put in towards the purchase of buses in Mexico.

It would seem that Bombardier in Quebec and two or three other companies in Quebec are going to get the major portion of this business. I'm wondering if the Export Development Corporation has been in contact with the Manitoba Government or have you been in contact with them making a request that they come to Manitoba and explain to the Manitoba manufacturers what products are going to be needed in this contract and if Manitoba manufacturers will be able to supply any of them.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, on the relationship with our export to EDC and the Honourable Mr. Lumley, we have an ongoing communication there. We don't have any sales in Mexico, but we are accomplishing some buses in other countries, but we shall certainly keep on top of opportunities in both countries. I don't think we can always expect to be the ones that land the contracts. I, for one, was happy to see the Quebec firm get a good contract. I think we want to see as much Canadian export as we possibly can and that'll be the goal that we will be following. We have been pleased with some of the recent contracts that our bus manufacturers have landed.

MR. JOHNSTON: I wasn't necessarily referring to complete buses, Mr. Chairman. If the people of Canada, which Manitoba is part of, are going to put \$150 million into the manufacture of buses or towards the manufacture of buses that's taking place in Canada, a very large order, are the manufacturers of Manitoba going to have an opportunity to quote on some of the components that go into that order or go into that contract. I don't necessarily mean the complete bus, but are we going to be given the opportunity to supply some of that. Let me give you an example.

When the Federal Government purchased tanks from Germany, German manufacturers came to Manitoba and had a seminar and explained and went over all of the different items that would be required and some of our companies did take the opportunity to quote on some of the components for that work. Will Manitoba manufacturers have the opportunity to quote on components on this size of an order that's being manufactured in Canada and 150 million Canadian dollars going towards it?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, there is no reason why we won't be given an opportunity to quote on those orders. I think the secret is going to be maintaining close and co-operative relationships with our Federal partners and with those organizations that are set up to promote Canadian trade. When the Honourable Mr. Lumley was here, we did discuss the matter of how Manitoba could best take advantage of the services of EDC and I assure the honourable member that we are going to be pursuing any and every opportunity that looks good for Manitoba producers.

MR. JOHNSTON: In the same article, it says EDC's forfeiting workshops for exporters. "EDC will conduct the first in its series of nationwide forfeiting purchase workshops for exporters in Vancouver on November 26th, this is 1981, in Montreal, November 23rd. The workshops will be free of charge." Is it the intention of the EDC to have any workshops in Manitoba for Manitoba manufacturers regarding goods that are being produced in Canada and being exported, so that Manitoba manufacturers can have the opportunity to quote on components for those exports?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, we have no indication of a fixed date in Manitoba, but we don't feel limited by the location of such shows and we'll certainly ensure that our people are represented. If there are shows held in other parts of the country, ensure that they are there.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, we've been having this battle with the Federal Government for a long time. I call it a battle because it's very serious. Every time there was a trade mission from another country that was organized in Ottawa, they would arrange for them to go to Alberta and B. C. and they would have them in Ontario and Quebec. They would send us a letter saying these gentlemen would be in Ottawa on such and such a date and if anybody would care to come down to Ottawa and meet with them, we would be welcome to do so. We used to argue that there was no reason why those missions could not stop in Manitoba, as well. That was brought to the attention of the Minister. I know the Deputy has had discussions with them on this particular serious situation of Manitoba being eliminated. I'm wondering if they are intending to make arrangements for the EDC to come to Manitoba with their workshops and if we are going to have the trade missions stopping in Manitoba when they come across Canada.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, on the question of foreign missions coming to Canada and whether or not they stop in Manitoba, we have had a situation

recently where a very extensive Japanese mission visited Canada. Now, their plan was not to come to Manitoba; however, we negotiated a fairly sizable presentation by our group in Ottawa. A great deal of preparation went into this presentation; an audiovisual, a kit and presentation to show, in as compact and impressive a way as we could, what the advantages were of locating in Manitoba; what our basic resources were; what our existing manufacturing potential was. We have since had quite a show of interest from that presentation, including an invitation to a big show in Houston where a great many Japanese purchasing companies will be attending to bid on materials required for big energy projects. We have some of our suppliers who will be attending there and get an opportunity to plug in to that range of opportunities.

We have since, as well, met with the Consul General of Japan and discussed our economic situation and some of the opportunities we saw here and have worked out with him a regular exchange of information. We found out what some of the perceptual blocks the Japanese had about coming to Manitoba, either blank spots or preconceived notions and are planning to address those. We also have had a visitor here, an Assistant Ambassador from Japan, who was also interested in exploring the same line of investigation and we have been going out of our way to cultivate the relationship with this particular group. We will be doing the same with other groups as they come along.

I wish to make one correction. The member asked whether we had a Federal show here and whether or not we had any Manitoban companies able to make a presentation or a bid for trading opportunities. There was one held here just recently, just last month, by EDC and in fact 40 Manitoba companies were enabled to attend and show what they had to offer.

MR. JOHNSTON: Well, I'm certainly pleased to hear that EDC is coming to Manitoba. I get the impression and with all due respect that the Minister seems to be happy, or not happy, but not concerned that Manitobans have to go to Ottawa to give their presentations to delegations. I can't, for the life of me, understand why when the Federal Government is arranging to have delegations cross this country that they don't stop in Manitoba and give us the opportunity to make the presentation here and show them Manitoba in the time that is allotted to us. I think it is deplorable that the Federal Government seems to want to have the delegations fly over us instead of stopping here and letting us make a presentation. I think I would suggest that the Minister talk to the Federal Minister for Manitoba and go on record that you're not pleased with the way they neglect us in that particular situation or circumstance.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I agree that we could draw more attention to the fact that we would like to be given, I guess you could say equal status, in these situations and I think we have gone out of our way to point to just such a pattern that EDC may follow. On the other hand, the mood or style in which we've done it hasn't been so much a complaining or pointing of a finger or a standing on protocol concerns; we've drawn attention to it. At the same time, we have been

willing to go out of our way to go to Ottawa, if that's the first step, and make such an impact by the content and style of our presentations that we are not so easy to overlook next time. I think that a combination of standing up for our rights and being willing to go in and take initiative and show that we have things to offer and that we are capable is a good strategy.

MR. JOHNSTON: Madam Minister, we have been going to Ottawa for a long time. We accepted the strategy that you had, but at the same time, we tried to be very diplomatic at first, but when it keeps going on and on and keeps happening with no results, I think it's then time to start to get a little bit, shall we say, huffy about it and suggest to them that we want them to come to Manitoba in no uncertain terms. I have no more to say on that. It just seems to disgust me that they can sit down there and plan those things and completely ignore us and tell us that if we want to make a presentation to come to Ottawa. We have made many presentations in Ottawa and we have had many good follow-ups, but I can't see why they can't come to Winnipeg or Manitoba.

MRS. SMITH: Once again, I repeat for the honourable member's benefit that we could sit back and feel hurt and neglected and complain or we can go forward and voice our concern, but at the same time offer something positive which I think is what we're doing. I think when one brings a foreign mission to a country, they can't stop everywhere and they will tend to map out their stops in terms of what areas they know in advance or where they know things are going on. I think it's up to us to dramatize our particular location and to have well thought out what kind of match there might be between that country and us, as I think we did with our meetings with the Japanese. Pick out in a very sensitive way what the blocks in their minds were, not necessarily things that we would have even been aware of, but by dialoguing very carefully with them drawing out what could be blocks or in fact just big gaps in their awareness and then taking imaginative action to overcome those problems.

For example, the group that went to Ottawa found out that the main awareness that the Japanese group had of Manitoba was that we were hog suppliers because they apparently no longer get their basic hog supplies from Denmark which has trouble with foot and mouth disease and they did know that they were importing hogs from Manitoba. Since that, we have been able to work, as I say, with our local Consul General, with the visiting ambassador and with that mission group that we met in Ottawa to change that perception so that they can no longer think of Manitoba in quite that way.

I know it is discouraging to think that we are not the main stop on the route and I intend to keep pleading our case on that, maybe pleading is the wrong word, asserting our case, but I don't think if we don't get immediate response from Ottawa or EDC that we're going to sit back and think that the game is over. We're playing an active game and we are out to do the best we can for Manitoba, I think, in the long run, that combination of approaches is going to be effective.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I repeat again, we

have been playing an active game; we have been doing the things that we had to do for a long time. I just repeat, I am pleased to hear the Minister say that she is going to assert herself to have the people in Ottawa consider Manitoba. If the Japanese people had come here and seen what we are in Manitoba, they would have gone back knowing that we do an awful lot more. I'm not saying your presentation is right, but I think these people should be coming here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(4)—pass; 2.(b)(5) — the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. JOHNSTON: I wonder if the Minister could give me an outline of the planned advertising for 1982-83.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, that hasn't been determined yet. We are going through the tendering process.

MR. JOHNSTON: I would ask the Minister — I am looking at a page in front of me that I admit was last year's and we had advertising exhibits provided for departments. Manitoba's Economic Development campaign support was budgeted at \$186,000; printing and stationery supplies was 90, the sort of a run down of what advertising the Department of Economic Development was going to do.

MRS. SMITH: We will be working with the special supplements and sections advertising in major Canadian and US business media; we'll be doing a high profile advertising campaign in support of department and Enterprise Manitoba programs relating to industrial development; we'll be working on visual material and a co-ordinated package to illustrate rural Manitoba capability and industry sector profiles. We will be increasing our participation at trade shows and business exhibits and there will be an intensive information initiative through the printed media and improvement of our public and editorial inquiry response activities.

MR. JOHNSTON: Can the Minister advise us as to why the advertising agency was changed and it wasn't tendered?

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I think I said before that the advertising agency is out to tender and any advertising agency is open to apply. The decision has not yet been made on the tendered . . .

MR. JOHNSTON: Is McKim your advertising agency or is it out for tender to have a new agency at the present time? It seemed to me that I recall there was something in the paper or something mentioned in the House that the advertising agency of the Department of Economic Development had been changed and there were no tenders at that time.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, the announcement was that the single agency that was used before was no longer to be the single agency, but they were not precluded from submitting a tender. In fact, 11 agencies have been invited to make a presentation and they will be meeting tomorrow.

I'd like to move committee rise.

MR. JOHNSTON: Do you want to pass that item?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Item 5—pass.
Committee rise

SUPPLY — HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): The meeting will come to order.
The Honourable Minister.

HON. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Chairman, the members will find a Senior Citizens' Handbook on their desk.

It is my pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to table the Manitoba Senior Citizens' Handbook today. This is the first handbook of information for senior citizens produced for Manitobans. It is fitting that this effort by the Manitoba Council on Aging should be occurring in 1982, a year in which much attention will be focused on aging in view of the United Nations having called the first World Assembly on Aging in 1982. The first printing which you have in front of you is of 10,000 copies which will be circulated to people working with senior citizens, to government and volunteer agency offices, hospitals, personal care homes and a selection of seniors and their families. If this pilot distribution meets with approval, additional copies will be printed for broader distribution to senior citizens later this year. Over 80 different programs and agencies are included in this handbook. We're presenting in excess of 500 different locations of programs and services throughout Manitoba. The co-operation of public and private sector staff in assisting the council with providing all of this material in a single 100-page handbook is very encouraging to me as Minister of Health. Mr. Chairman, I imagine that the former Minister is very pleased because this is something that he initiated and the credit certainly doesn't go to me. I just inherited the tabling of it. Did you see the format? It would have to be a big format like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Chairman, I'll just say one word in acknowledgement of the appearance of the Manitoba Senior Citizens' Handbook. I'm very pleased that it has been completed and is now available for distribution to our senior citizens throughout the province. It was certainly the product of a very imaginative, creative and co-operative effort over a period of some 18 to 24 months and I congratulate those who conceived it and those who contributed to its production. I'm very glad that it's in circulation. It reflects one of the primary recommendations of the Council on Aging which was a recommendation calling for a more readily available information for senior citizens on the various programs and services that are available to them and I hope that it serves an extremely useful purpose in that regard. Certainly I join with the Minister in recognizing the influence that the Council on Aging had on this book and on the fact that it was in large part their recommendation and

their initiative that has led to its realization today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Continuing with the Health Estimates, particularly Item No. 3. Community Health Services and 3.(c)(3) Financial Assistance/External Agencies.

3.(c)(3)—pass; (c)—pass.

Item No. 3.(d) Medical Public Health Services, 3.(d)(1) Salaries — the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, with the realignment of the department, the medical officers of Health, I believe, are now budgeted for under this appropriation and I want to raise the question with respect to medical officers of Health that I touched on this afternoon in discussions with the Minister under the Regional Personal Services Appropriation, can he advise the Committee how many Medical Officers of Health we have got in Manitoba right now, what regions do we have MOHs in and in what regions are we attempting to find them and provide them?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the medical officers of Health in the Westman Region in Killarney, there is Dr. William Marshall; the Central Region, Morden, Dr. E. McRuer, 4 days a week; Winnipeg Region, Dr. Campbell and Dr. Sirrett; the Interlake Region in Selkirk, Dr. Rihal; Eastman Region, Beausejour, Dr. Robertson; and then there are part-time medical officers of Health in the Parklands Region, Dauphin, Dr. Eric Sigurdson, half time, Swan River, Dr. Frank Malcolm, part-time clinical; Thompson Region, Dr. Ted. Redekop, half time, Dr. Lee, part-time clinical; baylines, NorMan-The Pas, Dr. David Penner, weekend clinical, in Moose Lake and Easterville. Eastman, Beausejour Medical Clinic share contract services with Federal Health and Welfare. Canada Mental Services serve Long Water and Little Black River.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's response is certainly encouraging. On the basis of that response then we are reassured that there are in fact medical officers of Health, either in place on a full-time basis or a part-time basis, in every region of the province. Is that correct?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. SHERMAN: So where there may be a shortage, it's limited to Winnipeg region where we currently have one medical officer of Health and really, on the basis of the opinion of the experts in the department, including those sitting in front of the Minister, we should have three. Is that correct?

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm informed that there are two. There is Dr. Sirrett and Dr. Campbell. We had one before, there are two now.

MR. SHERMAN: Is the department looking for a third one or is two considered the acceptable establishment?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know now with the work load that we have, we're satisfied

with two, but we were afraid of losing one at one time because it takes a bit of getting used to the work. This person was in training as a medical officer in Public Health. Apparently, things have been resolved now to everybody's satisfaction. We hope so anyway and we would certainly like to keep him, but we're certainly not this year. We're not asking for any more than two.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, with the regrettable departure of Dr. Manny Snell, some two years ago or so, which was forced as much by ill health as anything and of course, as most members know, since that time Dr. Snell has died and the province has lost that outstanding servant and citizen to everyone's regret. With that departure, Dr. John Eadie subsequently has become the Chief Provincial Epidemiologist. Can the Minister advise the committee as to the structure of the Medical Health Services Branch as a consequence of that particular change in assignment?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if at this time I could read a statement that I had prepared on Dr. Snell. I think that he's worked for the province long enough and I'm pleased that the former Minister saw fit to recognize him. I feel that it is only fitting now, Mr. Chairman, to pay a tribute to the late Dr. Emmanuel Snell, former Director of Preventative Medical Services and Provincial Epidemiologist for the Department of Health. Dr. Snell passed away February 21, 1982 after contributing 23 years of dedicated service to the province in the preventative health field. A medical graduate from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, Dr. Snell served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during World War II and was a prisoner of war during the fall of Singapore in 1942. Following the war, he returned to England for a few years and then immigrated to Canada in 1957. In Canada he worked for one year in Newfoundland and then joined the Manitoba Department of Health in 1958.

In Manitoba, Dr. Snell served as Medical Director of Public Health Services in Portage la Prairie and St. Boniface and was promoted to the position of Director of Venereal Disease Control for the province in 1961. In 1964, he was again promoted to the position of Director of Preventative Medical Services, a position he held until retirement from the province service in 1981. During his tenure with the Manitoba Department of Health, Dr. Snell set an extremely high standard of professional work. He played a major role in establishing the Western Equine Encephalitis Control Program. He contributed significantly to Tuberculosis and Silicosis Control Programs in Manitoba. Dr. Snell's efforts were recognized, nationally and internationally, through various honours in his field, including being elected a fellow of the American Public Health Association in 1965. Dr. Emmanuel Snell was a dedicated member of his profession, loyal to the institution he served. He has been serving this by his family, friends and colleagues.

I was fortunate enough to work with Dr. Snell for about four years and of course the former Minister knows him very well. He worked with him and I'm sure that we agree on this. We feel that this man deserves at least this little bit of recognition for what he's done for the province in the last few years. It wasn't always easy. At one time, I think he was the only ones; he

didn't have the support staff that he had in the later years.

Mr. Chairman, as far as the department, we are in the process of re-organizing right now that department with Dr. Eadie as — yes, Dr. Eadie's job is being posted and advertised this week and this section is, as I say, being re-organized at the present time. — (Interjection) — His old job, yes.

MR. SHERMAN: But, he's continuing as Chief Provincial Epidemiologist?

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to associate myself and the Progressive Conservative caucus, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, with the statement just proffered the Committee by the Minister, with respect to the late Dr. Manny Snell. I certainly was grateful for the education, guidance and support that he gave me and the Minister has had considerable experience of the same and we would both agree that the people of Manitoba were the beneficiaries of his life and his career.

Mr. Chairman, this Salaries item, which is the one we are on, is virtually the same as last year except for an increase of approximately \$200,000 and I would ask the Minister to describe the difference in those two levels on the basis of the structure of the administration of that department. He says that Dr. Eadie has been confirmed in the position of Chief Provincial Epidemiologist and Dr. Eadie's old job is being posted now. It's being advertised for a successor, but are there other additional staffing changes that explain the relatively limited increase in the Salaries item, an increase that is not excessive but is an increase nonetheless.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I am told that part of the reason for that in 1981-82, that amount was not spent. It was 949 instead of \$1.1 million and then there were two positions that no salary was included. I've just been informed; I don't know how that works. I don't know if people work for nothing or who pays them but apparently there was no money involved in that. You asked for three, but you didn't ask for any money to pay them. — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, the former Minister would know better than I, but apparently you requested three last year and you could only fill one position at the time. So anyway it was underspent by — well, close to \$100,000 and now we're asking, well, from 947 to 1,274,000.00. That's the increase.

MR. SHERMAN: That's correct, there were three requested and one filled. Now those other two positions are being filled this year, is that correct, they're included in this budgeted appropriation request?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, they are. In fact, we're asking for an increase of 6 here from 35 to 41.

MR. SHERMAN: That includes those other two.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(1)—pass; 3.(d)(2) Other Expenditures.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: There is a fairly substantial increase in the Other Expenditures appropriation, Mr. Chairman, that would appear to account for more than normal cost price and inflationary increases. Would the Minister describe to the Committee what the range of Other Expenditures encompasses?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, I will. I'll also give you the difference from last year to this year. The medical administration was 51.7 last year and 74.4 this year; the epidemiological surveillance, 79 to 102, I'll never pronounce that right; Western Equine Encephalitis, 39.9 to 64.1; venereal disease control, 125.1 to 145.7; virological products 1,186,500 going to 1,298,600.

MR. SHERMAN: Where do the expenditures, for example, for such projects as the Interlake Regional Hearing Centre appear? Do they appear under a different appropriation or under this one?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I didn't complete the list. It was Maternal and Child Health, 48.7 to 50.3; Office of Hearing Conservation, 249.7 to 320. That completes the list.

MR. SHERMAN: Your office of Hearing Conservation goes from 249,000 to 320,000, that provides for an additional hearing centre to be located in the Interlake? Is that correct?

MR. DESJARDINS: And also in Winnipeg.

MR. SHERMAN: Where will that Hearing Conservation Centre be located in Winnipeg? Does the Minister know that yet?

MR. DESJARDINS: Possibly, it's not definite at this time but probably at Seven Oaks Hospital.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, was the Diabetic Education Service, the concept that was developed in the past year or so and was being pursued by the previous government and was to be directed by Dr. John Moorehouse, placed under this particular appropriation? Was it under this appropriation that it would have been given consideration or is it somewhere else in the Estimates that it would have come up for review by the Minister and his officials?

MR. DESJARDINS: This would be the place, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have some concerns about the inability of the department to proceed with that particular program. I am advised that there are some 1,500 adolescent or juvenile diabetics in Manitoba. Certainly, if one is attempting to shift the curative system that's in place in Health at the present time even a degree or two in the direction of prevention, it's programs of this kind that are invaluable in achieving that change. The program was aimed at offering experienced medical counsel and advice to diabetics, particularly adolescent diabetics, on the best methods of maintaining proper balance in their own systems, the best lifestyles to be pursued in order to maintain those physiological balances and to pre-

vent what can often be extremely serious effects of diabetes, as the Minister knows, in later stages of life.

The whole rationale for it was to ensure that people who had diabetes, notwithstanding the benefits derived from insulin, were to be given additional protection which would ensure that they would grow into their older years, their senior years in much better health than often times unfortunately is the case for a diabetic. In many cases, diabetes, as the Minister knows and as the diabetics themselves know, can lead to cardio-vascular disease, kidney disease, other difficulties which create extreme problems for them in terms of medical and hospital care and are life threatening to say the least and impact upon the services delivered by our hospital and medical systems. Over and above that, there's the whole matter of the welfare and well being of the individual diabetic himself or herself.

I have to say for the record, Mr. Chairman, that I felt that the Diabetic Education Service was an extremely valuable and relatively inexpensive initiative in the field of general public health and preventive medicine. I would simply ask the Minister why the decision was made to prioritize it at a low level of 1982-83 initiatives and defer it for consideration in the future rather than attempting to work it into his budget in 1982-83. If we were talking about a total Health budget of a quarter of a billion dollars, it would be a different thing, but we're talking about a total Health budget of almost a billion dollars. That education service, I believe, was going to cost perhaps approximately \$100,000 on a full year basis. It certainly wasn't going to cost \$100,000 to launch it, but annualized it might have been a \$100,000. It seems to me to be a rather imprudent decision when it comes to prioritizing to ignore a relatively inexpensive program of that nature with such a high impact and result and benefit not only for the patients themselves, the diabetics, but for the whole health system on which there is such a continuing strain in terms of beds, facilities and medical support systems.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, what could be said? I agree in part with what has been said by the former Minister, but it's not that easy and he knows it. It's not a question of just \$100,000; there's many areas like that. You have to draw the line somewhere. This was one of the last ones that was not cancelled, was cut off for this year and the rationale on this was that unfortunately due to the demands for funding in the next fiscal year, their need to prioritize available funds, we felt that we were unable to support Diabetic Provincial Program beyond March 31st of this year. That doesn't mean that we won't look at it again. Now, the main reason for that, rightly or wrongly is that our senior medical staff are encouraging Dr. Moorehouse to make application through the Manitoba Diabetic Foundation for Federal health grant funding. We feel that this is appropriate, that this program is in a research and developmental stage. If he agrees to do this and is successful in receiving funding, we would be more than pleased to continue to work with him through our field staff and continue to recognize Dr. Moorehouse as our departmental consultant on diabetes. We certainly will look at it next year again, but the decision was made for this year unfortunately.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister will keep it in mind and keep it on a list of priorities on his desk and look at it again in the very near future — (Interjection) — \$170,000.00.

Are there any program expansions this year in Medical Public Health Services under this particular appropriation for Other Expenditures, other than the ones that have been in place but are being expanded along the financial lines that the Minister has already described? Are there any new programs under Medical Public Health Services?

MR. DESJARDINS: Those that I can think of. Well, we've covered the Hearing Centre and then there is some expansion in the Luther Homes Telecommunication Services to cover the rural area. That was only Winnipeg was covered before. Now, the intention is to cover the rural area.

MR. SHERMAN: I'd like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, about the Western Equine Encephalitis program, the surveillance program. I note a substantial increase in the appropriation being requested for that program. Will that increase be devoted either to an increase in the number of central flocks and surveillance stations or will some of it be going to accommodate the expenses that would be encountered in any ongoing research project aimed at finding a weapon for control of the vector mosquito and control of that particular public health threat.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, as a result of discussions and deliberations, certain improvements and requirements are to be adopted on this program. We are designing mosquito traps that are easier to transport than those formerly used. There will be closer monitoring of weather data using computers and related by computer to counts of mosquitos, particularly colextra and tarcellus. Personnel of the Cadham Provincial Laboratories are studying quicker methods of culturing the virus in the laboratory. In 1981, there were 25 cases in humans with 2 deaths; 120 equine cases with 20 deaths and this was the worst epidemic since 1941. The Emergency Measures Organization provided excellent support services during this epidemic.

In the opinion of all scientists attending the February workshop, the development of a vaccine is not practicable. Because of the ongoing debate between the environmental and medical scientists on the subject of spraying or not spraying, my colleague, the Minister Responsible for the Environment-Northern Affairs, has instructed the Clean Environment Commission to review this matter also. We are awaiting a report from them.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am particularly interested in that comment by the Minister and especially so in his acknowledgment of the conclusions reached by most of the scientists attending the February workshop, which I also attended. As he points out, the consensus of the scientists attending that workshop is that the achievement of a human vaccine for Western Equine Encephalitis is not really a practical goal for a number of reasons, but given that and given the fact that it certainly was an alternative that

deserved examination scientifically and has received examination scientifically, I just want to recount with the Minister the fact that the previous government did put in place a group that was, if not official in nature, at least quasi-official in nature that was charged with the responsibility hopefully of pursuing different avenues of research with the goal in mind of identifying the most practical weapon to seek out and locate and develop and put in place for use in future Western Equine Encephalitis prevention programs.

The question that obviously confronted everyone on the surface was whether they should be looking for some form of biological control; whether there was some type of genetic technique that could be developed and injected into the mosquito population; whether we should be looking for a human vaccine; whether we should be looking for a different and more acceptable kind of insecticide spray or possibly pursuing some avenues that have not even been suggested up to this point in time. That committee was charged, late in the summer or early in the fall of 1981, with attempting to identify those avenues of search for us and some funding was guaranteed that committee and I believe that Dr. Jack Wilt of the Cadham Lab was placed in charge of that committee.

I would ask the Minister whether that project is continuing?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there has been no change on that at all. Last year, there was 79.6 voted and we are asking for 102.4 this year. We are also trying to get more of the step-students for this program. I think that in the last year, there were only eight students provided for the step to carry out the surveillance. In previous years, 12 students had been provided. Included in this year's Budget to the Medical Public Health Service, there is \$20,000 to employ the additional students required for the surveillance program. For the 1982-83 fiscal year, 17 students were requested under the step program and 14 were approved, so that'll pay for the rest if we feel that we need them.

Now, this is a very difficult subject. I know that the former Minister spent many years and was congratulated and was criticized and I guess you can't escape that. Now, the people that we had, the seminar that he had organized I think and that was held after the change of government, by some — I'm not commenting on that at all; I'm just giving him facts, but some felt that it was foregone conclusion; there were all people on the one side. There was some criticism of that, so we tried to salvage something. We agreed to open it to the press and to invite other people and then we felt, if that was the case, instead it was too late, instead of somebody trying to boycott it with we had all the people that we had coming in, we felt that they would have their day later on if we needed a second one and look at the other side. This would be acceptable to us, but then in discussions that we had with my colleague and I guess that part of it interested him quite a bit, it was decided to have this inquiry that I mentioned before and I'd like to invite my colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs, to maybe say a few words on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member

for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the invitation and the opportunity and we think it's appropriate that, perhaps in the Legislature, we should make the announcement as has already been made by the Clean Environment Commission that we will be holding a series of hearings in May, throughout the province. I believe in Brandon, Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg, in order to allow persons from different areas of the province to come forward and to provide us with their suggestions, with their criticisms, with their comments and hopefully with their views on options which we might pursue in order to not bring us to the situation which we found ourselves in a number of years ago. It's not only limited to one administration. It's a situation that every administration has found itself in as a result of a threat of Western Equine Encephalitis. I think the process which we are undertaking at this point will allow us to review the Bagon spraying program, but the different options which the member has put forward and which the Minister has put forward in respect to how we can prevent the quick response, perhaps that's wrong, how we can make it so that we do not have to respond in such a quick manner without having had the benefit of some reviews by the Clean Environment Commission to assist us in making a decision. I want to make that point very clear.

The Clean Environment Commission hearings are being conducted to allow us to look over different options in a non-emergency, non-crisis environment, no pun intended. It is designed to allow the public to make known their input in a way which removes the whole process from the immediate threat of a medical emergency and allows us the opportunity and the time to look over the entire situation carefully and in a considered way. That is how it has been designed; that is the purpose I'm certain that it will serve and I know that the Minister of Health and the previous Minister of Health are interested in this matter and I will endeavour to keep them advised through the Legislature and through other means as well, the present Minister, through our constant discussions on this subject as to exactly what is happening and hopefully we can come forward with the types of solutions which will enable us to more effectively deal with emergency situations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I endorse that initiative been undertaken by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Health and welcome it again now as I did during examination of the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs and Environmental Management when the Minister of the Environment made the announcement of the impending review. I think it's an absolutely essential project to undertake and certainly now is the time to do it, when an emergency is not confronting us head-on. So, I repeat my endorsement of that position and assure the Minister and his colleague, the Minister of Health, that it's welcomed on this side.

My partial concern is that we not simply be looking

at what was done in the summer of 1981, but what might be possible for us to do should a similar threat occur and it's a cyclical kind of threat which occurs unpredictably every few years. Should a similar threat occur in the summer of 1983 or 1984, are there other techniques which could be readied by that time and the Minister of the Environment assures me that this will part of the review. The objective will be to explore some of those other alternatives.

That relates to my question with respect to the work being undertaken by the committee headed by Dr. Jack Wilt. I presume that, notwithstanding the Clean Environment Commission hearings which will be looking at some other possible alternatives to control, Dr. Jack Wilt's committee will be continuing to do that this year and I'm pleased that's the case. Can the Minister of Health advise me or advise the committee as to whether he's had any reports from Dr. Jack Wilt and his committee outlining any progress or any conclusions they've come to at this point in time? Has that committee for example, Mr. Chairman, said to the Minister of Health that in looking at the possible avenues of search that we should be pursuing, we have eliminated such and such an avenue? I think in particular of the human vaccine avenue. Has that committee eliminated the human vaccine avenue as one of those avenues of search?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, it was felt that would not work too well and part of the report was sent back to the committee for review again. Nothing has been changed; we're going in the same direction except that we're trying to do it now before we're faced with an epidemic to see if there is anything else that we can improve, and then of course in time of an emergency, I hope we won't be faced with it, but if so we'll have to use our judgment the same as the former Minister did before. We hope that, because of the warning that we've had, we might be able to have other methods, other choices than the former Minister had, but we're going on in the same direction. We're working on this and there are certain things that the committee has been asked to look at a little closer and bring in a recommendation.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, so the committee is now looking at such avenues as larviciding, genetic techniques and the like, is that correct, and possibly others. I was just asking the Minister, Mr. Chairman, can we assume that this committee now then is looking very intensively at such possible avenues as larviciding or different forms of larviciding, genetic techniques that could be applied to the mosquito population and the like? There may be other techniques that no one has publicized as yet. My question is, can we be re-assured that the committee is looking at all those types of avenues now and will be hopefully refining the search down to a firm recommendation for the Minister sometime during 1982?

MR. DESJARDINS: This is certainly our hope and our wish now. How successful it will be, that remains to be seen, but they are going on with all the study that has been done in the change, the improvement, after consultation. The list of things that I read is being put in place and then we'll try to improve, get more of the

data and then the seminar that was here; that work was done. That will be taken into consideration and of course the work that will be done through the Department of Northern Affairs will also come in handy, we hope. We're going to take all the information we can to try to get our experts to come in with the best recommendation, if unfortunately we're faced with the same catastrophe that the former Minister was.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(2)—pass; 3.(d)(3) External Agencies.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Could the Minister review the External Agencies and the grants proposed for this year, Mr. Chairman, please?

MR. DESJARDINS: The Canadian Diabetic Association, 1.1 to 1.2, it's pretty well the same thing; Canadian Public Health Association, 5 to 5.5. There's no change there, a bit of an increase in the Planned Parenthood, Manitoba, 45 to 49.5. I might say here that we've asked for this money, but we want to review this. We want to look at the reports, some of the recommendations that were made. I think that we have a responsibility with this, but we want to review this at this time or ask for this money, and this money should go there, but there might be some change provided. I'd like to meet with some of the people on this committee again to see if they had any other recommendation. I think some of the recommendations were taken into consideration, but it might be time to look at some others.

The St. John Ambulance Council, 25 to 27.5, so there's not much change, just because of the inflation rate, that's all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(3)—pass; (d)—pass.

Continuing with 3.(e) Public Health Nursing Services, 3.(e)(1) Salaries.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: This appropriation, Mr. Chairman, deals only with the directorate and the consulting services to the Public Health Nursing operations that deliver the service in the field. Does that increased request on the Salaries line reflect an expansion of the administrative component of this particular branch for this particular service?

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Chairman, this is just for the increase in salary. There's no change in there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(e)(1)—pass; 3.(e)(2) Other Expenditures.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: These expenditures are for field service expenditures, I assume. They're not for — these aren't related actually to delivery of the service; they're just field service expenditures.

Most of the services that fall under the umbrella of this particular line are in the field of Maternal and Child Health and in Mental Health and in Home Care. In the field of Maternal and Child Health, we're look-

ing at prenatal classes and infant and preschool classes and visits to newborns and interviews in schools, that type of thing.

Would the Minister, through his officials, be able to advise us as to whether caseloads in these areas of community health are relatively constant, relatively stable in Manitoba or are we looking at any major swings up or down in these fields of service?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I can give him details of the work that has been done, but the question that was asked to see if there was an increase, and I'm told that there has been an increase, for instance, in maternal care, the actual in '78-79, 5,620 cases; and '79-80, 4,526 actual; and '80-81, 4,571; and planned for '81-82, 5,900; so there's been a bit of an increase. The — 15,568, 14,790, 15,732 and 1,730 — infant and preschool, 15,568, 14,790, 14,488 and 16,000. It seems that the highest was '78-79. It dipped down in '79-80 and it came up again in '80-81 and it seems that we're expecting more this year. Providing ongoing health supervision to infant and preschool children, 2,634, 2,480, 2,891 and 2,525; To identify physical development deviations for normal infants and preschool children, 3,065, 3,702, 4,179 and planned for this year, 4,200; Immunized infants and preschool children according to recommendations of the department, the infants receive initial series of diphtheria, polio, tetanus and Sabin, 4,470, 4,642 and planned for this year, 4,800; Received reinforcing doses of above, 3,791, 3,085, 3,400. I guess it seems to be just an educated guess, but it's a guess and it's pretty well the same thing all through.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(e)(2)—pass — the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: The immunization program particularly for infants depends very heavily on the public health nursing staff in general. Could the Minister just comment on the general immunization program which is the responsibility of the Public Health Nursing Services which usually backed and supported that program with fairly substantial educational and informational campaigns? Are there any particular gaps or loopholes in the immunization program at the present time, any weak spots or areas that the department is attempting to shore up, could the Minister comment on that?

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, I think what we'd like to see, is get more information. I'm told that we do only approximately five percent in the City of Winnipeg, but outside of Winnipeg, about 80 percent. The dream that I had, something that we want to look at anyway, I'm not talking about the infants now, but little older children to have a system with the possibility of having that done in schools where we can keep a better record and maybe having it done by the public health nurses. I think it would be cheaper and I think we'd have a better record, but that is just something that will be studied. We haven't even started that as yet, but I'm told that we do only about 5 percent in the city.

MR. SHERMAN: What about those services in remote areas, Mr. Chairman. I recall that some of the remote

northern communities, the bayline communities and elsewhere, have always been of some ongoing concern to the department and consideration in the past has been given to reinforcement of the capability for public health nursing and immunization programs in such parts of the province, even to including the establishment or improvement of clinic facilities including equipment. I think of such communities as Easterville, Moose Lake, Grand Rapids, Pikwitonei and others. Is the department moving with any initiatives on that area of need?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there hasn't been much time to plan in that area. I think that we have identified or the program has been identified before. Provision of service to people living in remote communities has always been a practical problem in recruiting and retention of staff to live in and serve these communities, as my colleague well knows, extremely difficult. Now, we certainly will address ourselves to that. To be quite candid and honest, we haven't had a chance to do much on that.

Now, as far as immunization, I think we were fairly well pleased. I'm told in the rural area and the remote areas that the province, not counting the cities, we feel that the public health nurses in our department are doing about 85 percent of all the population.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister comment on Camperville and Duck Bay which has always been areas of continuing concern? Is there anything new in place or contemplated for services to those two communities?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, it is not the best but we feel it's adequate. The service comes from Swan River. I think they would prefer a station and we certainly will have to look at it, but there's nothing in the Estimates for this year. The main reason, it's not just a question of money; it's so difficult to staff and we will have to look at that also.

MR. SHERMAN: There have been requests from one or the other or both of those communities in the past to put permanent public health nursing staff into those communities. Certainly, the previous government found that was always a formidable challenge. The situation, I assume, remains the same for the incoming administration.

MR. DESJARDINS: The situation hasn't changed at all. We have the same problem. We've identified them and I think we'll just have to try to see if we can improve the situation. At this time, the situation is the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3(e)(2)—pass. Continuing on Page 74, Item No. 3.(f) Home Economic Services, 3.(f)(1) Salaries.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, is the Salaries increase just the normal incremental and inflationary increase?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there is one extra

staff man year. It is a Federal-Provincial project for additional staff man year to be utilized to research characteristics, describe teaching methods, evaluate resources and identify guidelines to use in resource development for teaching non-treaty Natives living in inner city Winnipeg and Northern Manitoba. That's the extra staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(f)(1)—pass; 3.(f)(2) Other Expenditures.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Can the Minister advise the committee, Mr. Chairman, what the province is doing in the area of nutrition and nutrition programs? I recognize that in one aspect this is a subject that probably could or should be discussed under the appropriation to the Manitoba Health Services Commission, but certainly it also falls under the aegis of the Home Economics Services Branch too. In fact, through this branch we have in the past provided some limited financial assistance for the Dietetic Association, largely to go towards promotion of their aims at informing and educating the public in the health advantages of good nutrition, but also there have been some fairly considerable attention placed over the years by this branch, Home Economic Services, on nutrition services and nutrition programming both at the level of the adult population and the very young population including preschool children. I wonder if the Minister could bring the committee up to date on what the branch is doing in this general area covered by this particular line having to do with Other Expenditures.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, if I heard the question correctly, I think the Member for Fort Garry was speaking about the Dietetic Association who has made a request that it should go on fee-for-service. No action on that as yet, but I think we're continuing to work with the association, that was something separately. I think there's two or three that are in private practice at this time. If anything, at this time anyway, we'd like to improve the situation in the hospitals and facilities such as that personal care home and so on and our own department, but we have made a contribution to the association to help them in some of their educational programs such as was done last year also.

MR. SHERMAN: Are the campaigns that were in place in recent previous years on prenatal and infant nutrition still maintained? The Other Expenditures item does not include not much leeway for anything other than inflation and cost price increases. My concern is that some of the programs that were being directed and promoted by the Home Economics Directorate are still in place, such as the Prenatal and Infant Nutrition Programs, the Nutrition Counselling Services to high risk pregnancies. There was a nutrition pamphlet that was distributed at one point in time and received some wide recognition nationally and then there were some programs in the area of preschool and school nutrition. Over and above that, the home economists have a responsibility for a certain amount of home management counselling and debt counselling. Are those programs all being maintained

in a healthy condition?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, we're pretty well going in the same way that we were before except that one additional staff man year that I mentioned. Of course, as the Member for Fort Garry knows, we are working quite closely with the 17 staff in that Department of Agriculture also. Our director is working quite closely with them and we're working with, as I said, the Diabetic Association. I guess one of the priorities, if anything, this year would be the Prenatal and Infant Nutrition which is not a new program but we feel that this is one of the most important programs and probably want to prioritize that program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(f)(2)—pass; 3.(g) Continuing Care Services, 3.(g)(1) Salaries.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is not a great deal of change under the Salaries line. The overall vote being requested for Continuing Care is substantially larger than that requested in '81-82 but we haven't quite come to that line yet. I would just ask the Minister for confirmation that the administration component of this branch in this service remains at the status quo, is that correct?

MR. DESJARDINS: Right, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(g)(1)—pass; 3.(g)(2) Other Expenditures.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Could the Minister review for us the range of Other Expenditures please, Mr. Chairman?

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Other Expenditures is related, of course, to the salaries in the office and to meet office costs and travelling expenses of the central office staff. It includes costs related to the purchase of positions, panelling and advisory services from the University of Manitoba, printing costs for revised programs, personnel and payroll manuals and training packages for homemakers and home care attendants. It includes 13.5 to computerize the home care registry.

MR. SHERMAN: I'm okay on (g)(2), Mr. Chairman, thank you. 3.(g)(2) is allright.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, John M. Bucklaschuk (Gimli): 3.(g)(2)—pass; Item (g)(3) Home Care Assistance.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister first advise the committee of the precise difference in funding appropriation being sought here for '82-83 as against '81-82. The print figure for '81-82 was \$11,101,800.00. The print request for '82-83 of course is 17.4 million. Is it, in fact, a \$6.3 million increase that we're looking at or is there a change in the '81-82 actual?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the member is

absolutely right. The 17,452 that we're requesting will provide an increase of 6,350,300 over the amount of 11,101.8 which was allocated for '81-82 fiscal year, but the shortfall for '81-82 was 3,233,900 is included in this Budget and, therefore, the amount requested for '82-83 is 3,116,400 above the projected expenditure for '81-82. This increase is relative to an increase in pay rates for employees paid through the home care payroll and an increase in rates for services purchased from VON Community Therapy Services and Home Orderly Services. It is also relative to an increase in the number of persons receiving services and an increase in the units of service needed to maintain persons with increasing care needs at home, so it's pretty well the yearly increase.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, just reverting back, not technically but rhetorically, to the Regional Personal Services complement for a moment, the increase in staff man years being requested under Regional Personal Services will include some personnel who will be utilized in the Continuing Care Services Field, particularly in home care, I assume. Actually, I put that as a statement, Mr. Chairman, and probably should have put it as a question. I would ask the Minister whether, in fact, that is the case, that there will be more Regional Personal Services personnel involved in '82-83 in Continuing Care Services, e.g. Home Care than was provided for in the previous establishment of the branch and the department?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, for clarification, the member's not asking for the extra 20 staff man years that we've had. Is that . . .

MR. SHERMAN: No.

MR. DESJARDINS: You're talking about the homemakers and these . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Right.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well I think that we'll follow pretty well the same pattern of increasing every year. We have a certain amount of money but we can't give you the people that we want because we will get them as we can get them and as they're requested, but I can give the comparison of all these different classes from '79, '80, and '81. I'll give you these figures; I think that will give you an idea. The homemakers in '79 — well, I'll give you the three. It covers '79, '80 and '81 — 1,635, then 1,682, and last year 1,852 — (Interjection) — 1,852, that's an increase of nearly 200; registered nurses: 167, in '80 it went down to 103, and last year back to 174; LPNs: 51, 76, 75; home care attendants: 40, 136, 171; therapists: 48, 45, and 56; volunteers: 800, 1,100, and 1,200. Now, of course, with the nursing services from our end: in VON there were 3,075, 3,329 and 3,330; Auxiliary Services, LPN and Home Care Attendant 1,111, 1,280 1,733; Community Therapy Services, 294, 272, 279. Homemaking Services, Community and VON, 4,396, 5,192 and 5,865.

The first that I mentioned — I should have mentioned last, what I mentioned last — the first one actually was a typical month, a program employed part time, the number when I mentioned homemakers,

registered nurses and so on, it was for a month.

I think that you've had a mixture of these people at one time; you'll go from year to year, you might have less nurses and more homemakers, but in all it's an increase all the time because there's no doubt that there are more people now than we've ever had before.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Flin Flon.

MR. JERRY T. STORIE (Flin Flon): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I felt compelled to put a few comments on the record with regard to the Home Care Assistance Program. I found that as I spoke with, particularly the senior citizens or those approaching retirement age, that this was a program that was particularly recommended and one that was highly regarded by a lot of the members of the community, a lot of the seniors in the community, and I think that the program itself has a lot to commend it.

I am also pleased to see the trend that the Minister has indicated over the past number of years and that is a trend that is increasing this area of programming. I think that there are a couple of things that are worthy of note in this type of programming and the first is that it deals with people in their homes in a setting where they feel comfortable, in a setting where I think their well-being is enhanced simply by the familiarity of their surroundings. The people do appreciate this programming. The increases in this area, I think, improved not only the quality of life for those people in a nonhealth sense, a nonmedical sense improved their well-being physically as well, not because there's any great medicine or medical technology being applied to their lives but just by the comfort and the familiarity of their surroundings.

The other area that I think that this program is beneficial is in that it eliminates some of the expense that we go through when we start to institutionalize people, either in hospitals or in chronic care wards or in personal care homes no matter what level, and this is a way of rationalizing our system. It's meeting another level of need and it's meeting it in a sensible and cost-efficient way. This, I think, is something to be desired. It's something that we should be looking for and looking toward in the health care field in general. We're providing these kinds of programs, in-home programs to seniors, I could see this expanding beyond this area into other areas in the health field, and I would hope that would happen.

I would just like to compliment the Minister and the department for showing this initiative and for improving the programming in this area. I think it will benefit a lot of people and I know that a lot of people will derive a lot of satisfaction out of staying at home a little longer and making a better use of their time here on this earth.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us a comparative picture of caseloads, home care caseloads, or the latest date for which he may have them and I recognize that the caseloads are often higher at one point in a month than they are at a

different point in a month, but a median monthly caseload for home care for, hopefully, the latest month that he would have it, which might be December of 1981 in comparison to the previous year, or the previous two or three years?

MR. DESJARDINS: I think that we'll be able to give you even later than that, but in the meantime I'll give you the caseload by year while we're trying to find this information. The admission to Home Care in 1979 was 8,058; 1980, 8,832; 1981, 9,212. The discharge from Home Care in 1979, 7,443; 1980, 7,763, in '81, 8,767. Now the total number receiving Home Care Services during the year: 1979, 15,592; 1980, 16,971; 1981, 18,386. Now the number admitted to the program, the alternative for them had home care not been available would have been and that's the percentage: Personal Care Home placement, 19 percent. The Member for Flin Flon might be interested in these figures, because I think it just goes along with what he was saying, saying that if we had not had this home care, we would have had 19 percent of these total people would have been in Personal Care Home placement; 33 percent would have remained in hospital and 48 percent would remain at home but without the appropriate care.

So there is quite an amount of money, quite a sum, and it looks very expensive, and then we'll see what it saves. I think it saves quite a bit and it gives the service that we didn't have before. The number discharged for the program, the reason for discharge was placed into personal care home or admitted to hospital, 23 percent; improved and no longer needing home care, 37 percent; improved and able to manage home care, 15 percent; deceased, 18 percent and other 7 percent.

This is related — I think that the Minister did mention this yesterday and maybe you forgot tonight and I want to mention something because there had been some criticism and I want to set the record straight. I think the media had some concern on that and I'm talking about the Home Orderly Service. There was an inquiry there; there's no doubt we found that there was an amount of \$1,847.30 that was overbilled, but staff studied this quite carefully with the chap. We felt that the services — it's not perfect, there'll always be criticism — there's a lot of criticism that might come in this area, but their doing as well as anybody else could do. Their records weren't very good. We helped them set up a record; they paid back this money and we're satisfied. We intend to keep on with these people at this time. I thought that I should set the record straight on it. The maximum during the month of March was 10,816 and at the end of the month there was 10,047. That's total cases for the province in all areas. I don't think you want that by regions, do you?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that information. I want to assure him I haven't forgot about the home orderly service. I am glad he mentioned it but I had a note to myself to ask him about it anyway because I had asked yesterday and he suggested we discuss it under Continuing Care Services.

I am very pleased to hear his report on that situation. I am sorry that the Minister of Mines and Energy isn't in the committee, because he was the one raised

a red herring about it at a time which I felt was particularly cynical. I felt it was selected for political purposes in the middle or at least at the outset of an election campaign and that it was very unfair both to the department, to the branch, to the Minister and the government of the day and to the Home Orderly Service.

I am pleased to hear the Minister say that it's the intention of the branch and of this department to continue with that contracted service at the present time. Certainly if there are some inefficiencies in terms of administration and bookkeeping, they've got to be addressed and dissolved. No one is disputing that, but I think that it was a sensationalized situation. But there's not much point in a preacher standing up in the pulpit on Sunday morning and criticizing those in the congregation, because a lot of people don't come to church, so there's not much point in my saying these things to the Minister of Health when he was not the person who raised that cynical red herring. I'm saying them anyway, Mr. Chairman, because I intend to tear this particular page out of Hansard and send it over to the Minister of Energy and Mines. My remarks are intended for him.

Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise us of where we stand with respect to waiting lists for admission to personal care homes vis-a-vis continuing care and the home care service? How many home care clients are panelled for personal care at the present time?

MR. DESJARDINS: This is at the end of December. These are people that have been panelled. Right?

Total for the rural areas and I will give you the last three years: 1979 was 1,036; 1980 was 1,079; 1981 was 893. In Winnipeg for the same three years was 892, 711, 519. Now the total was 1,928 in '79. In 1980 was 1,790 and 1981 was 1,412.

Now I might as well give you probably the next question that the member would want answered, the average monthly number of persons remaining in hospital in Winnipeg while waiting for placement. I take it that these people have been panelled and are considered personal home care patients and are being charged the per diem-rate in a hospital. The number of persons in acute hospital: 1979 was 176; 1980 was 171; 1981 was 153. Non-acute hospitals 238; 214 and 174.

MR. SHERMAN: Those last figures you gave me were for Winnipeg or all Manitoba?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, in Winnipeg. Excuse me, I am told that it is not really a problem in the rural areas. Not that there is too many personal care beds but there is too many acute beds.

MR. SHERMAN: But considering the fact that many of the rural hospitals that I've been in with Mr. Edwards and Mr. McLean and others have a 50-percent occupancy rate most of the time, it's not that big a problem. So, those figures were for Winnipeg.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether anything is being done in terms of developing plans or ideas for expansion of the home care concept in ways other than simply adding dollars or adding personnel. Not that those aren't important but

I know in other countries, other jurisdictions where there are home care programs in place, most instances they have some distance to go before they'd measure up to the Manitoba program. The Manitoba program is quite renowned and I know that our home care officials in Manitoba have been invited to offer seminars and lead discussions in various jurisdictions, particularly around North America on home care programming. But, there are some other countries in the world that are also into the business in a successful way, particularly in some western European countries and they have expanded the concept to look at methods for improving the home environment that the person is in. Not simply for putting a home care worker in there to provide them with certain kinds of service but for actually providing some improvement in the physical environment. There may be some physical, structural changes needed to the house.

As a matter of fact, at the risk of provoking a partisan political argument, I'd like to make reference to a program that was introduced by the Government of Alberta not long ago and certainly they have more revenues with which to do it than we do but, it was modelled to a certain extent on some of those western European programs where there was funding provided to make a physical change in the home that made it much easier for that person to stay in their home. Are the advisors and directors who run this program and the advisors to the Minister and the persons that he is putting in place in the long-range planning component looking at, hopefully in the not too distant future perhaps getting into that kind of refinement and improvement of the whole home care concept?

MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): The Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we certainly will try and improve our Home Care Program. I don't know if this would be the first priority, the direction that my honourable friend has mentioned — I think that has been done in some certain programs by the former government and even in the Schreyer government there were certain things that were done for repairs and to try to conserve energy.

Something related to this though, I can say that my priority will be the enriched senior citizen home, we'll be working in that direction. Now enriching the senior citizen home will be the idea of keeping the people instead of having them in an institution. They would be in their home, because the senior citizen home is their home, and we would try to co-ordinate; it probably won't cost that much because we would have a certain number of people. We would hope that any new ones that will be built, will be built with that in mind, where we can provide certain services such as a cafeteria where people can get their meals and so on. I think that this will change their lifestyle; it would make it much more pleasant for these people; their relatives and their family and friends will worry less; they'll know that they're being well-fed and also it will keep them there in their home setting a lot longer, instead of forcing them into a Personal Care Home for this area.

Now I did a lot of talking and didn't do that much in the past. We were working on that and I think the former Minister accepted that, also, and I don't think that he had the time to do too much but we have called back, we have set up a Committee immediately, an interdepartmental Committee with the Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Mackling, and then Community Services and we want to explore that. Also we want to look in the construction and you know, the Director of Gerontology also would play a role in there.

I think that we want to look to see if there are certain things that we could do for the well elderly. You know that will be the Council on Aging and the Society of Seniors will be asked to participate, for instance, I guess I can mention this at this time, we've had a meeting with the Society of Seniors and we tried to find out where different departments could help. For one thing, they were talking about the Manitoba Games. I don't know if this is the wrong way to go but I would like to see — I could dream of a day where we have truly Manitoba Games. Not Manitoba Games for certain people and then the handicapped on another day and then the seniors; I would like to see it altogether. You know, you're not going to have seven or eight disciplines for each age but you can have one or two sports in the winter, one or two sports for the seniors, but having it at the same time with the people there in the ambience and the leadership and let them run their games also and have the handicapped people also. I think it would be great for the participant; it would be great for the leadership — mind you, I'm talking about another department, I got carried away there.

I think that is important, if my friend remembers, last year I suggested that the money for providing for the Handicapped Olympics or whatever should go to the Department of Recreation and Fitness to show that it's not a zoo; they're people like everybody else, they're part of the community. But I think the value, the real value will be to the members of the community who have to be educated to realize that a community is made up of all kinds of people, the winner and the losers and the fortunate ones; the healthy ones and the others.

So that is an area that I think we have to do more for. From the discussion that we've had over the last 10 years or so, my honourable friend, the Member for Fort Garry, I think we agree on many of these things. I think we were two of the first ones that very much composed the compulsory retiring at 65 and I think those are all part of the programs. I think that some of the things that my friend was fairly successful with was trying to organize the volunteers. You know when I left the apartment today to come here for the Estimate, I met this lady and she said, "you know, you've got to find me something, some volunteer work or if not I'm going to jump off the balcony." There are some people like that who were fairly close and they've lost their spouse and so on and I think we can assist them. They will be rendering somebody a service and, besides that, it will certainly help them and make their life more meaningful. So I think we should work on that and see what the information is and provide that information to as many people as possible, go a step further. There's been a lot of improve-

ment in the last few years, because I know that was one of the priorities, the volunteers, and I certainly agree.

I think that those programs with the programs also for respite care, that's not exactly what my honourable friend is saying but I think these things are all related. I'm trying to set up - we've got a pretty talented person in the department - I'm trying to set up a map of Manitoba and I feel like a puzzle. I feel that these programs are like a big puzzle and the more pieces you have the better you can see the picture and I'd like to see the concept of all these different services that we have until we're not satisfied and that will never happen, I guess, until all the pieces are in place when we can provide all these services.

So, in general, I think I understand the concern of the Member for Fort Garry and I share that concern. I don't know if we'll have exactly the same priorities, physical repair to a house or other programs, but I think that we mean the same thing and we want to achieve the same thing and that we can work together, all the members of House, to achieve the success.

MR. SHERMAN: I thank the Minister for his comments and reassurance, Mr. Chairman. I would agree that Enriched Elderly Persons' Housing is certainly an important part of the whole spectrum and, to a certain extent up to this point in time, it's probably been an underemphasized part of it.

I think that there are many opportunities around the province and I encountered many of them myself, certainly not too long ago in the Interlake, where the missing link, the missing piece in the whole spectrum, is Enriched Elderly Persons' Housing, which often times in many, many ways can be infinitely more useful in terms of the overall objectives of all this programming in the Continuing Care field than an institutional type of service, such as that offered through a personal care home can be. That's not to downgrade the importance of personal care homes in any way but there's more to continuing care than the personal care home and certainly I would agree that the enriched elderly persons' housing concept is a very important part of it.

I would hope that he's working very closely with his colleague, the Minister responsible for the Manitoba and Renewal Corporation, to try to expand those opportunities and those components. I assume that all that would be required from the Department of Health, where Enriched Elderly Persons' Housing is concerned, is the input of the nursing staff and that the rest of the responsibility really comes under the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. So hopefully we can look for initiatives in that area.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, on this particular appropriation, I wanted to ask about a specified request that admittedly had been in front of the previous government and certainly were not fully resolved or fully met. I'm wondering whether they have been in front of the new government and what the plans are for meeting them. In the request that was sort of current a year ago, and even less than a year ago, for additional SMY's under this area of Community Health Services were specific requests for resource developers in various regions of the province and for homefinders.

In particular there was a request for a position that would be a homefinder's position in the Winnipeg region. In particular too, there were requests for resource developer's positions in Westman, Interlake and in NorMan regions. There was a request from the Parklands region for a liaison position or a coordinators position to maintain contact with hospitals and to reinforce the linkage between hospitals and home care. Can the Minister advise the Committee of the status of those requests and that kind of thinking in the manpower, womanpower establishment of this branch?

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm not sure that I understood. We have a staff man year that is looking for homes where there are foster homes. I don't know if that is what the member's saying and we're trying to improve that in certain areas, especially in the Interlake, the area where it seems that it's most needed. I don't know if that's exactly the concern of the member.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, I'd presume that that position could accommodate, at least in part, the concerns that were embodied in those requests. But there were also specific requests as I've mentioned, Mr. Chairman, for resource developers. These were requests that came out of a task force on home care that made a certain number of recommendations. They were based on the finding that a great number of responsibilities where home care is concerned were falling on the public health nurses and improperly so, that the public health nurses had a fairly full plate of responsibilities where home care was concerned. Is there continuing consideration being given to the need for, the desirability of resource developer positions in the home care field or is that now passe?

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the only thing I can see for that is in the 20 staff man year that we've had with the regional. The reason they delivered by that branch, we have a service to seniors in Westman, and one in Central that could do some of that and also we have a, as I said there is a balance of 7 that is being on hold at this time that will be assigned to different regions, so that would be part of the thing that could be.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister provide us with a breakdown of the grants designated this year for what I suppose would be described as External Agencies under continuing care, although they're not so designated in the Estimates book? That is the Age and Opportunity Centre for example and the Brandon Civic Senior Citizens Incorporated, Meals on Wheels, Rural Senior Centres, that type of thing. I presume those External Agencies are still being funded by the department.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes and no, they're still being funded by a department but not our department as Community Services.

MR. SHERMAN: Oh, they're all under Community Services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 3.(g)(3). The Member for

Roblin-Russell.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin-Russell): Mr. Chairman, I have one or two questions I'd like to ask the Minister on the assessment for placement in personal care homes.

I've had many requests from time to time from wives of husbands who are ill, sons and daughters of mothers and fathers who are ill, complain and express great concern to me and about their father and mother. Their name may be on the list in a certain personal care home but illness or other reasons have caused the family to become concerned and want to know if they can't be raised up on the list and if so, they contact me, so I naturally contacted the board and from there on it seems to get lost in the shuffle. Sometimes changes are made and sometimes they're not.

I generally correspond with the Minister and in due course get a letter back from the Minister in response. But I don't think I understand how the system works and I'm sure there are many many of those that are out in the constituency that when they ask for a review of the assessment or who makes the last decision, is it the doctor who decides if their priorities are higher than the board, or just how does the assessment work, or if a reassessment is requested?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the request could come from different people. It could come from the patient themselves; it could come from family; it could come from people in the community or friends; it could come from the doctor; it could come from the hospital; it could come from a case worker. There are different teams that are working out here and the same people are responsible for the assessment for home care and the paneling for personal care home except it has to go to a panel before you are accepted, your paneled for a personal care home. So their request can come from different places.

Now in the rural area there's a team comes in — the doctor might be part of it, the public health nurse and so on — and they meet usually every second week so they shouldn't have a delay more than a month. If it's an emergency they would look at it right away, I'm sure. But if not the most they can do if they just put in a few days before the meeting, and if that's missed, well then they would get it in an average of two to three weeks. Now that's paneling in home care. Of course, that's reassessed continually because some people get better and some people get worse.

Now the situation is, if the people should be in a personal care home well then their panel is such that they're on the waiting list that we're talking about. If they are already in the hospital in a rural area, there should be less problem as we mentioned because the acute beds are not filled. Now they will be deemed to be personal care home patients. They will be charged the pre dium rate the same as if they were in personal care but at least they have a bed and it doesn't hurt. It's not a question of these beds are there, it's not a question that you're occupying a very expensive bed, that's not the case and in fact it could be helpful with the staff to have a mixture of these things. So it's not really that much of a problem.

I'm not saying there's no need for personal care

homes in the rural area but at least the waiting list shouldn't be that bad. In the City of Winnipeg it's a little more difficult and of course they're always yel-ling in acute bed hospitals to try to get the patients out because that means these beds could be occupied by people that'll have elective surgery and that kind of surgery, and if there's no beds they can't go ahead and they have to wait, then that's postponed but we're quite satisfied with the panelling system. The criteria are pretty well the same; it's the same kind of team. They meet occasionally with our directors and so on, to have seminars and to compare notes and so on, and that is being studied and updated continually. But if there's any problem on this, if somebody has to wait, I would suggest that you get in touch Ms. Enid Thompson, who's probably the expert in Canada on home care. The Member for Fort Garry and I agree that Manitoba is way ahead of any other provinces when it comes to this program; we're the envy of most provinces. A person in front of me has asked to discuss this with many other provinces and some others also and I'm sure that you'll get quick action. I'm not saying you're going to have a bed right away but you'll have the matter looked at immediately and you'll be told what happens now.

If there is no beds, no beds at all, and they have been paneled for a bed, then we will spend any amount of money. In other wordseven if it costs more, for some reason it costs more than at a personal care home because that person has to be taken care of, but normally you're not going to give people home care if it's going to cost more. Peoplesay I don't want to go to the hospital; I want home care and if it's going to cost more, well no, we're not that flush that we can spend that kind of money. But if it's the reverse that's true, and people through no fault of theirs, if we can't find a bed, steal or beg a bed — well then the money that'll be spent to take care of that person, whatever.

I don't know if that gives the information to my honourable friend but if any members of the House have problems, I would say call direct to the home care, continuing care people; leave a message; give your problem and they will look at it. I'm not saying they're going to solve all your problems and they'll find a bed but at least they'll get on it immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. LLOYD HYDE (Portage la Prairie): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister, as he's quite aware I'm sure, there's several residential homes in Portage where as I find in talking with these people, there is much need for the Home Care Program and some special services that these senior citizens do require and they would like very much to have this program reinstated by your government. In suggesting this, they would like very much for the system or the blood pressure testing service that at one time was part of a program and they also are requesting, if possible, to have maid service to some of these blocks.

They're willing to pay for these things in most cases. They're willing to pay for these services but the need is there. They can't get out when they should and the vast need to bring it to the attention of you, Sir, to see if you could reinstate this here program. It is

much needed and as I say, in many cases, they are willing to bear the cost on them.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, in answer to that, I think I understand but it's not quite clear. I think that it falls between three different programs. You have home care and I'm not going to repeat what I mentioned; I think you understand the system. Then I think that earlier, I don't know if the member was present in this Committee or was at the other Committee; we talked about enriched senior citizen homes.

Now if you're talking about people in a personal care home, that wouldn't be the case. I would imagine through you, Mr. Chairman, that the member is talking about somebody in a senior citizen home. In other words, they are in their residence. Well, the intention is to bring some kind of enriched service, in other words, some form of home care, pretty well the programs that you are talking about now, but there is a limit to what you can do.

My honourable friend said that many of the people would just like to know and to be assured that they can get this service and they're ready to pay for it because some people have money; they just don't know where to turn. Well, that is where we're working with the Council on Seniors, the Advisory Committee. The book that you have in front of you today is to do exactly that. That's just the first edition. We hope that this will keep on going; maybe it'll be in some kind of a looseleaf one of these days that you can send a page like we do with our statute and eventually that information should be there. Of course it's a question of supply and demand also.

I think that you'll have to work with the private sector and let them know of the demands sometimes and somebody might institute a certain program like washing windows or something in the rural area. Some people find that difficult. I am not saying, and I want to have it clear and I don't think the member was asking that we pay for all these things. I think that you're asking that our department, through some organization or somebody, should co-ordinate the service and inform the people what is available and that is the idea of this first book that I tabled today. We hope that this will give you more and more information and these people, this Advisory Committee also, it works like an Advisory Committee, were working also with the Society of Seniors and so on, we're trying to get an umbrella group over all of them, because we can't fund all of them. This is the information we are told; they advise us, as the member did today, as to the services that are required; what the people want, what they'd like to have; then in turn we tell them, well, this is available either through a government program or through the private sector in this area.

So, we will continue to do that, and between these three programs, I think that you'll have your answer somewhere. That will come; there's improvement everyday on that.

MR. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if you will assure the citizens of Manitoba that a program something similar to this will be reinstated, I'm sure that it'll be a credit to you and your department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(g)(3)—pass; (g)—pass. Continuing with 3.(h) Dental Services; 3.(h)(1) Salaries.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: I think what we could do at this time, I would ask if the Committee would agree; I must say that I'm meeting with the dental organization in a day or so. Before I announce anything that we've made certain commitments, I'd want to be able to give the information but we're working with the dental profession.

I wonder if I could ask you, if the Committee would accept that Committee rise at this time with the understanding - and we'll inform the staff - that we leave dental for the time being and we can start with Mental Health Services tomorrow or whatever. When I have a little more information I could pass on this information and we can discuss the Dental Services.

Either that, or we go ahead with the Dental Services pretty well what we have now and we could even do some of that today. I see Dr. McCormick is here and I would make the announcement and we can discuss it under the Minister's Salary. It doesn't matter to me.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, it would be acceptable to me and I'm sure to my colleagues on this side of the Committee to leave the consideration of Dental Services until later in consideration of the Estimates.

I don't particularly want to plunge into Mental Health Services tonight. I want to refresh my mental capacity in order to do that, because it's a very important part of the Estimates. So, I'd be prepared for Committee to rise at this juncture and deal with Dental Services at the end of the Estimates, after the Commission or before the Commission, if the Minister's ready to reveal his plans at that time.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, then it's understood that the next time we meet, we'll start with No. 4, Mental Health Services and either at the end of 4. or later on if we're ready at the end of 4. we'll call Dental Services. Now with that understanding I move that the Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise