

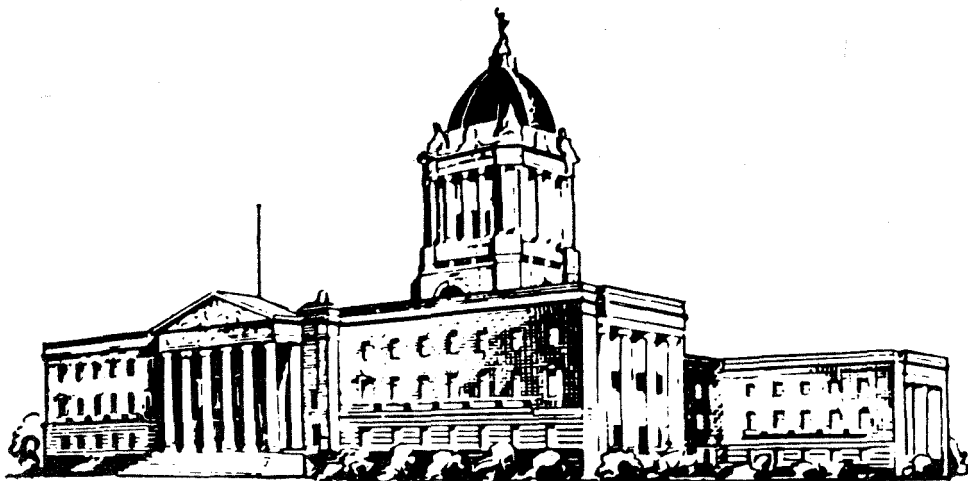


First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Denis C. Rocan
Speaker*



VOL. XXXVII No. 82A - 1:30 p.m., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1988.

**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virden	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
McCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
MINENKO, Mark	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Rhineland	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles	Springfield	LIBERAL
ROSE, Bob	St. Vital	LIBERAL
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, November 22, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): I beg to present the petition of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Foundation, praying for the passing of an Act to Amend an Act to Incorporate the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Foundation.

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): "The Petition of the undersigned, the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Foundation humbly showeth that the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Foundation was incorporated by Chapter 53, Statutes of Manitoba, 1986/87.

"That it is desired to amend the said Act to repeal and substitute Section 3(1)(c) thereof to reduce the scope of the objects of the Foundation and to repeal subsections (d) and (e) of Subsection 1 of Section 3.

"That the requested amendments are to qualify the Foundation as a charity under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

"Wherefor your petitioner humbly prays that the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba may be pleased to pass an Act for the purposes mentioned above.

"And as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray."

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I would like to table Supplementary Estimates information, 1988-89 Revenue Estimates for all the departments of Government.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the gallery, where we have from the Neepawa Collegiate sixty Grade XI students under the direction of Wayne Hollier. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings). On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Phase Two Audit Arts Organization

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). On October 26, in response to a question about the Phase 2 audit asked by the Member for Osborne (Mr.

Alcock), the Minister of Finance downplayed his concern about the role of voluntary boards in our community. The Minister told us it was "a very minor aspect of the audit." Why then has this Government hired a consultant to question community-based arts groups on the effectiveness of their boards?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): As I indicated to the Member in my response to his question at that time, the Government of Manitoba is very interested in knowing the effectiveness of programs that are delivered by a whole host of community organizations and entities. The Government of the Day was very interested in knowing as to whether or not accountability was in place with respect to the delivery of those services, plus the handling of Government finances. The Government of the Day was mandated by the people of this province, April 26, to ask those questions and to come up with a better understanding. That was the essence of the Phase 2 audits and that is what is being put into place with the activities of all our consultants.

Questionnaires

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): With a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), why is it then that these questionnaires were sent to the managers, the executive directors of these organizations, and not to the boards themselves? So we have a situation where employees hired by these boards are asked to evaluate them. Could the Minister explain why?

* (1335)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we entered into a contract with Prairie Research Associates to be specific, asking them by way of the terms of reference which were given to the Members of this House in an open fashion, very general terms of reference embodying the three general areas that I have just enunciated to the Member. The firm, Prairie Research Associates, being one of the successful tenderers, presented to us a methodology whereby they would go to the community and seek certain information. We were not aware indeed the Government was not aware that Prairie Research Associates was going to direct questionnaires specifically to management. I think it probably would have been better had they also directed those to boards.

Questionnaires Board Members

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Since the Minister agrees with us that this kind of questionnaire is more appropriately directed at those who are ultimately accountable to these organizations, will he today tell the consultants to send these questionnaires to the board members not simply those to who they employ?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Once we have made the agreement with the consultants and once the terms of reference have been put into place and accepted and agreed to and once the contracts have been entered into and the methodologies put into place, we wonder and we question how far it is that we should impose our wishes upon the hired consultants. Nevertheless, I have not had direct contact with Mr. Mason, but I am prepared to talk to him directly and see whether or not that is a preferable course of action.

Lottery Assessment Review Availability

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): With a new question to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson), again on the 26th of October, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) told this House that he was "very concerned about the complexity of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation." He was concerned because some of the grants come from lottery monies and others come from appropriations. Now the former Government established a Lottery Assessment Review to help Ministers come to grips with those complexities.

Mr. Speaker, this report is late. I would like to ask the Minister when she expects the Needs Assessment Review to be in her possession and when she will then table it in this House?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): I thank the Member for that question. Phase II of the Needs Assessment Report has been distributed to the umbrella groups who participated in the Needs Assessment. I met with them, along with the consultants and members of the Lottery Foundation last week, the week before, and indicated what the process would be. The consultants along with the umbrella groups are in the process of signing off and ensuring that everything within that report meets the specifications, meets the concerns of both sides affected. The consultants will be coming forward with recommendations to Government in the next week or so. Those recommendations will then be looked at. We will be looking at implementing them at that time.

Lottery Revenues Lower Gambling Receipts

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): We would like to know what this Government's policy is. We see now that lottery revenues are flattening out and they are increasing at a much smaller rate than they have over the past 10 years. Over this number of years, more and more cultural and sporting organizations have developed a dependency on lottery revenues. What is this Minister's policy? How does she intend to cushion those groups against lowered gambling receipts in the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): That will be explained when we come forward with our implementation of the Needs

Assessment and our policy regarding lotteries. If you want to discuss it in a little more detail, we will be into Estimates, I am told, possibly by this evening or Thursday at the latest. We will have every opportunity to debate and discuss those issues.

Distribution Policy

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): A final supplementary to the Minister of Culture, and I look forward to questioning her in some detail during the Estimate process. Is it this Government's policy, and I cannot make it any simpler than this, to return funding to cultural and sporting organizations in Manitoba to the security of the tax base?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): I had indicated, I think, in the answer that I just gave that our policy regarding distribution of lotteries will be formulated as a result of the Needs Assessment. When that is done and when our policy is ready as a result of that study, we will be letting the Members opposite know.

* (1340)

Arts Organizations Questionnaires

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I am rather astounded that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) would not immediately want to withdraw the inappropriate questions that are presently before the arts organizations in the questionnaire that has been described in the media and certainly has come to our attention.

My question is to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson), dealing with this questionnaire that has been forwarded. Does the Minister think it is appropriate that the executive director, a person who is hired and fired by a board of directors, a voluntary board of directors, would be asked about the method by which the boards are selected and identified in terms of the qualifications of those board members? Is that an appropriate question to ask an executive director of a voluntary board of directors and, if not, would they please order the consulting firm to withdraw this poll and this questionnaire with that inappropriate question?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, obviously the Leader of the NDP is hard pressed for question material today. I have answered that question in full measure just previously. As I have indicated earlier, no Government department was involved in the development of the questionnaire, the general questionnaire that was presented to a number of volunteer boards. We have some concern with some of the wording that is within it but, again, we were not asked to give our final stamp to the final draft. We have some concerns and we will be addressing them with the consultant.

Inappropriate Questionnaire

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Again the Minister does not answer the question, whether the questions are inappropriate or not and whether he will ask the firm that he has hired through taxpayers' money that he is accountable for to withdraw the questions. Does the Minister feel, the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson) or the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) feel it is appropriate for the executive director of an organization of voluntary—a board of directors organization, an executive director who is hired and fired by that organization, to make comments on the financial accountability of the people, the board of directors who are actually his or her employer? Does the Minister of Finance think that is an appropriate question to ask an executive director, and would the Minister of Finance not issue instructions for the polling firm to withdraw that inappropriate question?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): The question is repeated again, and again I offer the answer that I did earlier. Mr. Speaker, I will talk to Mr. Mason later today. I just had an opportunity late yesterday to have a letter come to me. There are pages of questions, many of them good, I am sure many of them that would be supportable by the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Doer) but nevertheless, as I have indicated in an earlier response, I would ask Mr. Mason whether he would give consideration to directing this questionnaire to a wider scale, to a wider scope, and indeed directing it to boards of directors.

Mr. Doer: Yes, in terms of the questions within the questionnaire, again we are hearing from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) that they will review it with the pollster. The Minister of Finance is indeed the employer in terms of the contract of this questionnaire and what we want from the Minister of Finance is an acknowledgement that this is inappropriate to send this to an executive director who is hired and fired by a voluntary board of directors, to ask that same executive director to evaluate the very many items that they are asked to do in this questionnaire. I would ask the Minister of Finance to give the people of Manitoba and the voluntary organizations and the executive directors who have been put in an absolutely awkward position, to ask the Minister of Finance to get the polling company that he has hired to reword this question and redirect it in a much more appropriate way, rather than this divide and conquer way that has been issued by the Government.

Mr. Manness: Why does the Member opposite use that terminology? In reviewing these questions, indeed as he has, he knows that 80 percent of them deal with funding specifically as between the department and indeed the agency, and who would be able best to answer those questions other than the executive directors? Yes, there is a small component of this that deals specifically with the responsibility of the boards, the volunteer boards, but most of this questionnaire, upwards of 80 percent to 90 percent of it, deals specifically with the day-to-day negotiations and events

between the departments and indeed the volunteer boards. Who would be in the best position to answer those questions other than the executive director. So let us put that into perspective, Mr. Speaker, nevertheless that item dealing specifically with commentary as per the volunteer boards. I think the Member has a point, and I will endeavour to reach Mr. Mason and try to resolve this issue.

* (1345)

Mr. Doer: I would hope that the Minister will issue a withdrawal motion to the instructions to the polling company, and have the questionnaire changed more appropriately in that the executive directors are calling it divisive with the board.

Gate Funding

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): A final question to the Minister, our feedback from the arts organizations that received this questionnaire is to say they are in a total state of confusion on terms of questions dealing with gate versus non-gate and, because that has major implications for their funding or their perceived funding, would the Minister also review that important item with the polling company and have that reworded in a way that arts organizations understand it and can address it intelligently?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, for the record, I would like to indicate what the question was in the questionnaire. It said: "What is the minimum revenue from the gate that should be accepted for application for funding from the Government. By gate, include member's fees, admissions to performances and showings and all private sources, i.e., other sources of revenue that are available to the association?"

I think that is pretty clear and pretty straightforward to most of us who would be able to decipher this. So again, if this presents a problem, I will again discuss it in some detail with Mr. Mason, but I think it is pretty straightforward. I wonder and I question why it is that the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Doer) tries to create a situation of some concern which does not exist.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Court Facilities Brandon Development

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). During the Attorney-General's campaign for re-election in April of this year in Brandon, he committed himself to improving court facilities in Brandon. Nearly seven months has now gone by since the election. There is, as yet, no commitment from this Government to do just that. When will the Attorney-General be seeing to the expansion and improvement of these much-needed court facilities in Brandon?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I will be quite candid with the Honourable Member and tell him that

indeed my platform had much to do with developing facilities in Brandon, not only court facilities but other facilities, and not only developing facilities but also putting people to work and creating work. I am pleased to say that as a result of what happened in Canada yesterday, Manitoba will go a long way in creating those jobs and creating the wealth necessary to build the facilities that are vitally needed in many areas of the province, not to mention Brandon, which is badly in need of renovations to its court house. Announcements will be made in due course on that issue.

Unified Family Court Rural Expansion

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): It is funny how "in due course" keeps coming up again and again. The Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) has mentioned the expansion of facilities. With respect to the expansion of services, the new Queen's Bench Act has recently been passed by this House. I called upon the Attorney-General to consider expanding a Unified Family Court to rural Manitoba and, of course, high on that list would be the City of Brandon. The Attorney-General chose not to take that advice.

My question is, when will the advantages, the well-known advantages in this city, of the Unified Family Court be extended to the people of rural Manitoba, and then I would presume first on that list would be the people of Brandon?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I do not remember reading all of the Honourable Member's campaign literature. I do not remember if he talked about expanded court facilities for the City of Brandon in his campaign literature or an expanded Unified Family Court across the province. It may very well be, but I recall vividly speaking about an expanded unified court.

But you know, if we are going to expand courts across the province, we have to have proper facilities. For instance, the court house at Minnedosa was in need of repair. The Honourable Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) did not really think that was something that was necessary for the community of Minnedosa. We did, Mr. Speaker. Work is under way—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Ellice, on a point of order.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): Yes, a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As the Attorney-General, I believe, is well aware that the statement I made was in fact, if it were a choice between repairing the court house and foster care, paying foster parents money to care for children, I would choose the children.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. A dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) wants to get involved. The fact is funding for foster parents was increased. Funding for potholes mentioned by the Member for Ellice was increased and so was funding for the roof of the Minnedosa court house.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

* (1350)

Court of Queen's Bench Additional Judge Brandon

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): According to their famous concern for families, I asked the question about the Unified Family Court which was not answered. Let me go on to say that 65 percent of the present Queen's Bench docket approximately is family-oriented in Brandon. A second judge is sent out on a regular basis to help Judge Oliphant.

My final question to the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) is, will he listen to the members of the Western Bar Association and the people of his own home city and contact his federal counterpart, his new federal counterpart, to arrange for the financing of a second Queen's Bench judge in Brandon, a much needed second judge, and will he then refer this matter to the new Manitoba Selection Committee for the appointment of judges?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell the Honourable Member that not only have I had contact with my former federal counterpart, but I fully intend to have frequent contacts with my future federal counterpart. I have had many, many discussions with Associate Chief Justice Hamilton with respect to Family Court matters in the Province of Manitoba, discussions with Chief Justice Hewak, discussions with the Manitoba Bar Association, and of course representatives of the Western Bar almost every weekend when I return to my home constituency of Brandon, and I have the opportunity to discuss court house expansion, to discuss backlogs, to discuss unified Family Court extension. All of these things are under active consideration by my department. I am very pleased with the progress we have been able to make and the consultative process has been very effective and I think very much appreciated, certainly by myself and I hope by those with whom I have been consulting.

Unemployed Help Centre Funding Restoration

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Security and Employment Services (Mrs. Oleson). This Minister has again made the decision to cut yet another community service and that is the funding for the Unemployed Help Centre in Brandon and in Winnipeg. Eighty-nine percent of the cases, Mr. Speaker, referred to the centre in Brandon have successfully been resolved so that individuals who are due unemployment insurance had been able to receive that assistance. Fifteen hundred people have

not had to rely on welfare assistance because of the help from this centre.

My question to the Minister is, will this Minister stand up for the people of Manitoba, particularly in rural Manitoba, and agree to provide funding to the Unemployed Help Centre in Brandon?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): I had indicated in the House before with questions on that same topic that the unemployment insurance is a federal jurisdiction, and that we do not feel that it is appropriate to fund something that is a direct responsibility of the federal Government.

Referrals

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Ellice, with a supplementary question.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): This Minister has also indicated that there were three positions that were in place for Unemployment Insurance Commission and this is why they would not fund. These three positions have been in place since April. If these positions are so effective, could the Minister tell us why the Brandon Unemployed Help Centre continues to receive referrals from rural MLAs, from the MP from Brandon-Souris, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Community Services' own constituency. Why are you continuing to give referrals to the Brandon Unemployed Help Centre if these three positions with the federal Government are so effective?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): I have made no referrals that I am aware of in the last while to the Unemployed Help Centre but there are four positions that were put in place, three in Winnipeg and one in Brandon to help deal with unemployment insurance. As I will repeat to the Member, unemployment insurance is a federal responsibility.

Service Evaluation

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Ellice, with a final supplementary question.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): The Unemployed Help Centre met with the Minister last week and they had a simple, reasonable request. Evaluate the service before you unilaterally cut. The Minister indicated in that meeting that she made her decision based on conversations with the former Member of Parliament, Leo Duguay. Would the Minister please consider to at least take a positive step and at least agree to evaluate the service of the Unemployed Help Centres in Brandon and Winnipeg before unilaterally slashing the funding?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): The problem is, if I was to evaluate this, I would be evaluating federal programs and we are not in the business in this province of evaluating the federal program.

* (1355)

MPIC General Insurance Division

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, the Legislative Committee on Public Utilities discussed the future of the General Insurance Division of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation and passed a resolution which incidentally was supported by the Minister responsible for MPIC (Mr. Cummings) and also by the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns), requesting the Government to study options for the future of the General Insurance Division, based on the fact that it has been turned around financially, based on the fact that there are jobs involved, and based on the fact there are a lot of present policyholders who will be hurt. Has the MPIC—I am asking this of the Minister—begun a review of these options, and can the Minister advise the House of any progress in this respect?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): Mr. Speaker, yes, as a matter of fact, the reason we supported the resolution and the motion is that it in fact reinforces the process that we have already put in place. We are in fact examining all the options that are available.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Service Elimination

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) of this province has made his position very clear and I thought he was speaking for his Government, which is in direct contradiction to the position of this committee. I would ask the Minister (Mr. Cummings), has the Premier (Mr. Filmon), has this Government taken a position to accept the position of the committee in this matter, or is the Premier's position still as conveyed to the Minister (Mr. Cummings), that he is totally adamant that the General Insurance lines of MPIC shall be eliminated forthwith, because that was his public position.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): Mr. Speaker, the Member opposite I think forgets that the problems of this arm of the corporation were created under his administration when they continuously lost money. That is what put that arm of the corporation in jeopardy in the manner in which it has to operate. We are examining whatever options are available to that part of the corporation.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Mr. Speaker, that Minister (Mr. Cummings) knows full well that it was turned around before he took office.

Brandon City Council Meeting

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Brandon East, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister (Mr.

Cummings) is with respect to the fact that the City Council of Brandon has now taken a stand against the elimination of the General Insurance Division of the MPIC because of the negative impact on that community, and for other reasons. Has this Minister been contacted by the city, and will he and the Premier (Mr. Filmon) give them the courtesy of an early meeting?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): Mr. Speaker, I am quite frequently in contact with the Mayor of the City of Brandon and the administration. As a matter of fact, I had a meeting with Mr. Peter Olfert within the last week as well. I am certainly prepared and I am sure the Premier (Mr. Filmon) will as well meet with the council, the representatives of the City of Brandon. We have always indicated that we are very conscious of the responsibility we have towards the employees and the responsibility we have towards the City of Brandon and its economic expansion.

Manitoba Metis Federation Self-Governing Institutions

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey). Ever since the failure of the First Minister's (Mr. Filmon) Conference on Aboriginal Rights in March of 1987 processes have been implemented to define and develop self-governing institutions for Native people, self-governing institutions in the areas of child and family services, economic development, education, which in the case of the Manitoba Metis Federation deals specifically with the Louis Riel Institute, and also in the areas of housing and so forth. The step 1 of this particular process is simply the definition phase. Step 2 is the continuation to get to the technical working groups. My question is simply this: has this Government committed to completing this tripartite process with the Manitoba Metis Federation?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, discussions with my department and the Native Affairs Secretariat are ongoing with the Manitoba Metis Federation.

Technical Working Groups

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): We have heard the answer with respect to the review of the Native Affairs Secretariat with respect to these questions several times now. Has the Government decided to go to the next stage with the technical working groups, which is to identify the personnel who will represent the province in the technical working groups with the Metis tripartite process and, if so, who are they and, if not, why not?

* (1400)

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): As I have indicated, there are discussion going on with the Native Affairs Secretariat and the Manitoba Metis Federation at this particular time.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Niakwa, with a final supplementary.

Mr. Herold Driedger: With a final supplementary then. We hear the discussions are going on, the discussions are carrying on. When can we actually expect some concrete action then with respect to the Native people on some mutually agreed upon agendas?

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, as the discussions are going on between the organizations and my department, when those discussions are concluded the Member will have that information.

Affirmative Action Press Gallery

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Affirmative Action Program (Mr. Connery) in this province. I direct his and Honourable Members' attention to the press gallery and the members of the Fourth Estate seated therein, and I make the observation that it is obvious that my gender is being extremely and severely discriminated against. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, what the Minister is going to do about it.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question under advisement and get back to the House.

National Park Proposal Churchill, MB

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). It is my understanding that the Minister attended a meeting in Churchill this last Friday, at which time the National Park was discussed. I would ask the Minister if he can assure the House that the comments that were presented to him by the residents of Churchill will be given full consideration as his Government works cooperatively with the federal Government and with the residents of the area to develop that national park.

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): Yes, Mr. Speaker, you have that assurance.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs): And what side are you on?

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Arthur asked me which side I am on. I am on the side of due process with the residents of Churchill.

Residents Working Committee

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): Can I ask the Minister if he has had an opportunity to strike a working group with the residents of Churchill at this point in time so that they will be fully involved in the development of the . . .

Some Honourable Member: Oh! Oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cowan: If only we could have such a prompt response all the time from the Ministers on questions

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we ask of them. We must give full credit to the press gallery for that immediate response to a very pressing problem.

Going back to pressing problems with the Government, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister assure the House that he will develop a working committee in the community of Churchill that will be able to participate, right from the beginning, in the conceptualization of this park, and that committee will be empowered to undertake public discussions in the community to ensure that all the viewpoints of all the residents in that community are being heard, listened to, and dealt with, as part of the development of this park?

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would have to indicate in a negative manner at this time. I posed the question at a meeting in Churchill of about some 100 Churchill residents and people from the surrounding area as to whether they would in fact want to form a committee to deal with the establishment of a national park in the Churchill area, and whether they would want to represent their views in that manner or have their views represented in that manner. The indication was, no, they did not want to establish a committee. They asked, however, whether it would be possible for this Government to assure them that they would have legal representation that would be able to represent their views, if and when we reached the stage where we would sit down and negotiate with our federal counterparts the possibility of a national park and, if so, in what form it should be structured, and I indicated to them in a positive manner.

Committee Support

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): I think the Minister, if he were to listen to certain groups in the community, would appreciate the fact that there are individuals who want to be involved in a structured manner through a committee structure in the full process of developing that park. I would ask him if he were to receive representation to that effect, and a request by the community residents to strike a local committee, if he would be prepared to entertain that request in a positive fashion?

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): As we had indicated during the election that we were an open Government and we were a consultative Government, I took it upon myself to ask the people from Churchill to meet with myself and my staff to discuss the issue and to hear their concerns that they might have if and when we should sit down with our federal counterparts to discuss a national park. They did that; they did that in a very open manner. I thought they voiced their opinions fairly well. I thought that they left us with a clear indication as to what concerns they had and how they should be addressed. The statement was made that they would like legal counsel if and when we did enter into negotiations with our federal counterparts. I indicated to them that we would make sure that legal counsel would be provided.

Mr. Cowan: I appreciate the fact that at some point in time the Government would make legal counsel

available to those members of the community who requested it.

In the beginning, one has to develop a process within the community that ensures all the community issues are being dealt with adequately. I would ask him again specifically, Mr. Speaker, if he were to receive a request with respect to a committee, would the Government be prepared to support that request—and I am rephrasing it a bit differently if I can, Mr. Speaker—to support that request with a positive response to the community so that such a committee could be struck? This is before one would assume that legal counsel would be required, because I believe that would be too late in the process to fully develop community input to the extent required.

Mr. Penner: The question that has been asked by the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) is a very fair one. I indicated very clearly to the meeting in Churchill that I was very open to the formation of a committee. As a matter of fact, I asked them whether they would want to form a committee that would be able to sit down almost immediately in a joint committee and discuss the issues that might be of concern to them and to also be very involved in the discussions with the federal people in the formation of a national park.— (Interjection)— I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Penner: I was not going to bowl the Honourable Member from the Liberal Party over.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It really makes your day, does it not?

Affirmative Action Program Objectives

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a hard act to follow here. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission and Affirmative Action (Mr. Connery). May I congratulate him for his recent swift action?

In a letter to the President of the National Black Coalition of Canada printed in the November 16 issue of Contrast, the Premier stated that, "The Assistant Deputy Minister, Human Resource Management for the Civil Service Commission, has direct responsibility for the staffing, training and development and career counselling functions which are critical to the support and implementation of affirmative action across the Government." Will the Minister inform this House now of the specific initiatives that are in place or planned to assist present Government employees who are members of the affirmative action target groups to reach their full potential?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): I welcome the Member's question. It is nice to see him back here. I hope he had a good holiday.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

* (1410)

Mr. Connery: I am sorry. I take that back. I hope he had a bad holiday.

Mr. Speaker: May I remind the Honourable Minister that we do not make reference to Members either being present and/or away?

Mr. Connery: Well, as the Member knows, Mr. Speaker, there is a Career Options Program in place for helping those people in the affirmative action to take courses to improve themselves so that they can move up the ladder within the Civil Service.

We are looking at affirmative action and, while we talk about affirmative action, we are only talking about it in the Civil Service. There are only some 18,000 jobs within the Civil Service, while there are some 500,000 jobs out in the general public. Our goal as a Government is to try to move the affirmative action into other Crown corporations, into the large corporations, and into the public sectors, where a lot more people will have an opportunity within the affirmative action target group to obtain a job.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Initiatives

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): With a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister inform this House the specific initiatives that are now in place or planned to enable members of the affirmative action target groups in the labour market to have opportunity to compete in external competitions? Details please, Mr. Speaker, rather than generalities.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, we will be getting into the Estimates process but I am not going to delay the answer until we get into there. We will have a much greater opportunity to discuss that situation. There are two categories, administration and clerical, below the AY2. Those positions are not available to external people to apply. It is because there was an agreement made with the MGEA and the previous Government to move people off that are already within the MGEA. Now there are some valid arguments to this and there are some valid arguments against this.

In the Estimates process, because it is such a complex question, I think we will have a very good opportunity to examine the pros and cons of that particular agreement.

Improvements

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): A second supplementary, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has indicated recently that the same

affirmative action policy is in place that was used by the previous administration. Now the letter I referred to earlier that the Premier (Mr. Filmon) stated again: "The Minister responsible for affirmative action has taken steps to improve the processes structure to which affirmative action will be implemented and monitored."

Will the Minister inform this House what these improvements will be and when will they take place?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): The Member knows full well that we raised the position of affirmative action from a director to that of an Assistant Deputy Minister under the Human Resources. I have explained to him many times that there are various committees made up of Assistant Deputy Ministers and members of MGEA. There are committees involved in the personnel departments and people who are appointed from various departments to work on the Affirmative Action Program. He knows that we have instructed the personnel department people, and that is where the hiring is taking place, that affirmative action is part of this Government's program and how they are to go about hiring affirmative action people. The program is in place and—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The time for oral questions has expired.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): I wonder if I could have leave of the House to read a non-political proclamation.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed)

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to read the Proclamation. Today is Native Language Week.

WHEREAS language is a vital birthright of Native people; and

WHEREAS language and culture are closely connected and both must be maintained; and

WHEREAS language is the vehicle by which culture is transmitted from one generation to another; and

WHEREAS language must be maintained and developed within the local community, with the community deciding on the methods of retention and prevention; and

WHEREAS language can help build self-confidence and a positive self-image; and

WHEREAS it is vital not only to develop, maintain and retain the oral language but, where possible, the reading and writing of it also be maintained; now

THEREFORE, be it known that I, James Downey, Minister responsible for Native Affairs, do declare the week of November 20 to the 26, 1988, to be Native Language Week in Manitoba, and do

commend its thoughtful observance to all the citizens of the Province of Manitoba.

Thank you.

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): May I beg leave of the House to make a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

* (1420)

Mr. Herold Driedger: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to lend my words to the proclamation just read out. I was at the open house at which the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) and the Mayor of the city both, not jointly but separately, proclaimed Native Language Week. I wish to underscore the value that we, on this side, place upon the closeness, the relationship between language and culture, and particularly now when the Native, the aboriginal peoples, are seeking to identify their pride of place in this great country.

I think the stress that they are placing upon language, which the Minister correctly associated, where language and culture are closely connected, which we have seen demonstrated by the actions of the Province of Quebec when they felt very strongly that their culture was at risk, that they stressed the language development in that province. The aboriginal people are doing this as well, and they need to do this particularly if they wish to get in touch with their ancestry, with their heritage, their spirituality. I wish to simply have my words placed on the record in support of this Native Language Week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Neufeld for Findlay, Oleson for Penner; and the composition of the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations be amended as follows: Manness for Burrell, Mitchelson for Connery.

ORDERS OF THE DAY HOUSE BUSINESS

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I am announcing today that the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources will sit on Thursday morning at 10 a.m., Room 255, to continue consideration of the Annual Report of Manitoba Hydro.

I am also announcing, Mr. Speaker, that the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations will sit on Thursday morning, Room 254, at 10 a.m., to consider Bills referred, specifically Bill No. 37.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the House Leaders and I have reached an agreement that there would be no Private Members' Hour today. Mr. Speaker, that is all agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave of the House to waive Private Members' Hour today? (Agreed)

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I have a committee change. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations be amended as follows: the Honourable Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) for the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards); the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) for the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema).

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, while preliminary matters are disposed of, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Departments of Highways and Transportation, Housing and Urban Affairs; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Health.

* (1430)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I call to order this meeting to consider the Estimates of the Highways Department.

We are on item 5. Transportation Policy and Research (a) Transportation Policy and Research: (1) Salaries \$765,400.00. The Honourable Minister.

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): I just want to indicate to the Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake) that he raised some questions about the Swan River Airport. I would just like to give him some information that we checked that out. Under the Transport Canada regulations, they require an overrun at either end of the runway. For an airport such as Swan River, the overrun between the end of the runway and any ground level of structure such as a ditch must be 200 feet long. The Town of Swan River advised that a ditch does exist but it is more than 200 feet from the end runway. In addition, as a safety measure, the ditch has been filled with a 200-foot long culvert so that the ditch is not an obstacle to aircraft forced to use the overrun.

The Town of Swan River also advises the following. Runway 02-20 was recently extended, widened and resurfaced. Improvements will be made to runway 08-

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26. During the construction period, only one side of the runway was excavated at the time. The other side remained graded. Work has since been completed, including final grading of the shoulders. Construction work has been inspected by Transport Canada and conforms to their standards.

Mr. Ed Mandrake (Assiniboia): I appreciate the answers that the Minister provided. Apart from what he just finished saying, could he be so kind as to tell me what was the provincial contribution to the Swan River Airport?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate that we will try and get that information.

Our normal provincial grant is \$2,400 to the airport. I assume the Member is asking about the extension costs.

Mr. Mandrake: That is right.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Then I would like to indicate that we will try and get that information exactly, and a breakdown.

Mr. Mandrake: Thank you. One other question on this 5.(a), on your Mobility Disadvantaged in Rural Manitoba, what about the mobility transportation of the mobility disabled in Winnipeg? How much money has been contributed to them?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am informed that the Manitoba Government is involved only in the rural area and is not involved in the mobility operations in Winnipeg. That comes under the City of Winnipeg. In fact, if I might add to that, the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) is next on the docket and he could probably give some indication on that.

Mr. Chairman: 5.(a)(1)—pass; 5.(a)(2) Other Expenditures \$274,000—pass; 5.(b) Rural Transportation Grants for the Mobility Disadvantaged \$404,500—pass.

(c) Canada-Manitoba Churchill Agreement: (1) Salaries \$17,600—the Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: Would the Minister be so kind as to—I am not asking for an explanation now, but just table the report. I am noticing here a Capital expenditure of \$7 million. Where is this spent?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Where do we see this?

Mr. Mandrake: On page 77 on the bottom, footnote no. 1.

Mr. Chairman: Is that under the Canada-Manitoba Churchill Agreement?

Mr. Mandrake: Yes.

Mr. Albert Driedger: That is the Boxcar Rehabilitation Program that was in effect and that, I think, is completed now.

Mr. Mandrake: How many boxcars have you rehabilitated under this program?

Mr. Albert Driedger: 465. I think that is relatively close.

Mr. Mandrake: I noticed here, Mr. Chairperson, to the Minister, again under the Churchill Agreement, we are making reference to the rail infrastructure, port infrastructure, air infrastructure. I am not asking for an explanation, but if you could kindly just table that for me and, I am sure, for the second Opposition's information as to exactly what does that entail.

Mr. Chairman: 5.(c)(1)—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures, \$65,600—pass; 5.(d) Canada-Manitoba Transportation Development Agreement: (1) Salaries \$79,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$757,200—pass.

Resolution No. 89: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,363,900 for Highways and Transportation, Transportation Policy and Research, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item 6. Driver and Vehicle Licensing: Administers highway safety programs through driver improvement, safety, public information and driver testing and maintenance of records on drivers involved in accidents or convicted of traffic violations. Provides for those matters relating to driver and vehicle registration not specifically delegated to the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

(a) Management Services: (1) Salaries \$2,111,600—the Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Chairperson, to the Minister, under this section, I would just like to ask the Minister, I have noticed in the Gazette that we have, I presume, raised the rates on various licences. Approximately how much money is being generated for this fiscal year on the new licence fee structure that you have now implemented?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to just get back to the Member to indicate that a copy of the Canada-Manitoba Churchill Agreement will be forwarded to yourself to address that portion of it.

I wonder if the Member could be a bit more specific in terms of when he asks increases in licences. Is he talking of all fees or drivers' licences?

Mr. Mandrake: All fees.

* (1440)

Mr. Albert Driedger: The increase is approximately \$187,000 more in increase in licence fees. If I could just add to that, Mr. Chairman, the anticipated revenue is \$7,758,000, more or less, that is generated with the various licence fees.

Mr. Mandrake: Does this money, is it going to Capital projects or is this going into General Revenue?

Mr. Albert Driedger: It goes to the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. Mandrake: Consolidated?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Into General Revenue, basically. It all goes into the one big pot and out of there everything gets distributed.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Chairperson, would it not be a little bit more logical to put that money back into Highways and Transportation? We are generating that revenue. Would the Minister undertake to speak to his Cabinet to put this money, a share back into capital projects for Highways and Transportation?

Mr. Albert Driedger: If the Member recalls, in my opening remarks, I had indicated that at one time 10 years ago that 60 percent of the revenue—or we had a shortfall of about 40 percent which was picked up out of General Revenue in terms of the total expenditures under the Highway Estimates, which has gradually been thinned out to the point where we are almost a revenue-bearing department, what amounts to revenues, so I am concerned that actually we have sort of gone a little too far in terms of I feel that the infrastructures are a very important part of it and once the department gets to be a revenue-bearing department that—I think things are out of whack. I think that the infrastructure like highways, bridges, these kind of things, should—we should be putting some out of the general funds into there. We are looking at this very closely, and I appreciate the Member's comments on that.

Mr. Chairman: 6.(a)(1)—pass; 6.(a)(2)—pass; 6.(b)(1)—pass; 6.(b)(2)—pass; 6.(c)(1)—pass; 6.(c)(2)—pass; 6.(d)—pass.

Resolution No. 90: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$13,427,100 for Highways and Transportation, Driver and Vehicle Licensing, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item No. 7. Boards and Committees: Provides general supervision over motor carriers and operation of public service vehicles and commercial trucks; administers the Highway Protection, Highway Traffic and Snowmobile Acts; provides an appeal procedure for citizens whose driving privileges have been suspended; and regulates taxicab, limousine and handi-van licensing within the City of Winnipeg.

7.(a) Motor Transport Board: (1) Salaries, \$645,200—the Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: The Motor Transport Board, if my assumption is right, is an autonomous body. Am I right or am I wrong?

Mr. Albert Driedger: The Motor Transport Board is a quasi-judicial board which is autonomous. They basically make decisions based on the policy guidelines that are there and they operate independently of the Minister's office in terms of their hearings.

Mr. Chairman: 7.(a) Motor Transport Board: (1) Salaries—pass; (a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 7.(b)

Highway Traffic Board: (1) Salaries \$194,000—pass; 7.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$69,000—pass.

Item 7.(c) Licence Suspension Appeal Board: (1) Salaries, \$221,600—the Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Chairperson, in this section here, when people are applying to the Appeal Board for their licences, are they being asked to pay a nominal fee for this or has it all been subsidized by the Government?

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Chairman, when somebody makes an application to the Licence Suspension Appeal Board, they have to pay a fee of—when they make an application before the Licence Suspension Appeal Board, they have to pay a fee of \$65.00. If it is before the Medical Review Committee, they have to pay \$35.00.

Mr. Chairman: Item 7.(c)(1) Salaries—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Item 7.(d) Taxicab Board: (1) Salaries, \$158,900—the Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: One question, Mr. Chairperson, to the Minister, I have had several representations by the handi-vans for transportation of disabled people. I noticed that the Taxicab Board presently governs this segment of the industry. A suggestion, Mr. Minister, would it not be a lot more logical to put this very important and very needy industry under a separate board, as opposed to under the Taxicab Board, the two different types of industries.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that there have been some difficult times in the taxicab industry over a period of time, and what has happened is that the Taxicab Board is now going to be advertising. In fact, within a week, I believe they will be advertising the fact that they will be conducting hearings starting in January. This has been done on a consultative approach with the industry.

They have developed a format which will be circulated in conjunction with a press conference that the Chairman is going to be having and indicating exactly when the hearings will proceed or when they start, and also the format is outlined in this document in terms of all aspects. Anybody who has any concern about the taxicab industry, whether it is the handicapped transportation, whether it is the taxicabs, the condition of cabs, the Chamber, the city, anybody who has a concern can come forward and make presentation at these hearings. They will be taking place approximately in the middle of January.

I think if I am correct, the 16th and the 17th are the first ones, but it will be well advertised to the total industry, which will allow everybody to come forward and make presentations to the Taxicab Board.

After those presentations have been heard, the Taxicab Board then will take and make recommendations in terms of what changes should possibly take place, and it could well be that after they have heard all the input from all people who are involved or concerned that they might be suggesting exactly what the Member has suggested.

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): I would like to ask the Minister, in this particular hearing, if the rate structure for taxicabs in the City of Winnipeg will be considered at the same time or will that be separate?

* (1450)

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the whole aspect of it, the whole industry will be considered, which would also deal I suppose directly or indirectly with the rate structures that could be charged. Once all the input is into there, because part of the criteria that has been forwarded or is going to be forwarded, deals specifically with the fact that the board will be able to have a look at the financial statements of operators so that they can have a better idea as to what is going on.

There has been a lot of confusion. With the Touche Ross Report that came down, it created a lot of controversy, a lot of indecision and uncertainty in the minds of many people in the industry. Hopefully, these hearings, that was one of the commitments that I made was that we would conduct these hearings and do it on a very fair and open basis and from thereon that we would then be able to draw some proper conclusions and maybe try and straighten the industry out, if I might put it that way.

Mr. Rose: Not to draw this out, thank you, Mr. Chairman, but to the Minister, I understand there is an application before the board for an increase by the taxicab industry. You do not seem to have answered us specifically as to whether that application will be heard as a separate application or whether it will be encompassed in the hearings that you alluded to.

Mr. Albert Driedger: One increase was actually already approved in the last recent while but they do apparently an ongoing review of this. That is my understanding.

Mr. Rose: Is the Minister indicating that there has been a recent increase in taxicab fares, or is he alluding to the fact that there has been an increase in handi-van fares because there is a distinct difference, as has already been pointed out?

Mr. Albert Driedger: My apologies to the Member. It is for the handi-van fares that there was an increase, not for the taxicab industry.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Chairman, with that understanding, he can now answer my question as to whether they will be encompassed in other hearings or whether there will be a separate hearing for a rate increase in taxicabs.

Mr. Albert Driedger: The application for an increase in taxicab fares would be dealt with on a different basis. This is just to address the problems in there.

Mr. Chairman: 7.(d)(1)—pass; 7.(d)(2) Other Expenditures, \$31,100—pass.

Resolution No. 91: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,478,800 for Highways and Transportation, Boards and Committees,

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I had indicated to the Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake) that I would be giving him some further information on the Swan River Airport. I have that information now. With a total expenditure of 1,349,638 that was spent over a period from '82 till '88 and, out of that, \$924,200 was a federal share, \$421,438 was a provincial share. That was from '82 to '88.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 8. Expenditures Related to Capital (a) Construction and Upgrading of Provincial Trunk Highways, Provincial Roads and Related Projects, \$95,000,000—the Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: One question, Mr. Chairperson, on your Highways projects, I have been going through the new projects that the Minister had provided for me. The question I would like to ask the Minister is what criteria do they use when they select a highway to be fixed or not to be fixed?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I suppose that one could say it is sort of a complex way of doing it and part of it is political, but I would have to indicate—maybe I can give a little bit of a scenario to the Member. When we had the privilege of taking office on May 9, there was a Budget that had been presented and it was defeated. Subsequent to that, our procedure was to go through the whole Budget and, in some cases, there was repriorization done.

However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Members here that the approach that we are looking at using for this upcoming year—and we are looking at actually trying to develop a two- and three-year program instead of just a one-year program. I have written each one of the Members of the Legislature and asked them to give me three priorities that they feel would be important within their constituency.

Subsequent to that, I have also written to the municipality asking them to forward one priority in their estimation. What we do, we are going to be compiling those figures and, in conjunction with the staff, the 12 districts basically come forward with recommendations and, together with the other construction staff, we go through the whole process and look where the priorities should be established.

I would like to indicate, as I did earlier, that our PTH system I think is the one that is most critical because 77 percent of all traffic travels on the PTH system, whereas 23 percent travels on the PR system. When we look at the national system and the National Safety Code, Weights and Dimensions, there are many changes that are taking place that I think our major routes are the ones that should have priority, not ignoring the needs of the PR system. So it is sort of a melding of the pot. What the staff has done when they went through the program with myself was to sort of try and see whether we could generally meld a variety of projects so we did not have all pavement or all grade and gravel, so it is based on AST asphalt. So it was a general

blend so that we can try and keep most of the contractors, at least give them an opportunity to bid on these things.

Other things that are looked at of course is the staff has sort of a scale that they use in terms of the shape that a road is in. They have a formula that is used in conjunction with the traffic volumes, accident experience, condition ratings, the pavements, etc., capacity, the kind of trucking, snow-clearing problems, all these things that are used by staff in sort of developing a formula in conjunction with the general requirements.

So it is not just "by gosh and by golly" really. A lot of effort goes into trying to figure out which roads should be prioritized. It is unfortunate that over a period of time, especially in the last six years, there was a decrease in spending and as a result we have fallen so far behind and it is a matter of desperately to catch up and seeing whether we can get our roads into a better condition.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Chairperson, to the Minister, the Yellowhead Route which is a cost-sharing program with the federal Government, could the Minister please advise this committee as to when does this agreement expire and how much money has been allocated by the federal Government for this agreement? How much is going to be allotted to Manitoba?

Mr. Albert Driedger: A little over three years ago, I suppose because Governments—the four western provinces combined, along with the Yellowhead Route Association, were lobbying the federal Government in terms of trying to get cost sharing. There has been very little cost sharing by the federal Government in terms of provincial roads in this province, as well as the other western provinces. A special lobby I guess was successful in terms of having everybody synchronize their efforts. As a result, agreement was reached with the federal Government to the tune of \$50 million, cost shared equally. Then it was subdivided between the various provinces, but B.C. getting the biggest portion of it. The Manitoba share was \$10 million cost shared. That program has been ongoing for three years now and will be completed by the end of the 1989 construction, with carry-over to the 1990 construction season.

* (1500)

Mr. Mandrake: On that same topic, will this Minister now speak to his counterparts in Ottawa and ask them to now proceed past 1990 on a cost-sharing program on the Yellowhead Route, because you people had made a promise during the election that you are going to twin Highway 44—correct me if I am wrong—to Beausejour. Now would this fall under this type of a project?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate to the Member that we will do much better than that now that we have, I believe, a smiling Government at the federal level again. I feel very optimistic and I will most emphatically get in touch as soon as I know who the federal Minister of Transportation is. I will be at his

door asking for cost sharing and trying to develop a program whereby we will get federal participation in some of these programs. As I had indicated earlier, I think Canada is one of the few developed countries that does not have the federal Government participate in cost sharing. So we will certainly encourage that type of thing to take place.

Mr. Mandrake: Now on highways, I just want to put on record that on the following highways I have got some concern to make: 367 in Duck Mountains, that road is in bad condition, once it rains you will not dare travel on it; 242 from Bagot, it has been on the plan to be paved, it has not been done. Now the other question is 221, from Inkster Boulevard to the Perimeter. What is the plan for that road, or is there any plan for that highway now that you are putting in the by-pass?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Maybe just so I can get a better clarification, we will be doing work on Inkster close to the Perimeter. The Member is well aware that we are doing the cloverleaf at the Perimeter and No. 7 to the tune of \$13.5 million and our approach right up to the city boundary. Hopefully, the city will respond in kind and do the dualing of their portion of it so that we can have a safe highway after spending that kind of money there.

Mr. Mandrake: We are putting the cart before the horse. Why did we not get an agreement with the city first, then build the by-pass?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I certainly cannot be responsible for the previous administration, why they did or did not make agreements with the city. I can indicate to the Member that I have already on a few occasions met with my colleague, the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), as well as the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Ernst) and with representation from the city in terms of indicating that we are trying to get them to prioritize the accesses into the city on highways like Highway 75, Highway 59, Highway 7, Highway 9. In fact, most of the approaches actually I find it not acceptable that we spend the kind of money that we do from the Manitoba Government on highways and our approaches to the city and, when we get to the city portion of it, that we have very poor access into the city. We are in discussions with them. In fact, we will be meeting again next week to discuss that aspect of it.

Mr. Mandrake: Just a question to the Minister, during Question Period, I had asked the Minister about the Port of Churchill. I am very concerned about grain shipments to Churchill for this coming year. He had alluded to 41 initiatives. Now would he be so kind as to tell me, the committee that he has constructed for this 41 initiatives to be looked at, is there anybody from Churchill on this committee?

Mr. Albert Driedger: We initially established an all-Party committee here to try to lobby and create pressure on the Wheat Board, the federal Government, all the players in the game to try and get grain moving through the Port of Churchill. That was one committee. Subsequent to that, we have structured an

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interdepartmental committee which is from resource people within Government. The reason we established that committee was to try, instead of having each department working independently on some of these initiatives, we could try and coordinate these initiatives and make a better impression of them.

Mr. Mandrake: I noticed my colleague from Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) is here. Maybe he would like to ask some questions while we are on Expenditures for Capital Projects.

Mr. Chairman: Item (a) \$95 million—the Member for The Pas.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): I just have a question. The Minister very glowingly said that he is going to be meeting with his federal counterparts. I am wondering, has there been any representation made with the federal Government up until now for further cost sharing similar to the agreement that had been made with the Yellowhead Route.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Actually we have two approaches that we are using. One is that under RTAC, my Deputy Minister, Boris Hryhorczuk, is the chairman of that committee, has been working with all his counterparts across the country in terms of developing what we call a national highway program. We met with the federal Minister. All the Ministers met in Halifax some time ago. My Deputy then presented the program, the designated program that has been agreed on. That is stage one.

Stage two is the fact that from here on in they will be establishing exactly what is required. I think something like over 24,000 kilometres have been identified as a national highway program.

The next step is to establish and see exactly to what standard it should be built all across this country so that we can have a proper two-lane highway, paved, safety features included and stuff of that nature. That is the more practical approach, I believe, that is being used in the department.

The political approach is the one that I use from the Government side of it. I have approached the then Minister of Transport, Benoit Bouchard, on about three or four occasions already, asking for cost sharing on some of our major routes. When you consider that our Government feels that Highway 75 should be a priority and the total cost of twinning that highway would be in the area of \$95 million, which is what my total Capital Program is in one year, it makes it very difficult. Unless we can get some cost sharing, as we have on the Yellowhead Route, I think we will have great difficulty keeping up with what we want to do in terms of construction on our highways.

Mr. Harapiak: On the twinning of Highway 75, will there be any additional work carried out this year outside of purchasing the additional lands that are required for further twinning of Hwy. 75?

Mr. Albert Driedger: If I could clarify that, the construction portion of it, there were 16 kilometres of

grade and gravel done this year, which is now actually ready to be paved. Past that, we have to initiate survey and design, location of where the highway goes and, because it is a priority of this Government to escalate that program, we are initiating it from both ends, both from the Interstate 29 on the American side and from this end where the grading has now quit, from there going to Morris, how we deal with Morris, whether we go through Morris, around Morris, over Morris. We have a real problem there. These things are in the mill right now in terms of how we proceed from here on.

* (1510)

Mr. Harapiak: There was a program, Roads to Resources, and I imagine this would come under this area as well. Is that presently handled by the Department of Northern Affairs or is it under the Department of Highways?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, we do not have that in Highways anymore. That has been transferred to Northern Affairs.

Mr. Harapiak: Northern Affairs has complete control over it? Is it totally in their budget?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I am told that the Department of Northern Affairs has that program.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask while we are on this section whether the Minister could give us an update on the overall costs for the Selkirk bridge project going to Selkirk, and the plans for the completion of that project including paving? I notice from the Capital Program some asphalt surface treatment, which I hope is just the first stage of a full bituminous overlay on that road. Is that the plan or why did the Minister go to that AST surface?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that the cost of the bridge was just a little under \$20 million. That is the bridge and the roads. The Member is correct. We did grading up to a point and we put in a base in AST which is the first step. The highway system will be completed next year. The total project will be completed in terms of the road construction and paving.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, just on that, am I correct then in what the Minister has said, that the endeavour to extend the cost of the project over an extra year by doing the paving in two stages rather than one?

Mr. Albert Driedger: That is correct.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister at this point take the opportunity to set the record straight and publicly disavow himself of the \$28 million figure that his colleagues, as well as the Liberal critic, Municipal critic, the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), used in a question in the House? Can he get that straightened out clearly? I understood him to say it was just under \$20 million. Can he give us the exact figure of the total cost of that project?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, I cannot give him the total figure until we know what the cost of the paving is going to be next year. The estimation is just under \$20 million at this stage of the game. As far as the Member's concern is about who else has said whatever, I have indicated what the costs are and he can straighten out the record if he wants to.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, I am sure I will be able to do that and the Minister will certainly not want to be party to incorrect figures. He should feel very obliged to ensure that the next time someone uses this misinformation in the House that he would feel compelled to straighten it out.

Mr. Albert Driedger: The Minister will be factual.

Mr. Plohman: Yes, that is hopefully the case, although I was not necessarily of that opinion when we had an earlier exchange in the House dealing with Highway 75 and plans and so on. The \$19.3 million is what the figure was, I believe, at the time that I was last associated with that project and I can see with the project, the tendering for the bituminous pavement yet to come, it would be impossible to give the exact figure but clearly it is showing that once the estimates were finalized, including the redesign of the bridge as required to meet the various federal Navigation Waters Board, whatever it is, and the requirements that for recreation, for sailboats and so on, once the redesign was done, the project estimates stayed about the same and it was right on target, we are finding it, not a bit under target.

Would the Minister indicate that is the case, that once the estimates for this particular bridge were completed, that the project has stayed on target if not under target to this point in terms of costs?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate that my staff are very capable staff. When they come up with these estimated figures, they are pretty well right on the button and there has been very little change. If they made big mistakes in big variations, I would be very concerned but I am not at this stage of the game.

Mr. Plohman: I am glad to see the Minister is expressing that faith in the staff. Certainly I would think that 99 times out of a 100 I have to agree, and maybe even a 100 out of a 100, except that when we get into cases where preliminary estimates, in this particular case for this bridge, did not include what was actually needed. Probably nobody was able to estimate that at the time that the bridge would have to be as high as it was. There was an estimate that was not resembling the facts in the final analysis, almost half the amount.

I want to ask some other questions on some items and I am sorry that I was not able to get here right at quarter after two, but other events required that I could not make it back in time. There were some other questions that I had on some other areas and I could deal with those under the Minister's Salary if he prefers so we do not have to go back into some of those other areas, but he will not have any staff at that time and

I know that the Liberal critic has also asked some questions on some of those already and I have not had the opportunity to see what those are.

But just on Churchill, I want to clarify. There was just a brief discussion when I came in. The Minister indicated that he had a committee set up as well as the all-Party committee that was there and we have not met for about two months, I do not think. I received the minutes of the last meeting. Can the Minister indicate what has taken place since the last meeting of that committee and what discussions with the federal Government have taken place, if any, or is it all internal and developing positions to take to them with regard to a future program for Churchill?

Mr. Albert Driedger: If the Member is talking about the Churchill aspect of it, that fits into this category under the last item there so we can deal with that as we get down to the line, if he wants to do it that way.

If the Member is apologizing for being late, I could sympathize full well with him being late today. It has been a difficult day for him yesterday and the fact that he has come late, you know, but I am prepared to deal with any questions that he basically had. I had to make a little pun because you cannot be serious here all the time.

Mr. Plohman: The Minister was so anxious to make a pun, as he said, that he forgot the question.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Let us try again.

Mr. Plohman: I asked the Minister whether there had been any discussions with the federal Government in the last two months regarding a program for Churchill, a future agreement to follow up on the studies that were done. Is there any prospect at this time? Have there been any discussions or have they all been internal in developing a position up to this point?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, the ERDA members are discussing at the present time, trying to reach an agreement. However, at the officials' level they are pushing for completion of the projects that were on the program till now, and we have commitment for continuation of that to some degree. It is in the program that they continue, can go for one year after the program is supposed to be completed. We are not necessarily sure whether they will go that route but certainly we would like to hold them to that. As the Member is well aware, at Churchill with the agreement that was signed, that the dust-proofing aspect of it was done, the boxcar rehabilitation was done, the rail stabilization was done. The big outstanding one that we have at the present time is the air terminal, which was committed, I believe, in part of the agreement. We are pushing to have that commitment being completed.

* (1520)

Mr. Plohman: I am pleased to see the Minister outline a number of the accomplishments that we had undertaken during our Government. What I am really asking is whether there is a subsequent agreement in

the making at this time at all or whether this is just at the point of someone's thoughts rather than any actual negotiations. The agreement expires, I believe, in April of '89 as it stood and, if there was a one-year extension that would put it to April of 1990 to complete the expenditures under that agreement, so we are within a year, give or take a few months, of having to have another agreement, if there is going to be another agreement on Churchill negotiated and ready for implementation. There is not a lot of time to lose.

What are the Minister's intentions? During the discussions we had with the committee at the last meeting held in Room 254, I believe, here in the Legislature, there were discussions that this technical committee of civil servants, various departmental people had been drawn together, put together to start developing a position that would form the basis for negotiations with the federal Government. What has happened in the last two months on that and can the Minister assure us that is what his intentions are, to negotiate another agreement with the federal Government?

Mr. Albert Driedger: The departmental people have put forward certain projects which the ERDA Ministers are working with right now to try and get an agreement going. It is in the process right now with the Ministers who are negotiating the ERDA Agreement, so those initiatives are there. As I indicated before, our interdepartmental committee that has been struck is looking at trying to coordinate all the possible initiatives that we are looking to exploit or to see which are feasible to do. There is a whole raft of them.

That interdepartmental committee has basically been instructed to try and coordinate, instead of having every department individually trying to achieve some kind of a project, that we could synchronize it between Tourism, between Natural Resources, between, like I indicated, the various departments. We are trying to sort out these things so that we have a unified approach instead of having this individual fractured approach to it.

Mr. Plozman: Mr. Chairman, we have been so cooperative during these Estimates and we do have limited time, but I wish the Minister would give us some specifics. I know what the purpose of the committee is. I just want to know what is happening. Have they been meeting? Have they drawn together proposals? When the Minister says that the ERDA Ministers will be meeting, have they a specific mandate with regard to Churchill from the province?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, this interdepartmental committee has been meeting and they are meeting again, in fact, this week or next week to continue. I will check with the committee to see whether I can maybe release a list of the projects that we are looking at and see whether there are any, of any sense of nature, not that I have anything much to hide.

One thing that I would like to suggest is we have the all-Party committee that basically met—we discussed this many times. As chairman, I am sort of

at the call of the Members to see exactly what approach we should be taking from here on in. Certainly, I think we all have a concern that we do not have to go through this kind of a scenario again next year when we talk of moving grain through the Port of Churchill. I am at the beck and call of the Members of the committee. If they have any suggestions as to how we can make things function smoothly or new initiatives that could be looked at aside from what we are looking at right now, I certainly am open to those suggestions.

I would like to indicate that I do not know whether I did that already in these Estimates. I had the privilege of taking the Count of Belgium up to Churchill and looking at the possibility of having trade taking place both ways. We are looking at meeting with CN people to see whether we can get proper, maybe reasonable rates on the rail lines so that we can make it more conducive to ship, so that possibly—(Interjection)—Yes, okay I am still going to try. The other thing is to look at the possibility of getting the line to Churchill designated as not just a grain-essential line, and that you might say good luck on that case as well but I have to indicate that there seems to be support moving in that direction. So wherever there are opportunities to move and enhance the situation for the Port of Churchill, I am committed to it and open to suggestions and will do whatever I can.

Mr. Plozman: Mr. Chairman, the reason I say good luck is because we had meetings with CN and they had told us what nice guys they were and so on, but nothing materialized on this. We have gone through this. I just hope that he has some levers that he can use on CN to get them to not to put in place prohibitive rates.

The only way they have ever lowered the rates in the past is when a highway went up to the Limestone area, Gillam area which cut the rates in half in 1980 from what they were in the early Seventies, because there was competition and they had to come down. Otherwise, they have monopoly rate-setting ability, and they are doing it and they are using it, and it is such that it is prohibitive for people to use that for freight. Therefore, what they are doing, for example, with Hudson Bay Company is bringing in their freight, for example, from Montreal instead of via the CN line to Churchill and then using it to its redistribution centre.

I am just saying to the Minister that I am pleased that he is undertaking these discussions. What I say by good luck is that unless there can be some directive from the federal side of it where it has to come, because that is a federal Crown corporation, you will hear nice words from CN but they really will not respond.

The non-grain dependent classification for the line was something that we had asked for a couple of years ago or supported when it came out in a report that was done. I am hopeful that will actually take place as well.

I guess what I was saying earlier is, if the Minister does not tell us, provide the information to the committee so that we can have a two-way exchange, we do not know what he is thinking, what he is working

on. For example, if the committee is going to decide that one of the things that should be negotiated with the feds through ERDA is the stabilization of the line for \$50 million or \$100 million, whatever it comes out to be, so that the line can possibly take hopper cars, then we could discuss that.

We do not know what is currently being planned, so I would appreciate if the Minister would be able to provide us with that, and maybe you should do that at the call of one of these meetings of this all-Party committee and then provide us with what projects are being considered so that we can respond. Otherwise we do not know what to respond to. So, I would ask him to consider that.

I guess I am supposed to, on the basis of what he said, sum up that there have been no official contacts or positions being put forward through the ERDA Ministers on a subsequent Churchill agreement to this point, no official specifics put forward saying this is what Manitoba wants. In other words, we are developing those positions yet, and we can expect that this committee will be part of that process of developing the Manitoba position.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, the Member is wrong, first of all, when he says there has been no new initiatives. I indicated before that the -(Interjection)- My staff has been making submissions to the ERDA Ministers who are negotiating on renewing extension, line stabilization, etc. In fact, we expect a report on the line that is due in December. I will be discussing it with the federal Minister after that.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying the staff are not doing anything in this regard. I am asking what they are doing, when they are meeting and so on, and then I am worried if there are specific suggestions being made to the ERDA Minister to take to the federal Minister for specific negotiations, if indeed the Minister all this time is telling us that this committee and this technical committee of his officials, plus this all-Party committee is going to have some input. Either he is negotiating and it is already done—they are in the process of negotiating, there is no function then for the committee—or they are not to that stage and he is going to give the committee an opportunity to have some input.- (Interjection)- The question is, where is it at? I guess you have to be so specific on these things.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) that we have a list that has been submitted, as indicated before. It is premature for me to make the list available at this stage of the game because the ERDA Ministers are working with it. I am prepared to give all information that does not jeopardize any sensitive area at all to the Members. I have never felt that there was anything that I would want to hold back on this. It is nothing that is secretive but, at this stage of the game when the ERDA Ministers are negotiating these things, I think it would be probably foolish to make the issue public at this stage of the game until we have some kind of an agreement.

Mr. Mandrake: The Minister had alluded to earlier about the by-pass through Morris on Highway No. 75.

I have been asked by the people in Morris to address this issue during Estimates. I would appreciate an answer from the Minister as to what does he plan on doing, going through with Highway 75 through Morris or is he going to go by by-pass? Which is it going to be?

* (1530)

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, the residents of Morris might have contacted the Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake) to bring the issue forward. I have had delegations from the Morris area, from the town, from the municipalities. I have been out there at meetings and they brought their concerns forward to me. I am not an engineer and I am not going to be making that decision based on that. What we have done is we have hired consultants who are going to be looking at various options from the point that we are at right now with Highway 75, and the instructions to the consultants are that they are going to be looking at the option, as I indicated before, of going through Morris, around Morris, over Morris. They are supposed to figure that out and, once they come forward with their recommendations, that is when the opportunity that staff and myself will make a decision as to how we do it.

Mr. Mandrake: Just one, Mr. Chairperson, just one another question on that. This consultant that the Minister is alluding to—

Mr. Albert Driedger: Not alluding to. He is there.

Mr. Mandrake: He is there?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Oh, we have hired him.

Mr. Mandrake: Okay, you have hired him, fine.

Is this consultant talking to the people in Morris, or is he just going to do this as a—

Mr. Albert Driedger: I had the privilege to attend a meeting at the Town of Morris not that long ago, where I outlined to all the interested parties the process that would take place, that the consultant, the first step that he does is going to be making contact with the municipalities and develop a program in terms of how they are going to make the public aware of what is happening and then they are going to come forward at certain stages. In fact, they will be meeting with the municipality two or three times. There is a whole format in terms of the contacts it made, the public awareness, the information that is being sent out. It is a very extensive and very efficient type of letting everybody have input into the matter.

I can guarantee the Member that there are not going to be any sneaky deals pulled or stuff like that. There is going to be full public input into it and, when we have the information, we will make that in consultation with the people in the area.

Mr. Mandrake: One other question on that same subject, Mr. Chairperson, when does this Minister expect that report to be tabled?

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Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that it will probably take till next fall some time.

Mr. Mandrake: The air terminal at Churchill, is the Minister responsible for that air terminal?

Mr. Albert Driedger: That is a federal responsibility. My responsibility is to lobby like crazy to make sure that the feds put the money into there, continue on doing it.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Plohman: Just because we are being such nice guys here, Mr. Chairman, I would not want to mention the idea of toll roads and whether that has permanently been put to rest after a talk with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) or not. So I will not get into that.

I just wanted to—

Hon. Gerald Ducharme: Ask him if he has ordered the tokens.

Mr. Plohman: Toll kits?

Mr. Ducharme: Tokens. You know, you put them into—

Mr. Plohman: Oh, the tokens. Mr. Chairman, you have to talk to your colleague, the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). He wants to know if you have the tokens yet.

I just wanted to ask a couple of questions though about something else dealing with this issue. First of all, the issue of a circle route in northern Manitoba, can the Minister tell me what the status of that project is, the study that was being undertaken there? A number of Chambers of Commerce and development corporations were all hepped up on this a couple of years ago about having a circle route connecting Lynn Lake, I think, and Sherridon, a major highway project in the North. I just wonder if the Minister is continuing on with his promise to open the North by constructing this road and developing tourism potential in the area and so on.

Mr. Albert Driedger: First of all, I suppose one shock deserves another. When the Member wants to talk about toll bridges, I was very careful not to talk about Pawley's Folly with the bridge. So we do not want to get into this kind of stuff. In terms of talking of opening up the North, I would like to indicate to the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) that if he had been more demanding with his Cabinet colleagues and had more money put into the Highways program over the last six-and-a-half years, I would not be in this predicament where I am fighting and scrapping for every dollar to build some of these roads.

To answer his question, I am receiving the consultant's report on that study next week.

Mr. Plohman: We will be following that with a great deal of interest then to see the kind of interest that the Minister is—

Mr. Albert Driedger: Correction, Mr. Chairman. Before Christmas, I believe I get the report.

Mr. Plohman: Oh! Okay, that is a more realistic time line then, seeing as how he just asked about it.

I just want to point out to the Minister that the Selkirk Bridge, which he called Pawley's Folly, was actually \$10 million less than the figure his Party was using. I think he should feel terrible about having used those kinds of figures during the election and even getting the Liberals to use those figures, which is completely incorrect—\$28 million is the figure they were using, Mr. Chairman.

I just wanted to ask further about the national highway program. When I came in, the Minister was mentioning that discussions were continuing with RTAC, I guess, and the Council of Transportation Ministers with regard to a national highway program. I know the Deputy Minister was very much involved in this project, in this idea and this concept from the beginning and promoting it with his colleagues. We were doing the same at the ministerial level and the officials were all, I believe, undertaking this for Manitoba in a rather aggressive way. Have there been specific developments with regard to this?

* (1540)

I am particularly interested, when he talks about Highway 75, whether it would be highway specific if that what is going to happen. Would it be the interprovincial routes that had the weights increased or would it be a highway like the Yellowhead or Highway 75, or would all of those that were designated be eligible under the program? I think they should be. Major interprovincial and international routes should be considered for eligibility, not just one or two routes.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Initially, I made some comments before the Member got here. The identification of a national highway system, we are looking at 25,000 kilometres whereas, under the TransCanada loan, I think we are at 7,500 kilometres. I am using round figures.

What the criteria was in terms of identifying a national highway system was from capital to capital, in major cities, and access to the States. In Manitoba's case, it would be the TransCanada, it would be Highway 75, it would be Highway 16. Those are basically the routes.

In terms of comparison with other provinces, because of the geographic situation in our province—not geographic situation, but because of the population being concentrated more in the southern portion, we would probably end up with less than other provinces in terms of our total system. When you consider the Yellowhead route goes through Saskatoon, Saskatchewan has more roads in that program than we have. Alberta has more than Saskatchewan, I believe, and British Columbia probably has the biggest portion of it, which I believe is around 5,000 kilometres themselves.

A lot of time has gone into developing this program and there has been an acceptance by the federal Minister in terms of the recommendations. The

interprovincial committee, of which my deputy is the chairman, is now in phase 2 which basically is to identify the benefits under that program. I can get more precise details on that for the Member if he wants.

Mr. Plohman: I am very interested in this. Am I to understand from the Minister that the routes that would be eligible have already been identified? They are not the same as those that were identified under the Weights and Dimensions grid? There is much less than that for Manitoba?

Mr. Albert Driedger: The ones that have been identified under the national highway program are not the same ones that have been identified under the Weights and Dimensions system because that is more extensive. That includes highways like Highway 5. They are different roads.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, it includes Highways 16, 1 and 75, plus a number of other routes that were deemed to be of an interprovincial nature. That is why the Weights and Dimensions Study that was done interprovincially applied to those routes. So therefore, the criteria, it seems to me, make sense insofar as the national highways program. What the Minister has to do is to ensure that Manitoba does not get shafted out of its fair share. Because in fact, as he has just indicated that the province would not have near as extensive a system as some other provinces. So they have already got us over the barrel here. We only have three highways that will be eligible.

Mr. Albert Driedger: The weights and dimensions projection of roads was much more extensive than the national highways program. There is a reason why it was spread apart. If you had such a gigantic system that you would throw at the federal Government, they would just totally back off. That was sort of the feeling.

So they have identified they have used different criteria in establishing a national highway system, which was basically province to province, capital to capital, and access into the States. A different criteria was used because we would almost triple the roads or the kilometres involved, and it was felt that it would not be acceptable to the federal Minister in terms of establishing a national highway system if we had that many kilometres on it. Even this is a gigantic undertaking in terms of the kilometres that have been identified in each province and have been agreed to incidentally and have been accepted by the federal Minister.

Mr. Plohman: I just want to indicate that I am very, first of all, pleased that we have some acceptance by the federal Minister. I am disappointed that it is not more extensive than those three highways. We already had an agreement on 16 and have spent a substantial amount of dollars alone provincially on Highway 16, on the Yellowhead Route, and No. 1 of course, previous agreements in the past. We have almost undertaken an enormous amount of money there on twinning which was much more to do. It is logical. I am not arguing with those two. Highway 75 has to be done, therefore, it is obvious that one should be included. It seems that there were other costs incurred by the province.

It seems to me that the reason—maybe the Minister could indicate if I am correct in this—it was not pushed any further, the grid system, the interprovincial system that was arrived at for weights and dimensions was not the one that was used for this purpose is that there clearly was a desire on the part of the federal Government to separate the two and not have any implication insofar as they themselves are concerned that they are responsible for any additional costs that were incurred as a result of Weights and Dimensions. Therefore, they wanted this a completely separate process. We tried to get them to agree to it together with the weights and dimensions acceptance by the Province of Manitoba, that they would agree to a national highways policy which would receive funding for those routes. I would suspect that they do not want to have anything to do with that obligation, so they have separated it completely so they do not have to set a precedent here or they will not set a precedent.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I find it most difficult to understand how the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), who used to be the Minister of Highways, says he is disappointed in the action that is taking place. I think we are making very positive action.

He indicates Highway 16 cost sharing. Actually, till now, during his tenure, we had nothing permanent. It was a knee-jerk reaction based on the political pressure that came to bear which he had very little to do with, because the pressure came basically from the West when that happened. I mean, when he expresses disappointment, I would have to say I am disappointed in his approach that he has taken. He always had a confrontational position with the federal Government, and I can see where he did not make any progress.

We are moving along a line that I think is a very positive thing, a very positive thing, in terms of identifying exactly the route system. We are looking at identifying the cost. It is done on a national basis with everybody cooperating. He is talking negatively again about nothing is going to happen with the feds.

We have no participation by the feds on a permanent basis. We are talking of establishing a system where we will identify and we will show that the federal Government has been negligent, that they have been collecting a lot of money over the years from the highways system and spent very little back. This is all being done in a very positive planned way. I feel very positive about what is going to come out of this thing. The last thing I really need is a negative approach by somebody whose record was not that positive.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, we will watch this carefully and hope that things do come out of it. I am very hopeful that it will happen. Clearly, it is misleading for the Minister to say that there was not a great deal accomplished in this area because there had to be groundwork laid. It was laid during the period of time—

Mr. Albert Driedger: Well then, think positive about it.

Mr. Plohman: The Minister should be very pleased when Members of the Opposition are looking out for

Manitoba's interests, because he does not have a monopoly on it at all. The other Members, both for the New Democratic Party and the Liberals also, have to bring forward concerns.

I am not going to apologize at all for asking for Manitoba's fair share, and I do not necessarily agree that this is a fair share from what the Minister has admitted himself. It is a step in the right direction but that does not mean that he should not try to get more for Manitoba. That is the reason I raised this because I think that is a very limited network but I am pleased, as I said, that there is progress in that area.

I was raising the concern that we have increased weights and dimensions right across the country on a much wider network, and there are enormous cost implications, particularly for bridges in that system. I wanted to know if the Minister had abandoned the idea of getting cost sharing from the feds for those bridges on the rest of that network, or whether he was just going to see some potential sharing on these three routes only.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, the whole purpose of this whole exercise is to try and get the feds to start cost sharing on a national way that they have not done to date. That is what the whole purpose is. We are trying to do it in such a way that we will not necessarily chase them away, that they will throw up their arms and say, no way. We want to try and lead them down to this. We can always expand the program. If we ever have it to the point where we have a commitment for cost sharing of a national highways system, we will have gained tremendously. It will be a big accomplishment. That is the objective of what we are doing, and we will continue to do that in the best possible way we can for the interests of Manitobans as well as all Canadians.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Chairperson, we have only got 15 minutes left in our Estimates. I am not trying to hurry the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) but bickering is not going to solve our problem. Let us get down to the Estimates and get it over with. Then we can discuss it. Thank you.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): Mr. Chairman, a very brief question I would like to ask, and it may have been covered. The administration may want to take this as notice and get back to me on it.

Every year, we have a flooding problem at Pembina Highway and the La Salle River in St. Norbert. There has been some talk about the province in the twinning of Hwy. 75 and the interests of the City of Winnipeg undertaking to do some work there in exchange for a trade-off road within the City of Winnipeg jurisdiction. I would appreciate, Mr. Chairperson, through you to the Minister, an update on what is happening in that area so that I can advise my constituents.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that we are in the midst of negotiations on that aspect of it. Certainly any agreement we reach will involve the flooding aspect of

the La Salle River. So we are right in the thick of it right now.

* (1550)

Mr. Angus: Mr. Chairperson, I appreciate that and I guess I am aware of the fact that discussions have been ongoing. I certainly do not want to compromise them. Neither do I want to report erroneously to my constituents, so I would ask the Minister to have Mr. Hryhorczuk or his deputy prepare some information that I may be able to circulate to the people in my constituency who are asking on a regular basis. That way, I can report accurately whatever it is you have got to tell me, if you would not mind.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that once we have reached some kind of an agreement with the City of Winnipeg, I would be very pleased to forward the information, exactly what has been agreed to, to the Member and he can let his constituents know exactly what has taken place.

Mr. Angus: I might not have that much time, Mr. Chairperson, thank you.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I thought it was relatively positive when I indicated we are negotiating very extensively on that.

Mr. Angus: I am sorry. Coming to an agreement with the City of Winnipeg is sometimes a very long and arduous journey, so I wish the Minister luck. If I can be of any help, I would be pleased.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Well, I would just like to indicate to the Member that I thought that our initial negotiations have been relatively positive because you had the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), as well as the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Ernst), involved and they know how the city operates, but I thought we had some positive discussions and I am looking forward to completing it.

Mr. Chairman: Item 8.(a)—shall the item pass?

Mr. Plohman: Just before we go to Minister's Salary, Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate to the Minister, first of all, that the negotiations that are taking place with regard to the interprovincial system are very important. Clearly, there are billions of dollars taken in by the federal Government that they are not spending on highways and this is contrary, as the Minister knows, to everything that is taking place in many other countries, including the United States. They have an extensive interstate system, and I would have thought that the Minister would have started negotiations, all of the Ministers, with a more extensive system, worked it down through negotiations, not worried about scaring the Minister off, the federal Minister.

I want to let the Minister also know that I do not accept his political statement that I had a confrontationalist approach because, in fact, that was a label that had a lot to do with politics. The fact is that

the federal Conservative Government and before a Liberal Government but particularly the Conservative Government was not interested in seeing much accomplished with a New Democratic Government. That is a fact, that is a political statement. The Minister can use that all he wants, but it is not a reflection on the kinds of positions that we took. They were eminently reasonable positions on behalf of Manitobans, and I would encourage the Minister to make sure that Manitoba gets a fair deal on this.

I guess the only question I would ask before closing is to ask whether the Deputy Minister and other officials working on this feel that our portion of highway miles, kilometres, on the 16, 1 and 75 puts us in a fair position with the other provinces, because I may have taken what the Minister said incorrectly or out of context when he said that the vast majority of this is going to be in B.C., Saskatchewan and Alberta and so on. Manitoba would not be getting as great a proportion. So I guess it is a proportion of the total highway miles, are we getting our share?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, the system has not been apportioned on the basis of population, anything of that nature, it has been apportioned on criteria which applies to all provinces the same, and it has been very hard. I think it has been the most difficult thing, it was the most important step in terms of getting everybody to agree. The Member knows full well, he has been at enough Ministers' conferences to know that to get all provinces to agree to certain criteria and then come forward with everybody endorsing it is something very difficult to do. So the criteria was established and it was applied the same in all provinces. The one thing that happened is that some provinces got more advantage over it than others, unfortunately.

But that does not mean that I will not proceed to look after the best interests of Manitobans. I am prepared to keep all Members updated as to exactly how we are moving on this thing. I am prepared to also bury the political hatchet and work in conjunction with all Members of this Legislature to see that we get the best benefits for Manitobans.

Mr. Chairman: 8.(a) Construction and Upgrading of Provincial Trunk Highways, Provincial Roads and Related Projects, \$95 million—pass; 8.(b) Aid to Cities, Towns and Villages, \$1,294,000—pass; 8.(c) Work in Local Government Districts and Unorganized Territory, \$4,300,000—pass; 8.(d) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets: (1) Other Projects \$4,352,700—pass; (2) Northern Development Agreement - Canada-Manitoba, \$516,000—pass; (3) Less: Recoverable from Northern Affairs, \$516,000—pass; 8.(e) Canada-Manitoba Churchill Agreement, \$5,528,800—pass.

Resolution No. 92: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$110,475,500 for Highways and Transportation, Expenditures related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

We would ask the staff to leave the table. We revert to item 1. Administration and Finance: (a) Minister's Salary, \$10,300.00. Shall the item pass?

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to remind the Minister (Mr. Albert Driedger) that he was going to give us an update on the God's River Airport. I do not expect him to do it right now but I would like to get that information. If he wants to give it now, I know the Deputy Minister has had meetings the other day that he referred to. He said he could not report on it until after that meeting, and now of course he would be in a position to. However, if he feels it is a lot of detail that he could get into, we could do that under a different forum, whatever he wishes.

In regard to the Estimates generally, as I indicated, because of the time requirements, limitations, we could not get into discussion on some issues in the kind of depth that I think is important. Many times, the Minister gave answers that were not as specific as I would like to have seen them and I want him to be aware that we are aware of that.

That may be a product of the process or it may be that he just did not want to give detailed answers on facts. I would hope that we will be able to have more opportunity to do that on another occasion, if indeed we have another occasion to proceed with the Estimates under his tutorship as Minister. So with those closing remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will be asking a number of other things of the Minister in the next while, and I am looking forward to a cooperative approach in approaching a number of issues that are important to Manitobans, that all of us agree are very important.

They may be a rail line abandonment issue, federal cost sharing for our highway system, progress and expansion of the Mobility Disadvantaged Program in rural areas which is so important I think, and one I did not have the chance to discuss with the Minister, the whole issue of Churchill and its future.

* (1600)

We have missed an opportunity I think in a way to put pressure during an election or before an election. We hope now that the federal Government will indeed follow through with a reasonable and constructive program on behalf of Manitobans and that we will see some results because I can assure the Minister, if we do not, he will really be on the hot seat in the next while if we do not see those results, him and his federal colleagues.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, we are getting to the end of this. I hope that was not necessarily a threat. I hope that was just advice that the Member was giving in terms of a hot seat. I would like to indicate, as far as God's River Narrow Airport is concerned, that the meeting was apparently a very positive one. We will be resolving it. I know that we are under time restraints right now. I would just like to indicate to both critics that I felt I have always been relatively open in terms of giving information. If there is information at any given time that they feel that they want to have, certainly my office and my staff are available and I will respond. If they want more detail at any time, certainly I can provide that as well.

I accept the criticism, the fact that we have been having to sort of rush through the Estimates, because

there is a lot of good stuff and we could have got into more detail. That is why I offer the opportunity for Members that if there are further questions that somewhere along the line we will respond with as much detail as we can.

Mr. Mandrake: I am willing to pass the Salary but, before I do, I would like to put it on record that this has been a learning experience for me. I have learned a lot. I am just going to underscore everything that the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) said. Yes, I have concerns, but I will be raising them this year personally with the Minister because our time is coming near. I hope that the Member for Dauphin will now join me in giving the Minister his Salary. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: 1.(a) Minister's Salary—pass.

Resolution No. 85: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,857,200 for Highways and Transportation, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

That brings to a conclusion our discussion of the Estimates for Highways and Transportation.

* (1610)

SUPPLY—HOUSING

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: This section of the Committee of Supply will be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Housing. We will begin with a statement from the Honourable Minister responsible (Mr. Ducharme).

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Manitoba Housing is involved in all sectors of housing industry. Its programs range from providing social rental housing stock for low-income tenants to providing shelter allowance assistance to low-income tenants and private rental accommodations, from providing assistance for individual home repairs to the special housing needs of disadvantaged groups.

Manitoba Housing is the largest landlord in the province with the responsibility for the administration and maintenance of 17,000 social housing units. A further 9,000 privately owned units of low-income tenants also receive subsidy under special programs. At the same time, an additional 100,000 Manitoba tenant households are directly affected by the Rent Increase Guideline set annually by the provincial Government.

As you can see, the department's mandate is broadened. Many Manitobans are affected by its programs. The department's operating budget under review for this year is \$48.2 million. This represents subsidy costs associated with the wide variety of housing-related programs and administration costs associated with activities and efforts of 260 staff members. The \$48.2 million figure covers only the cost associated with the ongoing operation of existing projects and programs. It does not include the capital

cost of financing and developing new projects for which existing legislative authority stands at \$96 million.

I would like to, at this point, clarify the media reports when the Budget was introduced in August which stated that the Department of Housing budget would be cut this year. While last year's preliminary financial report shows an actual expenditure for housing of \$50.9 million and this year this budget is \$48.2 million, these figures do not constitute a decrease in programs or services provided by the department. Rather they reflect changes in accounting policy, as recommended by Stevenson-Kellogg Ernst and Whinney in their report to the Manitoba Government.

The consultant's report recommended that the more appropriate accounting practices be adopted in treatment of forgivable loans which are really conditional grants and highly unlikely to be recovered such that they are recorded in the books when they incurred as opposed to over longer periods of time, thus providing a truer picture of Manitoba Housing's financial situation. This accounting change added \$4.5 million to last year's expenditures without which the expenditure amount would have been \$46.4 million.

Therefore, the \$48.2 million allocated to Housing in the 1988-89 Estimates actually represents a 4 percent increase in spending compared to last year after exclusion of the impact of this new accounting treatment. In fact, our Government is committed to the continued provision of additional needed non-profit housing, as indicated in the Speech from the Throne. The initial cost associated with those activities are reflected in the Capital budget referred to earlier with the associated subsidy costs appearing in subsequent years' operating budgets.

The primary purpose of Government involvement in the housing market is to help ensure an adequate, affordable supply of housing for lower-income households, since this data indicates that by and large Manitobans are better housed than they were, say, 20 years ago, that they live in less crowded conditions, that their accommodations are better serviced, have more amenities and have become more affordable. This is particularly true for conventional two-parent families and senior citizens.

However, the information also shows that higher numbers of single parents, low-income singles, and a high proportion of Native people continue to live in poor conditions and to pay a disproportionate amount of their income for housing. To help meet the housing needs for these people, my department will continue in 1988 varied programs I mentioned earlier. A fair bit of this housing will be not just for low income but for special needs Manitobans.

We will be supporting new women's crisis shelters, including the new facility that was announced for Osborne House and the establishment of a Native women's shelter in Winnipeg. We will continue to support innovative projects for the physically and mentally disabled such as the Planned Housing Co-op for the mentally disabled patients. We are committed to providing an innovative shelter for the homeless to complement the Main Street Project.

We will also continue to provide rent supplement units as necessary for physically handicapped to ensure that special mobility suites are within the financial reach of all those who need them. As an example, we have just recently agreed to provide rent supplements for the 16 suites or 16 mobility suites in the village at Portage Place. These monthly supplements are cost shared on a 75/25 percent with the federal Government.

One of our newer federal-provincial programs is the Urban Native Program which exists to provide non-profit housing for Natives in centres with populations of 2,500 or greater. Under this particular program, specific unit allocations are awarded to about nine different Native groups and they are responsible for delivering the project, as well as its ongoing management once they are completed. We expect that about 125 housing units will be financed under the Urban Native Program this year. In addition, we will continue to participate with CMHC in the much needed provision of housing in rural off-reserve Native communities under the Rural Native Housing Program.

The area of elderly persons' housing has become especially important as our population ages and the needs of our seniors become more complex. While statistics show that from an income perspective the lot of senior citizens has improved tremendously in the last generation, there is a need for innovation and leadership in providing for the emerging new seniors' housing markets and the provision of necessary related services.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the development of projects for middle income seniors who may be finding it difficult to maintain their homes but are reluctant to relocate into a mixed apartment complex and whose incomes are too high to qualify for the subsidized senior housing. This trend is particularly important not only because it relieves pressure on Government-supported projects but also because residents of properly designed and serviced seniors' projects have longer and healthier lives. This in turn relieves pressure on expensive hospital and personal care services which are becoming more strained as our population ages. It also has the effect of helping to free up underutilized family homes and thereby increases the supply and the home ownership of units to young families to bring them onto the market.

In this regard, I might mention that Manitoba was recently honoured with two of five major national awards given by CMHC for innovative housing for seniors in the category of innovative financing. One was the Kiwanis Chateau North Portage under the Seniors' RentalStart Program. In the category Innovative Design was the Sokol Manor Project in Brandon, a seniors' apartment combined with a three-classroom school, the first project of its kind in Canada. This project was developed and financed under Manitoba Housing's Public Non-profit Housing Program jointly with the Sokol Polish Gymnastic Association.

* (1620)

These awards selected by an independent panel of housing experts from amongst 160 applications across

Canada are reflective of the commitment of Manitobans to meeting the housing needs of our elderly. I had the good fortune to be present at the recent CMHC-sponsored Housing Options for the Elderly Conference at which the awards were presented and was proud indeed of the prominent role played by Manitoba delegates from all sectors—public, private, health and support services—in various sessions. If the future challenges of housing for our elderly are to be met in their increasing complexity, it is critical that all the sectors work effectively together.

Also this year, the department will continue to work on the overhaul of existing landlord and tenant legislation. This is a major task. We expect the new Act will be more than 100 pages in length and this represents a streamlining of the existing legislation. We expect to introduce these major changes in the next Session of the Legislature, with the objective of making the process less bureaucratic and our services more accessible and efficient for landlord and tenant clients. In fulfillment of our commitment given during 1988-89, we are closely reviewing our existing programs to ensure that they are properly targeted and efficient in their delivery.

As indicated earlier, the province has a stock of 17,000 public housing units, much of which was put in place in the 1970s. The stock is now aging and will require substantially increased maintenance in the future. It is, therefore, doubly important that we effect all possible economies if sufficient resources are to be available for preserving our existing investment.

Lady and gentlemen, that concludes my introductory comments and overview as to the department's current activities and future plans. I welcome now a detailed discussion and a review of our line-by-line Estimates.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): We will now have the customary reply by the critic of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Chairperson, I would like to get into the discussion as soon as possible. For that reason, I will not have an introduction, other than I just want to briefly comment on what the Minister had in his opening remarks regarding the Department of Housing in general and that it is not a decrease.

When I look at the Estimates book, I see that there was a slight increase of .5 percent overall from the previous year. When we have an inflation rate of I believe 3.7 percent, that dictates to us that it is in reality a decrease. I was very concerned with the MHRC having a 3.6 decrease, but I will anxiously await the discussion as we go through it line by line. Thank you.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): Thank you. We will now hear from the critic of the Second Opposition Party.

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairperson. I too want to limit my opening remarks because we have a limited amount of time to get into the detailed questions, just a few comments though on the comments that the Minister made.

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We were glad to hear that they are continuing to give a priority for non-profit housing. There are a number of very serious problems though that are still out there and we will be very interested to see what their plans are in these Estimates and down the road to deal with some of these problems, one of them problems in the Inner City dealing with some landlords. I think that we have done a good job providing housing, as the Minister said, for our senior citizens, but we are lacking in adequate and affordable housing for our young families and particularly our single-parent families.

The issue of transients in the Inner City is a very, very serious issue and it is totally—the requirement there means that we need more affordable and more decent housing and have the families of the Inner City less subject to slum landlords so that they are forced to move sometimes five, six, seven, eight times a year. We are very disappointed that the time is being taken to look at the CEDA grant and the work that it was doing in holding down and decreasing the amount of transients in the Inner City. We were both told about a problem the other night at a public meeting where a member, a person there of a community, said 50 percent of his wages was going on housing. That is 20 percent more than the level that we would like to see. Banks, in terms of giving mortgages to the Inner City, are red-circling areas like Point Douglas and requiring its citizens, who are the least able to do so, to come up with a higher percentage of money and often not approving mortgages at all.

The housing on Native reserves is a critical issue and how this Government is going to deal with the federal Government's inadequate housing policies on reserves. All of those are things that we will be looking very seriously at to see what this Government's intentions are.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): I would remind Members of the committee that debate of the Minister's Salary is deferred until all other items in the Estimates of this department are passed. At this time, we would invite the Minister's staff to take their places at the table by the Minister.

On item 1. General Administration (b) Executive Support: (1) Salaries \$173,600—the Member for Inkster.

Mr. Lamoureux: I was substantially surprised when I was going through the Supplementary Information to find that there was a very substantial reorganization at the upper levels of the department. I was hoping that the Minister would be able to give me some clarification to attempt to justify some of the shuffles, starting from the internal auditor which used to be under the Executive Directors Support Services and was shifted into its own area.

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, the explanation is that they felt that the internal auditor reporting directly to Mr. Julius, who was in Finance, did create a conflict in reporting that basis so they had him reporting directly to the Deputy Minister instead. The other was that there

was an ADM position that was let go by the previous administration. This was a shuffle as a result of that position being eliminated.

Mr. Lamoureux: To continue on that note, I also notice on the organizational chart that we have lost a Director of Communications, yet we still have a communications area. I was wondering if you might be able to clarify who is in charge of the communications.

Mr. Ducharme: No, that is an error on that particular report.

Mr. Lamoureux: So we still do have a communicator on staff?

Mr. Ducharme: That is correct.

Mr. Lamoureux: Getting back to the internal auditor, I understand it was under the Executive Director. The reason it was moved was because the administrative program delivery was cancelled. Maybe the Minister could elaborate to why he saw fit to take out that particular area.

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, this was not done under our Government, it was done by the previous Government. Part of the reduction of when they reduced the staff and that ADM, that reorganization occurred.

Mr. Lamoureux: I will just carry on that, Mr. Acting Chairman.

Mr. Ducharme: Twenty positions government-wide were removed.

* (1630)

Mr. Lamoureux: Okay, that was my next question. Again, looking at it, there is a major reshuffling of responsibilities. I was wondering if the Minister can—just for clarification, is this normal for department heads to be shuffled around or the responsibilities to be shuffled around? In many cases, as I say, you have landlord, mortgage services, rural-northern design services, client, all going over to—

Mr. Ducharme: Excuse me, you are looking at a chart that I do not have access to, you are looking at the one the year before. You are comparing one which I do not have.

Mr. Lamoureux: If that is the case, maybe what I will do is arrange to have this copied so that I can give it to the Minister and, while I am getting a copy, I will allow the NDP critic to carry on.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): Does the Honourable Minister have a comment?

Mr. Ducharme: No, just that way we can compare the shuffling that he is referring to. It will make it easier and clearer.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): That is agreed?

Mr. Lamoureux: No problem.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I wondered if the Minister might be so accommodating as to allow sections not particularly on a line. I am filling in for the Housing critic and my questions are not going to be as related to a line-by-line examination as they are going to be related to policy development. Since there is such a short period of time that we have allocated anyway, I am not sure whether it matters whether my questions come up under one line or another. Is it all right if I go ahead?

Mr. Ducharme: Do you want to wait until we move on to (c) and then you can start from there?

Ms. Hemphill: Sure, except they do not come under Research and Planning either.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, again getting back to the professional/technical staffing requirements, the previous year, we had three; this year we have one. The question would be, with a reduction of two staff years at this level, how does the Minister perceive being able to receive the information that he needs to run the department in its most efficient manner?

Mr. Ducharme: It is not in my department. These have been moved over to Urban Affairs. These are my two staffpeople, they have gone over to Urban Affairs and are now in Urban Affairs budget. This is my EA and my SA. Before they were out of Housing, now they are in Urban. Unfortunately, I can only have one of each.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, would that be likewise for the administrative support staff. We have lost one person at that area too.

Mr. Ducharme: Yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: Still, it is a substantial cut in the Department of Housing. I would be somewhat concerned that the information that the Minister could be needing, obviously the previous Minister of Housing saw fit to have six people under those two categories, this has been cut in half. Does he feel that, although it has been cut in half, he can still have a good understanding and a good grasp of the department?

Mr. Ducharme: The understanding is, each Minister, regardless of whether he has two portfolios, if he has two portfolios, he has an EA and an SA and support personnel to go along with that. So before, if you had Housing and Urban Affairs together, you would have had your Urban Affairs, it could have been in either Housing or Urban Affairs. In this particular case, we have those three people coming out of our Urban Affairs budget. It has not cut the staff for that particular Minister.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, just for clarification, so then I would understand that the three that we lost here in Housing would then be a three gain in Urban Affairs.

Mr. Ducharme: That is correct. But then it does not matter. It depends though. The Urban Affairs person

could be related all the way down, so what I am saying is that I do not have more than one EA and one SA and one secretary that they had in the previous Housing.

Mr. Lamoureux: I just finished circulating a copy of the organizational chart of the department. While the Minister is looking at it, you can see where I have indicated on arrows the substantial changes. I do not know if the Minister was aware or how aware he was of these changes. I would ask him maybe to comment on them, in general, and give his opinion if he feels that maybe they may have gone a little bit overboard on some of this shuffling.

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, I was not aware of this particular program. As you can probably see at the top, the Minister at the time was the Honourable Maureen Hemphill. The only one that I have is the Minister of Housing -(Interjection)- I will make sure that the administration explains it, but I was not aware of this particular chart.

Let us start from—

Mr. Lamoureux: Let us start from Administrative Program Delivery.

Mr. Ducharme: Let us break it down because we are going to have to go right through it. The Property Management went in with the part where the rural and northern design services, client services, administration, word processing. That is where that one went. So we will start with that one. Which one do you want to do next?

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, it would be a lengthy process to go through each and every one of them. I guess what I am really looking for is just some type of an opinion, an overview opinion from the Minister. Looking at the chart, I have mapped out which ones are going to which particular area, and to get his comment on the record in regard to whether he feels that the shuffling of this sort is not out of the norm. I find it to be, or at first glance something that maybe should not have gone through in this manner.

Mr. Ducharme: The only thing we can explain is that at the time this was done by the previous government there was an ADM position eliminated. What they did was they had to combine all the other ones into that one ADM, into the remaining three ADMs that were left. There were four to start with. The previous Government eliminated that one and they combined them into the three that were remaining under that ADM in each specific column. That is why now you have three of them.

Mr. Lamoureux: Can the Minister then inform me if he had any input in regard to the system that we now have?

Mr. Ducharme: No. It was in place when I became Minister.

Mr. Lamoureux: Along that line, the Minister does support then the change that has been—

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Mr. Ducharme: I support the existing structure.

Mr. Lamoureux: We will leave it at that. Thank you.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): 1.(b)(1) Salaries—pass.

1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$56,000—the Member for Logan.

* (1640)

Ms. Hemphill: I would like to go back to my previous request. As I said, it is hard to tell where some of these policy issues come from. The questions are going to come within a couple of hours when you have all of your staff. Do you mind if I go through them now? Then I will just deal with—I am going to do some short snappers to start with.

Mr. Ducharme: Just refer to the line that it applies to.

Ms. Hemphill: I do not know which line it applies to. I will let your department tell us. I would like to know about the Granny Flats.

Mr. Lamoureux: On a point of order.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): On a point of order, the Member for Inkster.

Mr. Lamoureux: If we take this approach, I assume then that we can pass the Estimates as a whole, if we are asking as a whole?

Ms. Hemphill: Yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: That is procedural? I look, and Shelly says no. Let us find out that we can do it this way first.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): The Estimates have to be passed line by line.

Order, please. It is my understanding that the Estimates have to be passed line by line. I understand the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) had some questions dealing specifically with some planning, etc. I understand the Minister suggested that he would prefer to deal with those under the Research and Planning section. Could we then ask the committee if we could pass item 1.(b)(2)? Item 1.(b)(2)—pass.

1.(c) Research and Planning: (1) Salaries \$444,600—the Member for Logan.

Ms. Hemphill: I am wondering if the Minister could give us some information on a couple of policies that had been developed previously. Are they still intact and what has happened with them?

I would like to know about the Granny Flats. We were looking at trying to find ways to allow people, largely in the Inner City, largely probably from the many ethnocultural communities to add to their existing homes with a small addition that are called Granny Flats that would allow them to live with the existing family but have a little bit of additional private space

themselves. We put a lot of information out. Did we have any takers?

Mr. Ducharme: What I have been told in previous discussion about the Granny Flats is that when we were down East we saw that there were some successful programs. Apparently it was a demonstration program put out by MHRC and CMHC. There has been no further result.

Ms. Hemphill: No takers then? Did we advertise? How was the advertising done? Did we advertising in Inner City Voice, in newspapers, in ethnocultural newspapers, the target population, Native magazines and information? Did we target any advertising or information?

Mr. Ducharme: Maybe I did not make myself quite clear. The program was a demonstration program of CMHC. We are waiting for the evaluation to come back from CMHC. It has not come back on that particular demo. We do not have any program in place at this time on the Granny Flats.

Ms. Hemphill: What are they evaluating then? Whose Granny Flats are they evaluating?

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, the evaluation that is coming back from CMHC has not come back to them. They are taking into consideration lot sizes and what have you. What they originally did apparently, they did have the Granny flats go around to different parts of the city on a demonstration basis and we do not have that evaluation back to the CMHC. That is where it is at now. There is no program as far as MHRC is concerned.

Ms. Hemphill: The evaluation is of potential of the program. Is that correct?

Mr. Ducharme: That is correct.

Ms. Hemphill: I would like to ask about how the pet policy is going in our senior citizens' blocks. As you are I am sure aware, there was a policy that came out about a year and a half or so ago that allowed pets in seniors citizens' residences, except in cases where the Tenants Association or the residents themselves met and in majority decided that they would be a "no pet" building. During the recent election, I came across a number of senior citizens who would love to have a cat or small pet, a bird, and are not aware of the policy. Is it still in operation? How is it working? How many buildings have decided to have "no pet" policies and what can we do, if it is still in place, to let the individual senior citizens know that they are now entitled to have pets so they are not, as in some cases, putting their animals to sleep when they move in?

Mr. Ducharme: Clearly, what they did was they surveyed all the existing tenant groups and most of them said they did not want them. However, they have been left up to the individual groups, those tenant groups that are managing those particular complexes. I could not tell you exactly how many buildings said no. I have no idea.

Ms. Hemphill: Were you prepared to accept that response from just the Tenants' Association on behalf of all the residents without knowing whether or not the Tenants' Association had put the question to all the tenants, or did you require them to have a meeting where the question was put and everybody in the building had a right to vote on it?

Mr. Ducharme: Apparently Winnipeg Regional did do a survey on all the tenants and all the projects.

Ms. Hemphill: I am not sure if this is a policy area, but it is very important to people living in some sections of the Inner City and I want to talk about banking policy. The reality that exists today that residential communities like Point Douglas, which is the most historic neighbourhood that we have in our city, and a neighbourhood that all levels of Government have been trying for years to upgrade and improve and maintain, that the bank policy makes it very difficult for people to buy in neighbourhoods like Point Douglas for two reasons. One is that they often require a higher percentage of down payment than they do outside of areas like Point Douglas. These are areas that are red-circled which the banks deny exist but which do exist. People going to banks have had information telling them that this is so. We cannot give you a mortgage in Point Douglas because it has been red-circled. The property values are low and it is too risky and we will not provide mortgages in that area.

So the two things that are happening is, one, they are requiring a larger down payment by people who have the least ability to raise the down payment in the first place; and, secondly, they are refusing outright to give mortgages, and they have to shop to an incredible amount to find somebody who is willing to take a chance on mortgages in Point Douglas.

I am wondering if the Minister is aware of this and if he would continue to talk to the major banks and make sure that what they say is not happening in policy is not in fact happening in practice.

Mr. Ducharme: The answer to that is that the Institute of Urban Studies is currently doing a study for us in the Inner City. It is supposed to be due for January of '89. They are doing that study, exactly what you are referring to. They are carrying on that study through the institute and, when that is finished I would be glad to let the Member know what the results of that particular study are.

* (1650)

Ms. Hemphill: I thank the Minister for that answer and I think that the results of the study will be helpful to deal with that question if they ever get it completed. It has been in the works now for either—it must be at least a year and a half. What is the matter with the Urban Institute? What is taking so long?

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, I believe it started in January of this year and, once they started the program, it was delayed. Apparently they ran into a problem in that particular area. The ethnic—they had to start getting

involved in translators in the survey and that is what apparently has slowed it down.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I have one other area where I would just like to touch on the question of policy. It relates to empty bachelor suites in senior citizens' blocks. We have a bit of a contradiction where we need more housing, at the same time as the bachelor suites are going empty because the minimum space, I think, changed. It means people now want their own single bedroom. They are no longer interested in using the space where the bed is out kitty-corner to the living room. We brought in a policy that allowed the filling of those empty bachelor suites by people who would not ordinarily qualify to live in the senior citizens' homes.

Is that policy in place? How many empty bachelor suites do we have? How many people have gone into them who would not normally be qualified, and what are we doing to promote the fact that these places are empty at a time when, for many people, that would be luxurious accommodation and they would be delighted to have the opportunity to live in it?

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, I cannot give you the number. Maybe somebody else can give you the number in a minute. This has been discussed with Winnipeg Regional just recently in regard to that. There was another concern, apparently it is not just here in Winnipeg, it is across Canada. We have looked at maybe reducing the rent so they take the bachelor, but then we do not know whether CMHC would participate in that program because then we would be under the 25 percent guideline. The other thing referred to was that the seniors, moving others in with the seniors, and you are probably aware that does not always work. Some of the senior programs do not want to have others in their particular buildings.

In our most recent meeting with Winnipeg Regional, discussions are that they do not seem to have the answer or are hoping that someone out there does. We are looking at alternates. That was discussed about a week and a half ago with Winnipeg Regional. They are the ones that have the most bachelor suites that are vacant. Maybe they could give you the results or how many are vacant.

First of all, I understand there are 150 to 160 of those units available. In the first of the year, there is going to be a conference dealing with the senior citizen housing again and the services going into them, and maybe we might be able to get some answers out of that particular conference. It is a problem and we are aware of that, but all I can say is I did meet with again Winnipeg Regional about a week and a half ago.

In my first few meetings I had with MHRC, there was a concern that was brought up. I know it has been recycled time and time again to try and come up with an answer. All I can say right now is that the department is working to try and solve that problem of bachelor suites.

Ms. Hemphill: Just quickly, one last question on that area, Mr. Acting Chairperson, that looks to me from my recollection that it has just about doubled. In other

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words, it was at about 65, it is now about 150. So there is a significant growing increase of empty bachelor suites. I was not sure from his answer whether the policy still applied. I recognize fully that you have to be careful who you put in with senior citizens, that not everybody would be compatible, but we have found some people who are compatible. Does the policy still allow that option if somebody compatible could be found? Surely, when we are talking with CMHC, even they can understand that having somebody in the suite at less rent for 150 units brings in more money than having the suite sit year after year empty, while people are living in totally inadequate housing.

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, if it is compatible, it is still policy. Secondly, there were other suggestions put at the time and, as you say, it has increased because everybody seems to want the one bedrooms. The other thing is that there were even suggestions by Winnipeg Regional that maybe we redecorate these to make them more attractive to get people in. I think, until we get the vacancy at a certain percentage, it does not pay us even to renovate them. I do not know what that percentage was that makes it feasible—around 9 percent and then it gets to the breaking point of making it profitable to go in there and make the renovations.

Ms. Hemphill: I just have one other point I wanted to make. I agree with that completely, but the point I was trying to make is that housing, although it is inadequate to many, is more than adequate for others who are living in accommodation that does not even touch it in terms of quality, and they would be quite delighted to move into it. I think it is a matter of—there may be handicapped people, there may be a variety of people who would be quite compatible and that is really a matter of promotion, education, and getting information out and then screening. I think we have to do a better job in that area, not look at major things like renovating to solve the problem.

Mr. Ducharme: This did come up. We know that it is a problem. We know that it is a concern about how many are available. Another thing that came up is that maybe we could go into a program to let people know and advertise how many are available. To the Member, we also could probably maybe go into some type of advertising program when we do come up with a theory on which people will be allowed in which particular projects. Then we could advertise them and I am sure we could maybe get the vacancy rate down.

Mr. Lamoureux: I wanted to comment briefly on the land banking and the policy of this Government towards land banking. Can he, through staff, inform me how many acreage or whatever they use to measure, do we have as a Government?

Mr. Ducharme: We have about 3,700 acres of land that we own that is in our bank, unserviced.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, would all that 3,700 be within the City of Winnipeg perimeter?

Mr. Ducharme: Some of it will be outside the urban limit line, some of it will be outside the perimeter highway, province-wide.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, what type of acreage would we have in the city, approximately?

Mr. Ducharme: About 60 percent of that land I understand would be in the City of Winnipeg or within, say, a border of five miles of the City of Winnipeg. I can provide you a list of details of all our land holdings. We have a map, as a matter of fact, that will show that to you, but I will get you a list of those.

Mr. Lamoureux: I was just wondering, an approximate, would the 60 percent, in fact all the land, when would that land have been acquired?

Mr. Ducharme: Almost all of it 1972 to 1974. That is when the federal Government had their program going, at that time.

Mr. Lamoureux: So we are not acquiring any land at present. Does the Government have a policy in regard to what they are going to be doing with this land, whether it is going to be selling it off to developers?

* (1700)

Mr. Ducharme: I will answer the first question first. I just wanted to clarify that we only acquire land if we are looking at a project. We might acquire four acres somewhere to get a project, as an example, that we know will work in an area, or something that might come up for specific projects. We do not land bank at this particular time. We do have properties that probably have been with us that we did acquire. When you asked what the Government policy was on it, we are negotiating with different groups on land that has some very large carrying costs and is marketable right now.

We have sold some land since I have been Minister and I know there is some up North. We will sell it to different groups who show an interest. We sell it after having it appraised. Most of our land has a very heavy carrying cost. We are negotiating, we have had developers come in who would probably go on some type of joint ventures on the land that is within the urban limit line that we might be able to get some of our monies back. That is what we are partly looking at. Whatever gives us the best return for our dollar now is the way we are going to probably dispose of some of that land.

Mr. Lamoureux: Moving on to the Other Expenditures under Supply and Services, we had approximately a 45 percent increase and you have a footnote explaining why that increase was so. Can you maybe elaborate a bit more? Is that for media brochures that were printed up?

Mr. Ducharme: You are into the other book now, eh?

Mr. Lamoureux: That is the Supplement, page 21.

Mr. Ducharme: Which one are you talking about? You will have to go through that again.

Mr. Lamoureux: Page 21, Supplies and Services.

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Mr. Ducharme: I was not quite sure what line you were referring to. That is the CEDA program that was introduced by the previous Government. Half of it was paid out of last year's budget and half was paid out of this year's until the end of August.

Mr. Lamoureux: Under Supplies and Services, would that be in terms of a brochure that you printed up? It is obviously not the implementation of the CEDA.

Mr. Ducharme: The CEDA was a one-year contract. It was referred to by the Member critic of the NDP earlier in regard to a program that we had started and a program that was ceased in the City of Winnipeg, carried out by the Winnipeg School Division. What they did was they went out and did almost a journal of what was available in Housing in the large part of the core area. They were contracted for one year. That is what that program was.

Mr. Lamoureux: Just one last area and that is regarding the Senior Housing, as the Honourable Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) has brought up, senior housing in the bachelor suite area is at a very high vacancy rate, I would hesitate to guess. I know I have been in these bachelor suites and it is something in which I would not want my mother to live in. It is basically one room. It is unfortunate that they do not have at least another room. I would ask the Minister, what is the Government's position in terms of future building of senior complexes?

Mr. Ducharme: We do not build bachelor and I do not think under our administration we are building any more bachelor suites. I tried to emphasize earlier, it is getting progressively worse and the vacancy rate is getting higher, I agree. I went out to visit some of these and I am not impressed by the bachelor. People just will not live in them and especially if there is not a great difference between the bachelor and the one bedroom. That is what probably makes it not a viable market to have people going into the bachelor suites.

Mr. Lamoureux: Do we have a waiting list for the one-bedroom apartments for seniors?

Mr. Ducharme: In some areas, yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: Okay, that is fine.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): I just want to make a few comments with respect to northern housing and then ask the Minister if he can bring us up to date as to the policy initiatives or perhaps the lack of initiative, I am not certain, with respect to northern housing by his administration.

It is important to put the remarks in the proper historical context. As the Minister is aware, last January, I believe it was, there was a conference that was held in northern Manitoba in Thompson with respect to housing problems that currently exist in the North. That conference was attended by representatives of the department, by the Minister of Housing at the time, northern MLAs, myself included, by representatives of

CMHC, the federal Government, and by representatives of the communities themselves through two organizations primarily, the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Northern Association of Community Councils.

The conference was required basically because of some of the severe housing problems that exist in the North. As a Government, we had come to the conclusion over a period of time that there were a number of problems that could be dealt with in a fairly straightforward way. However, there were also a large number of other problems that had to be dealt with by attitudinal changes and by significant changes in policy with respect to how Governments related to the housing needs in the North. Let me just identify what some of the problems were.

The first is substandard housing. I have to tell the Minister that I just returned from a visit to a number of communities in northern Manitoba and attended two reserves, Shamattawa and Lac Brochet. The housing circumstances in the reserves, I think, are primarily a federal responsibility so I am not going to dwell on what some of the problems are there, although I would hope that the Minister in discussions with his federal counterparts would encourage the federal Government to continue with and expand a proactive approach to supplying housing needs for reserves in the North.

I also visited South Indian Lake and Brochet, two communities which are relatively large by comparison with other remote communities, and two communities which have significant housing problems. The housing there is probably one of the primary concerns of the individuals. When I go door to door to talk to constituents in those communities, the one issue that continually comes forward is housing. There are a number of other issues, employment and level of services in the community and local control and self-government, but housing is one that continually comes forward during those visits. It comes forward because there are some extremely substandard housing in the North. The housing is substandard for a number of reasons. One, I think, inappropriate designs were effected a number of years ago when Governments, I think and with all good intentions, sought to respond to some very pressing housing needs by implementing housing programs on the run. I think that is what had to be done at that time.

I think it was the right approach at that particular time, but it is the wrong approach now. I think it resulted in housing being built that was really transported from the south to the North. The designs are southern, they do not suit northern conditions. The construction materials are southern. They do not suit northern conditions and they are expensive. The cultural values of the North, I think, were ignored in design and construction. The cost of the houses, because they were houses that were transported, not physically but conceptually, is well above what it needs to be. But that is the past, it did provide housing on an immediate basis; that housing was required on an immediate basis. But I think it is time now that we embark upon a different type of housing program.

The housing is also substandard because the maintenance of the housing has not been what it should.

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That is not a reflection on the individuals who live in that housing. That is really a reflection on again the fact that housing was brought in that was not, I think, suitable to the climatic conditions and, therefore, required more maintenance than different designs of housing would. It was also because there were not—and we hope that this situation is being alleviated and corrected through the development of skilled workers, through the Limestone Training Employment Agency and other northern programs. But there were not a lot of individuals in the communities who were familiar with how to maintain the units. There were not skilled electricians; there were not skilled carpenters; there were not skilled plumbers.— (Interjection)— As the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) says, there were not skilled drywall workers. So, in fact, there were not skilled workers in the communities.

There was no real education program for individuals on how to maintain their housing units. I am not certain how effective that education program will be. I know you could give me all the books you wanted on plumbing and I probably would not be able to repair the plumbing in my house, and I consider myself to be a reasonably intelligent person. You can give me all the books you want on electricity and I am not going to go playing around with the sockets and the outlets in my house. Again, I consider myself as being able to absorb and understand, but those are the types of things where you want skilled workers.

* (1710)

As a matter of fact, I think if I did go playing around with the sockets and the outlets in my house I would probably be violating provincial standards, and it would be no different in the North. As a matter of fact, I know if I was doing it, it probably would be for certain a violation of provincial standards in the end result. That is one of the reasons why I do not do it and that is one of the reasons why others do not do it.

I think one of the final reasons for substandard housing was, even though there has been a willingness, I believe, on the part of the provincial Government over the past number of years to change the style, to change the design to go to more culturally appropriate and more northern appropriate housing, CMHC has been a stumbling block because of their very rigid national standards with respect to the type of housing they require. So there is substandard housing.

There is also an inadequate supply. Although we sought to meet the needs. The needs were so great that we were unable to meet the needs. I stopped in a number of houses in, for example, the community of Brochet and South Indian Lake and, in some houses where you have two and three bedrooms, you have 15 people residing. That is not because there is a great desire to have all that closeness to each other. It is because there is not enough housing for individuals and, when the individuals get married and they want to stay in the community, there is no housing available to them so they move in with the in-laws. When individuals move back into the community, they move in with friends so you get some real problems with the number of residents in any one house and that is because of the inadequate supply.

The third problem which I think is having a compounding effect over time is the way in which the rent and mortgage payments are structured. Again, we tried to transplant southern programs into the North and they did not really work very well. For example, and I think MHRC has been quite flexible in this regard, much more flexible than CMHC, but even so the flexibility was not enough to meet the unique circumstances of the North. For example, let us take a person who traps. They go out on the trapline and they are on the trapline for maybe two- or three-months a year. During those two or three months when they are employed, they are paying 25 percent of their gross earnings. Then they come back and they are unemployed for a number of months. You have to rearrange the system so that they are now paying less. You have therefore fluctuations in the amount of payments based on whether or not they are working and when you have seasonal work like that you have some real problems.

Again, I am saying this is more a problem with the CMHC than MHRC, but MHRC also has had some difficulties in this area, another example which I guess is important. You may have a couple living next each other, one in MHRC house and one in CMHC house. In MHRC, because they are renting, it is taking care of the maintenance and that is included in the 25 percent, and CMHC, because they are mortgage payers, it is not taking care of the maintenance and you have an inequity that does not make much sense when you get into the community of Brochet. It may make a whole lot of sense from the perspective of the bureaucracies, MHRC and CMHC, but it just does not make any sense in the communities.

Another problem with the rent and mortgage payments is you may have someone living in a house where they are paying—and I do not know what the minimum is now, but maybe \$30 to \$40 a month for rent and the person living in the next house may have two income earners in that house and they are paying \$500 or \$600 a month for a house. Again, they look at the services that are being provided and the amount of money they are paying and they are saying, why should we be working or why should we be living in that Government housing. They try to find other housing in the community and there is no other housing in the community because it is basically all Government-subsidized housing. So the rent and mortgage payment structures create severe problems.

So addressing those problems, we had a number of research projects done and a number of studies done and it resulted in the meeting in Thompson which resulted in a number of recommendations which I believe are still valid approaches to dealing with those particular problems. The changes that were considered at that time, and I think I would be accurate in saying that these changes had Government approval, at least the previous NDP administration approval, they had been discussed at the Cabinet level, they had been discussed at the caucus level, and our approach was to work with the communities to negotiate the appropriate changes with CMHC so that there would be a coordinated approach. I believe that if we had been unable to finalize those negotiations in CMHC,

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it may have been necessary to go it alone and to pull our money out of CMHC programs and provide housing that was strictly provincially financed, it would have been a bit more expensive for us in terms of absolute dollars. I think it would have been far less expensive for us in terms of building longer lasting housing, housing that met the needs of the North and housing that was more relevant to the requirements and wishes and desires of the residents.

The specific changes that we were going to negotiate were as follows: firstly, under specific guidelines, mortgages on existing properties would be written off giving households clear title to their homes. They would no longer have to make mortgage payments but would be responsible for all associated ongoing maintenance payments.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Specific guidelines as well would be developed for renters who would have the option of taking title to their units. The reason that was required was that we did not continue that inequity that existed because there were two different Government bureaucracies providing programs in the North, CMHC and MHRC. So the renters would have the same opportunity to take title as would those who are paying a mortgage.

Where the community agreed, the remaining rental units that are now managed by the Government could be turned over to a community-based organization, a local housing authority or some other organization that was democratically elected and controlled that would be responsible for property management and maintenance and, I think equally important, we would encourage clear title for residential lots.

The existing units would be brought up to standard before they were turned over the households in the communities. Subsequent to that, the householders, the owners in the communities would be responsible for all the costs associated with ongoing, regular maintenance. If funding was required for major repairs at a future date, that could be made available under existing programs that are already available.

When supplying new units, and there would be a requirement to supply new units over a period of time, community residents would be involved in designing, building and maintaining the units. We would hope that they would set up their own local construction firms or organizations or co-ops or however they want to structure it so that local labour would be used to the greatest extent possible. There would be a grant that would be provided to cover the appropriate costs of materials and freight to the community and cite development costs and the costs of electrical plumbing and heating installations, the community or organizations or the householders at the same time would be expected to provide some sweat equity and costs above the basic components of the package. I think that is extremely important.

One of the problems in the past as well was these houses were just turned over without any sweat equity. When I go into Brochet and South Indian Lake, I see the houses that are built, by the way mostly out of log,

mostly easier to heat, mostly easier to maintain, I see those houses that were built by individuals being better maintained than those houses that were given to individuals. I think that just stands to reason because there is some pride in ownership if you have a hand in pounding the nails and sawing the logs.

Well, the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) says I am talking like a Conservative. No, I am talking like an individual who understands that there is a need for collective work to provide the basics, but there is also room for the individual to expand upon the basics that are provided and in that way obtain a sense of ownership.

As with the existing stock, the new stock would not be under mortgage payments, although again the owners would be responsible for all ongoing regular maintenance. That maintenance program would be improved by providing courses for occupants to improve their skills in the general home operation maintenance and budgeting and, as well, providing ongoing training such as we do under the other programs to get experienced workers in the communities.

Then, after that, we would require that the communities and/or the households under the terms related agreements maintain a responsible approach to ownership or management. The community could decide what they wanted to do with the buildings. They could provide the buildings to individuals. They could rent the buildings to individuals. They could sell the buildings to individuals.

After a period of time, and this would take a decade or perhaps a generation, there would be enough houses in the community that would be owned by the community that they would be collecting rent and payments on that they could develop their own program and there would no longer be a requirement for Government funding.

* (1720)

So in the end because of this program, we would have a system in place that was self-sustaining. We would not be spending money on houses that are inappropriate and falling apart. We would not be responsible for an inadequate supply because the supply would be building all the time. The residents of the community know who can pay rent and how much rent they can afford. Those are decisions we cannot take at a senior level in Winnipeg or Thompson or wherever it might be. Those are decisions that have to be made in the community, and they will be able to organize an economic structure that will ensure that the needs of individuals are addressed in the level of payments and the timing of payments. So they can respond to the needs of the trapper, they can respond to the needs of the two-income family, and they can respond to the needs of the unemployed.

In all the things we did in Government, I was probably as enthused about this as anything else because I thought at the time when we came forward with this program and it did receive, I think, tentative approval by the MMF and the NACC, it was a major shift. It was a reform, it was a very positive change that would go

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a long way towards dealing with some very serious housing problems.

I would encourage the Minister to continue that work. Before doing so, in closing my comments on this, I would ask him, however, if he has had an opportunity to meet with the MMF or NACC with respect to this program. Has the department continued its negotiations with CMHC to try to get them onside with this particular program? I would also appreciate a general response from the Minister in regard to the basic components of this program and how his Government would respond to each of those.

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, I would be foolish to suggest that I know as much about the stock as the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan). I will not say that, because I have not reviewed all the stock. Some of the stock reviewed was not Native but was to go to Churchill.

I am amazed that it took your previous Government up until January of '88 to suggest these changes because, even with the small amount of stock that I have seen, I am amazed at the type of living conditions that people have to live in, in this province. I did go up to Churchill, in regard to the Churchill situation, and we know that there was a problem in Churchill. We did reduce their rents up there, because of the conditions, just recently by 10 percent of what their increases were going up to. I think there have been suggested increases of upwards of around 50 percent in some areas of Churchill.

First of all, some of the houses up there, for instance—and I am not talking about the Native again—it had to be a Japanese architect who designed them because, I will tell you, my family was involved in the construction business and I was never there but I was always around. I will tell you whoever built those houses should be ashamed because even the way they built the windows and the aluminum sliders and the way they built the houses, they just were not designed for that type of country.

I am not disagreeing with you with all the problems. I am not going to apologize for CMHC.—(Interjection)—Why should I apologize for them? —(Interjection)— Just, let me finish. I will let you finish. What we did was we have an evaluation going. We agreed that these changes are necessary. You said, why do we not go alone? When we get this evaluation from them and go, we will take a wait-and-see attitude that if that is the case. As you will probably appreciate, we would prefer that CMHC would go, because it is certainly the easier way to go. They are the local deliverer.

There has been consultation with the Indian and Native, with the Minister. He has met with some groups and I have met with some groups. I know he did have a conference where he met with our administration and a Member of our administration was there. There were many questions asked by this group. I can understand the frustration of the Member. I can also understand there were some very, very good points as a result of your conference. I will not deny that. You came forward with some good points. I did discuss these with some of the Ministers when I went to the conference on

Housing, especially Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan seems to have some similar problems that we have. We are not alone in trying to get CMHC to agree with these changes that you are saying and the way they deliver.

I am saying that we will continue to look at it. I hope that we do have some resolved so that we can at least start with this program because, as you said, it will take years and years and a decade to get it on its way. Just by looking at some of them, there were problems on some of the Native—which ones would you forgive and hand over to them so they could go in on their own, apply for programs to repair, etc.? These things were in discussion on how you would handle that existing stock and how that would be done. There are some that we will never be able to get rid of.

Some of them up North are probably better renting than what the upkeep of some of these houses are. You know, the heat bills on some of these houses are amazing. To buy them, even if we gave them for nothing, as has been suggested—I am not saying they are all like that. There is even a problem there on the maintenance that they can rent them cheaper than they can maintain them. So there are different problems and I have been looking at it with my staff in regard to that. I am not pleased with what I saw, and that is all I can say at this time.

Mr. Cowan: I appreciate the fact that the Member went to Churchill. I say that sincerely. I think he is indicating some of the problems with the heating bills are more the problems with the units in Churchill than the problems with the units in the reserves, in the communities.

What I would encourage him to do and I would even be prepared to attend with him, to go along with him or to organize for him, if he wishes, is to go into some of the remote communities. Go into South Indian Lake with us, go into Brochet with us, go into Shamattawa to get a sense of some of the issues in the reserve communities. The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) says he has already been there, and I know he has been there. I hope that he took a chance when he was there at the time to take a look at some of the housing, so that he can put pressure on Indian Affairs, because that is entirely an Indian Affairs community with respect to housing, to do a better job there as well.

I hope when the issues of Critical Home Repair and Government programs come forward to the Minister in his role as a Cabinet Minister in respect to their application to reserves that he will not do what the previous Conservative administration did and cut those programs off for reserves, but he will follow a different policy. But those are issues yet to come.

I want to go back just to comments the Minister made. No. 1, I would encourage him and I quite sincerely offer whatever assistance I can provide to him in organizing a tour into communities at least in my own constituency to take a look at the housing, because I think what he has seen in Churchill is entirely different than what he will see in the remotes unless he visited the Flats in Churchill, and I do not think he probably

did have time to visit the Flats. The Flats would be more indicative, I think, of what you would find in a reserve community than what you find in the townsite itself.

I am glad that he is not going to apologize for CMHC but I think he has to go a bit further and push CMHC because they are, in a large part, the problem. I will say that directly to them, and I will say that in this committee and I will say that in the communities. Their standards are, in a large part, the problem.

I understand that they have national objectives, but the Minister is right when he says he has support among the other Ministers particularly in the West. I think, if he looks to the Territories—I believe it was the Territories at least—he will find a similar type of program already in place that is being funded, I believe, cooperatively with the federal Government. So we have a precedent upon which to build. So I hope he would do that.

He mentioned an evaluation, and I believe this is the evaluation that was discussed at the conference in Thompson. I am going back in memory. I do not have my notes in front of me. I would ask him the status of that evaluation, if it is done and if he will make that evaluation available to Members of the Opposition when it has been completed.

* (1730)

Mr. Ducharme: It is a CMHC guideline and, once we receive it, I have no problem. As you probably appreciate, you said that you would help me arrange a tour and, if we ever get out of this place, I would be glad to arrange a tour. As you know, I did invite you to go up to Churchill with me because I cannot be expected to know the North if you have lived there. That is the first time I have been to Churchill and that area.

Mr. Cowan: A beautiful community.

Mr. Ducharme: Yes, it was very—

Mr. Cowan: And there should be more tourists.

Mr. Ducharme: They treated me real well. The guidelines you are talking about in the Territories, the only problem is that when in discussions with the Territories at the conference and their argument was that the guidelines that were set up by CMHC finally did not make the program what it should have been. They really throttled it is what they did. The person from the Northwest did tell us that in discussions.

Mr. Cowan: I was referring more to the funding arrangements in the Territories, which I think are similar to the program that we were considering. I, at this point in time, will officially indicate to the Minister that, as I did when he travelled to Churchill, I will pair with him so that we do not have to get out of the House. We do not have to wait until the House shuts down in order to get up North. I would be pleased to pair with him at any time. Even if I cannot make the trip with him at that time, I would be pleased to offer him that pair to allow him to get out there.

One final point, and I know there are other questions, there were a number of demonstration projects which were ongoing. Again, I would encourage the Minister to continue to fund those demonstration projects but not to rely upon them as a way of solving the problem. Sometimes I thought that particularly the federal Government was using the funding and demonstration problems as a way to forestall actually having to make a decision, in other words, more and more research, more and more planning. I think we know what needs to be done now, I think we have to do it, and for that reason would hope that they would take immediate action and it is going to take a lot of pressure, a lot of political will. I can offer the Minister whatever encouragement he feels is required from the New Democratic Party caucus to deal with this issue and will do so and would encourage him to take quick, immediate, decisive, forceful and comprehensive action. I wish him well in that effort.

Mr. Ducharme: Just to answer to what kind of pressure has been applied, it is because of the pressure put on by MHRC in regard to a lot of your recommendations that has agreed to this evaluation. Maybe we can talk to the Liberal Member into also going with us when we go because, as you probably appreciate, it does not just help to get a pair from you people.

Mr. Cowan: You only need one pair.

Mr. Ducharme: I look forward when we do get out of here that we will look at it.

Mr. Chairman: 1.(c)(1) Salaries, \$444,600—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures, \$147,900—pass.

1.(d) Communications: (1) Salaries, \$130,400—the Member for Inkster.

Mr. Lamoureux: The managerial position under this area, is that then the Director of Communications?

Mr. Ducharme: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures \$173,500—pass; (e) Support Services: (1) Salaries \$1,509,700—pass; (e)(2) Other Expenditures \$1,419,300—pass.

No. 2. Property Management and Landlord and Tenant Affairs: Provides for the administration and management of housing projects owned and/or subsidized by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation; provides administration for The Landlord and Tenant Act, The Residential Rent Regulation Act and The Condominium Act.

(a) Administration: (1) Salaries \$87,000—the Member for Logan.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I think I would like to ask a few questions in this area. I suppose one of the biggest disappointments, it is clear that this Government has not wanted to proceed with major legislation in this Session and that almost all legislation that one would call substantive legislation has been put off until

the next Session although, if this one goes any longer, we will be into the next Session soon.

I think it was really disappointing particularly that they were not prepared to move on the new Landlord and Tenant Act because so much work had been done previously, and the work had been done by all of the parties involved, in other words, the tenants, the organization community groups, the Landlords' Association. We cannot even imagine I think the number of hours that those people spent closeted in rooms hammering out what were compromises on everybody's part to come to an agreement on changes that should be made so that we were really disappointed that with all that background that this Government has not chosen to move on it in this Session.

Can the Minister tell us why it has been put off till the next Session? Are they not satisfied with the report or with the work that has been done or the consensus that has been achieved by all of those parties? Are they re-examining it, restudying it? What is the reason for the delay?

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, as you can probably appreciate that a new Government on such major legislation that is approximately going to be 100 pages, I know groups met. We are not looking at reinventing the wheel all over again. I have met with all the groups that participated. A committee of Cabinet has been set, three Ministers sit on that committee. We have met several times with the administration to go over that particular legislation. We have questions. Of course there are questions.

As you say, I took the book, that original one, and saw the many hours that people spent. Unfortunately, we were not part of that. We were not the Government in place at the time. I think it would be quite irresponsible, unless you review that legislation, carefully review it—most of us, you are right, did not suspect that we would be here at this time. At that time we felt justice could not be done on a careful review of that. I can assure the Member that there will be legislation in the next Session. That will be my major, as Housing Minister, that legislation of that particular Act.

The Act did say review and it was brought forward and we have been going through it and there are a lot of good points to that. If we do have questions, we get back in touch with the parties, we get back in touch with the administration, and we are doing that at a committee level. Because it was such a major review, we have put three Cabinet Ministers to review that particular legislation, not just myself. I think that careful consideration, I am sure and I can assure you, that we will have legislation for the next Session.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, one of the areas I would like to, referring once again to this meeting that the Minister and I attended together the other night where the issue of housing with the Point Douglas residences, one of their continuing and major issues that they are dealing with, and their information about how difficult a time they have with slum landlords, where they are not given leases and where they are afraid to

even complain about the terrible deficiencies because they expect they will be out on the street on very short notice. I think there were some areas in there that would give some protection to the people. One of them was withholding any rent increases when they had been told to make improvements. If they did not do it, they would not be allowed to have rent increases until the renovations were done.

I would just encourage the Minister to really look at the issue of slum landlords and the issue of the high percentage of older housing stock that there is in the Inner City and the issue that I think tells us that most of the old housing stock in the Inner City is rental accommodation. I cannot remember the percentage. I thought it was very high—is 85 percent too high? I am looking at the Deputy for confirmation—85 percent rental accommodation in the Inner City?

Mr. Ducharme: Sixty-five percent.

* (1740)

Ms. Hemphill: Even that is a very high percentage. So we are looking at a number of major issues, one of the oldest housing stocks in the Inner City, a very high percentage of houses owned by slum landlords who do not give a damn about the quality of the house or the people living in them, and the rentals, the high percentage of those that are rentals, because we know that when you own something you take better care of it.

I would urge the Minister to make that issue one of the issues that he really looks at because we do not have a lot of time left to deal with the increasing decline of some of the housing stock in the Inner City, although some of the housing programs have helped a great deal.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to ask a question I think is appropriate under here about the rent increase. The guideline that was announced was 3 percent this year. It was interesting to note that even the landlords were surprised and thought that the increase was a higher increase than they expected to get. I know from previous experience that the Minister has given information and the Cabinet is given information to make that decision and that there is sometimes a range. In other words, you could be told by the department that you could go anywhere from a 2 percent increase to a 2.5 percent increase to a 3 percent increase. I am wondering why this one was so high. It definitely pleased the landlords but at the cost of the people paying the rent increase. Since the landlords can always get more if they justify it—the process allows them to get more. So if you went 2.5 percent to protect the people, any landlord that qualified for more could get it by simply presenting the case of why they should be getting more than the 2.5 percent. Why did you go so high?

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, I will answer the first question in regard to the landlord review that you mentioned and the housing court that is to be established, we hope to be established. There are several suggestions in regard to that.

Another reason why I put it off was I felt it was such major legislation and such a new way of looking at settlement of landlord and tenants that maybe someone, as a Minister, to go down and review an existing court in operation, and apparently there is one in New York and there is one in Boston. This has never been done. You mentioned about the damage to the housing, repairs could be done, a suggestion that repairs could be done and then it would be taken off the landlord, so there are several ways of withholding the monies.

You did mention also the guideline. The guideline came from the administration and the guideline at the time was 3.1 percent, based on the two calculation factors that are used. There is one based on depreciation, etc., and maintenance, and that guideline was 3.1 percent. There was no change by anybody, not by the Minister or by Cabinet.

Another reason it is great for a landlord to say well, I do not want an increase because we have a high vacancy rate. I do not want the guidelines to start affecting—and that should have no basis—the guideline of vacancy rate and the guideline used for rent increase. Remember, you should not be treated as a banking system. In other words, if they do not take the 3 percent this year, they cannot take 6 percent next year and that can become a very dangerous type of thing to happen. All of a sudden, they have vacancy rates. However, that is no basis to setting that guideline. A vacancy rate should not be used as a guideline for setting or upsetting that increase. That is actually what the landlords are almost saying. We have vacancies this year so we do not want an increase. That becomes very dangerous if you all of a sudden over a period of four or five years and the landlord says, hey, I need 10 percent. No, he has to take it now. That is the whole reason for it. He does not have to take the 3 percent.

Ms. Hemphill: Know of any who are not going to?

Mr. Ducharme: What I am saying, he does not have to take it but, if he does not take it this year, he better not ask for it next year combined with whatever the percentage is next year.

Ms. Hemphill: That raises a question that I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the vacancy rate is.

Mr. Ducharme: It is around 4.1 percent.

Ms. Hemphill: What does the Minister and the department feel that vacancy rate is? Is that at a healthy level, is that an acceptable level? Is it a little too high or can we stand a little more?

Mr. Ducharme: Depending if you are landlord or a tenant. If you are a landlord, it is not healthy; and if you are a tenant, it is great.

Ms. Hemphill: But we have both their interests at heart as a Government, as a Minister, and so what do we think is a healthy level for both?

Mr. Ducharme: The normal is around 3 percent.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—the Member for Inkster.

Mr. Lamoureux: I just wanted to comment on the Landlord and Tenant Review Committee. This committee was struck a few years back and I have met with a couple of people regarding this particular review committee. I was under the impression that there was some legislation that the previous Government had and was ready to present to the House. I wonder if you might let me know if in fact there was legislation that was to be brought forward with the NDP.

Mr. Ducharme: The review was placed with the Legislature, apparently, to where the previous administration had planned on presenting legislation to the House, however, to what extent I am not sure. All I am saying, I am taking the review that was done and now we are going through—when I talk about a committee, the committee we have struck is a committee of Cabinet to review that report that came through. Apparently the legislation is roughly now draftable, 50 percent of it was drafted, the last hearing that I had of the legislation.

Mr. Lamoureux: So there was no legislation drafted prior through the previous administration?

Mr. Ducharme: About 50 percent drafted on instructions from the previous Government. They got to about 50 percent and then there was a new Government, so it has actually probably been on hold and now that we are reviewing—it was senseless of them finishing their complete legislation until they knew that the intentions of this Government were.

Mr. Lamoureux: So there was legislation that was coming forward and you just basically scrapped that and restarted the process?

Mr. Ducharme: No.

Mr. Lamoureux: No?

Mr. Ducharme: No, we did not scrap it. All we have been doing is going to the review and carrying on with the legislation. There could be changes to their half. I will not answer that right now. However, we will be drafting full legislation for the next Session.

Mr. Lamoureux: It seems to me this type of legislation is very well needed. We do have the tenants and landlords who did come to a consensus on I believe it is some 139 recommendations. It is unfortunate that it had to be put off. I can recall reading in, I believe it was, the Free Press that the main reason it was put off was because we were anticipating a short Session. At the time, the Liberal Party did put out a news release demanding that this legislation be brought forward this Session. You would have had full cooperation and, if it can be brought forward even now, you would have full cooperation of the Official Opposition.

On that note, I will move on to—

Mr. Ducharme: I could maybe respond to that. Will you sign a blank page? That is what we felt. We felt

that we would be absolutely irresponsible unless we went through the total review. Have you seen the size of it? They did not agree on all categories. There were lots of disagreements throughout the review and it was by consensus. We have tried to go through, instead of bringing it in early, because we agree it is a very, very major piece of legislation and we were committed during the election to bring in the housing court and the review of the landlord and tenant. That is what we are going to do.

* (1750)

Mr. Lamoureux: Just to ensure that my point was brought across properly, no, we would not have given a blank piece of paper but rather we would have cooperated to the fullest in a positive fashion bringing forward amendments once it did hit the committee stage if we felt that it was necessary.

Moving on into the rent regulation section—it is under this.

Mr. Chairman: Just before you do, have we passed (a)(1)?

Mr. Ducharme: I would also like to explain that. As you can probably appreciate, in the fall we are setting our guidelines for the new year. We have set the guideline for rents. We have set guidelines for what we operate on. So I do not think it would be a very appropriate time to bring in that type of legislation, because we had to set that by the end of October, the guidelines and everything. So I think that there were a couple of reasons we felt that sitting in August and getting everything that they were setting the guidelines for the rents, etc., just compounded the reason why you would not bring it in, and bring it in without further discussing with these groups. As you can probably appreciate, it takes lots of time to discuss with all these groups that have made presentations and were on the committee, and they wanted to talk to us.

Mr. Chairman: On the item Administration: Salaries—the Member for Inkster.

Mr. Lamoureux: In regard to the rent regulation section and rent control applying to the private sector but not applying to the non-profit public sector, I was wondering if maybe the Minister could inform me if the non-profit housing does have increases over that 3 percent guideline for the private sector.

Mr. Ducharme: Yes, there are cases where it happens. There are cases where—remember, a lot of houses are tied to the person's salary. You know, they are subsidized. They are tied to the person's salary. The person's salary goes up, well, then of course their rent will be affected under those particular housing units. I mean, so that happens.

We have used the rent control people in some cases where we felt that we will use them as an independent body. We have used them as an independent body. Say we went through heavy extensive renovations to say some property that we have accumulated from

CMHC, which has been the case. We have taken over buildings and put a lot of investment in there and those people are still in that particular building who through years did not get any increases, but there are times when increases have been above the guidelines. One of the reasons is due to the change in the heavy costs and the other one of course is they are tied to their wages.

Mr. Lamoureux: Following that train of thought, what appeal process do people living in non-profit housing have if they feel that they have received an unjust rent increase?

Mr. Ducharme: What we have done in the past, if there is an influx of people who have come to us and said that hey, we think that there is a real heavy increase, we have used as an independent body the Rentalsman's Office to look at the file. There is nothing that prevents us from going with that specific building and going to them and saying well, do you think this is fair?

Also, we have a pretty good idea. I would say that most of our rents, and I think the previous Minister will know that most of our rents are a lot lower than the private sector. I have not seen any comparisons that I have seen come forward, I have not seen too many come forward that were not quite a bit substantially below the private sector.

Mr. Lamoureux: To move on to the number of rent appeals that are received, some estimated it around the 3,000 mark. I wonder if the Minister can inform me how many of that 3,000 would be a carry-over from the previous year. Then we can pass this.

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, the rent appeals received—this is fiscal year to date, so that would not be what you are asking for. Maybe you could give me the exact—

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Chairperson, I am not looking really for any type of an exact figure. I was just looking for an estimate. It just seems that there are 3,000 appeals. It is a relatively large number and if these are mainly carried over from previous years—

Mr. Ducharme: About 10 percent.

Mr. Lamoureux: About 10 percent.

Mr. Ducharme: About 10 percent.

Mr. Lamoureux: Fine, I think we will pass.

Ms. Hemphill: I just want to confirm that this is the appropriate place to talk about Infill Housing Program. Could the Minister give us some idea of what the numbers of houses are to date and what their allocation is for this coming Estimates year for increasing the Infill Housing Program?

Mr. Ducharme: Since 1984-85 when it started, there have been about 150 in place.

Ms. Hemphill: The second part of that was what are your intentions to build this Estimates here in this budget?

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Mr. Ducharme: Approximately 20.

Ms. Hemphill: Just 20 houses and that is down from previous years when we were up to what about 45 or 60 in a year?

Mr. Ducharme: That was approved by the previous administration, that number. As you can probably appreciate, the first amount of infill were quite easy. The lots were very, very reasonable. The ones we were accumulating I think we were getting for \$500 apiece. Now the problem is that the prices of the lots are hurting. It is an expensive program and maybe that is why the previous administration did cut it back down.

Ms. Hemphill: Do you think that you are going to be able to find property for the 20?

Mr. Ducharme: I believe so. The administration has said 20. A question came up the other night and I said I would get back to the Member. There was a mention of 28 infills. How many of these were on Angus Street? They were separate. I was right. I said that was separate, the ones on Angus were separate from those ones that I had mentioned.

Ms. Hemphill: Separate from the 20?

Mr. Ducharme: Yes.

Ms. Hemphill: My recollection was, and maybe I was the only one who misunderstood is that you were saying 20 infill houses for Point Douglas. Maybe you misunderstood the question and you were saying for the whole Inner City.

Mr. Ducharme: No, if that is the impression I gave, I am sorry. I thought the confusion is were they all on that one particular street.

Ms. Hemphill: Okay, I will make sure I clarify that.

There was an offer made to the City of Winnipeg to buy some land that we were holding that we had decided should not be used for residential housing because of the very high density of social housing that was in that neighbourhood. We offered it to the city for a park, and I am wondering if the city has taken us up on this offer.

Mr. Ducharme: Could the Member say which land you are referring to?

Ms. Hemphill: It was the land that we had intended to put infill housing on that we had decided could not go in because of the high density. It was down by Mount Carmel.

Mr. Ducharme: Is that Lord Selkirk?

Ms. Hemphill: Yes.

Mr. Ducharme: Apparently where it is now, the Resident Advisory Council has been set up in order to get neighbourhood improvement initiatives in the respective

neighbourhoods, so that is who has it now. I will read it out to you so you will know. What we are doing apparently is we are waiting back to see what the community wants on that particular site. That is where it is at now.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Chairperson, I was going through—when you mentioned the infill, that actually came up on program delivery. I was somewhat surprised to hear that we are going to be having 20 houses, when in fact in the Supplementary Information, it says, and I quote on page 37, "The Infill Housing program projects a further 50 units to be built, thereby creating more ownership housing opportunities for the Core Area residents." I would suggest that the Minister find out from his staff if it is actually 50 or if it is 20 or maybe it is just another misprint.

* (1800)

Mr. Ducharme: To the Member, if we could get the lots, that seems to be the problem, what the original intention was. There seems to be a problem of getting the lots at an affordable price, and if we can get them at an affordable price—I notice that in your particular area, the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), that the Weston people are considering infill. We are hoping, through negotiations, that we will be able to accommodate them there. But as you can appreciate, the lots are the problem, and maybe I can get you the exact numbers.

What we had planned on doing was 50, but apparently we have 20 and then the 18 on Angus would be the 38, and that is the number we are at now that we are thinking of doing for this year.

Mr. Lamoureux: Just for clarification, are you targeting then 38 or are you going to try and go for the 50?

Mr. Ducharme: We are targeting for—well, a reasonable amount of delivery is 38, if we could, but I do not think we will get to 50.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Chairperson, just to comment very briefly on this particular program, I personally think very highly of it. As the Minister has mentioned, I used to live in Weston and participated somewhat on a revitalization board on which they tried to get the infill houses. I have since then resigned, once I was elected, from that particular board, but the Infill Program through the houses that are put up in many of the deteriorated areas of our city do wonders for it in terms of community improvement, give the neighbourhood a better look to it, a better feeling. I would hope that we do get to the 50 as a target goal.

Mr. Ducharme: I agree with you. After visiting, going through with Mr. Yauk one day, we went through quite a few of the infill. When I was on City Council, etc., I always agreed with the Infill Program. I know what it has done to the Point Douglas area. It has been good. Nobody is going to say that it is not a good program. We hope somehow that we can get the availability of the lots. That is the problem.

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You cannot do an infill when you are giving a forgiveness loan of \$9,000 or \$10,000 and you are picking up lots for ten. It just does not work. We wish we could pick them up for ten. You know, it is a far cry when you used to be able to get them for \$1,000, now you have got to pay \$15,000, \$16,000, \$17,000 a lot.

Mr. Chairman: The hour is now 6 p.m. The committee will recess until 8 p.m. tonight.

SUPPLY—HEALTH

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: The Committee of Supply come to order, please. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Health.

The item before the committee is 4. Mental Health Services (a) Program Management Support: (1) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Could the Minister tell us what has been achieved over the weekend for the psychiatric manpower shortage at Brandon as well as at Selkirk?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): In terms of the situation at Selkirk, my Deputy Minister has met with staff at Selkirk. I believe that it is fair to say some of the allegations laid out by the Liberal Party are again unfounded in terms of further resignations and that there is a desire to work together for the resolution of problems in the health care system.

Now, Mr. Chairman, whilst my honourable friend has brought this issue forward, he might recall discussions by his Leader on Friday in Question Period. This issue started out with my honourable friend, the Health critic (Mr. Cheema). It was escalated to the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Carr) last week and culminated with the presentation by the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) in Question Period on Friday.

My honourable friend might recall that one of the things I indicated on Friday is that I was not willing to negotiate in public, either out in the halls with the press or in this Chamber, in terms of the situation of the two psychiatrists in Brandon.

On Friday, I challenged the Leader of the Opposition, my honourable friend's Leader, not to pick the bits and pieces that those two individuals want to talk about but bring the whole package to this House, explain to Manitobans under what circumstances those psychiatrists would have assisted us in Brandon, because my honourable friends said they knew the entire package and they agreed with it.

I want Manitobans to know what the Liberal Party supports. I am asking my honourable friend now if he is going to bring, as he said on Friday he had, the entire package to this floor of this House so that Manitobans can know: a) what the demands were; and b) what the Liberal Party supports.

Is my honourable friend, the Liberal Health critic, prepared to bring that to the floor today, the full

information he said, and his Party said they had on Friday?

Mr. Cheema: I asked the Honourable Minister a specific question. What has been achieved over the weekend to solve the crisis at Brandon and Selkirk? I still would like to know that. We do not want to know the details of the financial arrangements, but we want to know, are we going to have a psychiatric manpower at Selkirk or not?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Order.

* (1430)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to prolong this debate because that would be counterproductive, but I simply ask my honourable friend that on Friday his Leader, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs), came to this House intent on defending the two psychiatrists in Selkirk, intent on creating a political issue against myself as Minister of Health and my department for their handling of the circumstance, intent on making this a public issue.

At that stage on Friday, I said I would not negotiate in public. I encouraged the Leader of the Liberal Party to come to this House today with the entire package, which she indicated she had, and I will read the exact quotation. This is from page 3249 of Hansard on Friday, November 18.

"Medical Community Government Relations. Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Unlike the Minister, we have had complete discussions with the psychiatrists in question."

Now I know that my honourable friend, the Liberal Health critic (Mr. Cheema), has been abandoned in this House by both his Deputy Leader (Mr. Carr) who took questions onto the first of last week and by his Leader who chose to question me on Friday. I want my honourable friend to simply answer the one question.

Are you going to put the package on the table for full discussion this afternoon to show Manitobans what the Liberal Party was willing to support in terms of negotiations with the two psychiatrists in Brandon? Yes or no? Are you going to bring it on the table like you indicated you would on Friday of last week?

Mr. Cheema: We have repeatedly stated our position and the position has been the same. The position is that the unilateral action has resulted in the premature resignation of two individuals who have served Manitoba at least in combination for 40 years. This decision has done a damage and patient care is going to suffer. That is what we said and that is what we are going to stand by, that any unilateral action will destroy more mental health care in Manitoba as it has done for the last few weeks.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, as I thought on Friday and as I said to the media outside of this Chamber, that all the Liberal Party was doing on Friday was trying to create a political issue for the last Question Period

before the vote on Monday. They cared not a whit nor a tiddle for the patients in Brandon or for the issue of patient care. They only wanted to create an issue for purely partisan, political means in this House. That is exactly what the Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs) said she would not do, that she would operate in a responsible fashion in this House as the Opposition Leader in Opposition and provide constructive criticism to resolve problems facing Manitoba.

We now know how untruthful that statement and that position has become given the recent actions by the Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs) and her colleague, the Liberal health critic (Mr. Cheema), on this issue in Brandon versus Selkirk in psychiatric treatment. They brought this issue up only in the hopes of helping the Liberal candidate in Selkirk in the last federal election, nothing more.

Let this be a lesson to those opportunistic Liberals in this House. Consider where your Liberal candidate finished in that federal election. He finished third. The winner in that election was a member of the same political party that you were trying to establish an irrevocable issue of mishandling. Do you know what caused the change in opinion? When my honourable friends in the Liberal Party would not come clean with the people of Manitoba and put all of the negotiations on the record. I give credit to the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer).

I did not want to do that. I have said steadfastly I will not negotiate in public. My honourable friends in the Liberal Party wanted to negotiate in public by bits and pieces. They wanted to bring the bad little points into the negotiations, some false allegations to this House on behalf of the two psychiatrists. They would not dare bring the complete package to this House. They would not dare bring that.

My honourable friend, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, on Friday pointed out one of the circumstances of the demand, that in addition to salary, they wanted \$500 a day, a position the Liberal Party supported and was supporting. If the other circumstances of the willingness to move to Brandon were to become known to the public, my honourable friends would be even more embarrassed.

I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, one of two things has happened since Friday. Either on Friday my honourable friends knew the entire negotiating package, refused to put it on the table because they did not want Manitobans to know, and then proceeded to try to harness, in a very callous and short-sighted political way, an issue to help their candidate in the federal election on Monday, or even more irresponsible because that is some irresponsible thing for a Liberal Party to do that wanted to cooperate with Members of the Opposition in solving problems. If that was not the circumstance, that they knew and would not divulge because it would hurt them and they were only bringing this issue up to help their political soul mates in that constituency, if they knew, that is despicable.

What is even more despicable is if they came here without the full facts. When I challenged them to get the full facts, they finally got them and they realized

how abysmally out of tune with the people of Manitoba, 2,300 patients in Brandon—they had become in siding with those two psychiatrists. If they came here ill-prepared to debate the issue and uninformed, then that is a very irresponsible Opposition, very irresponsible.

It is one of the two, because consistently my honourable friends have not dealt with the people of Manitoba. My honourable friends in the Liberal Party have not dealt with the people of Manitoba in a full, complete and honest fashion in this issue, and I regret that.

I regret my honourable friend indicating to the people of Manitoba that I have not dealt in full consultation to resolve this problem. That is not correct; absolutely, that is not correct. All along, senior officials in my department have been involved in the most open negotiations possible to resolve the issue at Brandon. Any indication by anybody that there was no consultation is a false indication that has been made by the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs), by the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Carr) and by the Liberal Party's Health critic (Mr. Cheema). All three have been abysmally wrong and not true in their statements to the House.

Now I am willing to accept their error. I am willing to accept it. I would ask them to stand up today and admit they were wrong in this whole thing, that they defended the wrong people, that they did not have full information, that they chose to make it a partisan issue to try to help their Liberal friends in the federal election. It does not hurt. It does your soul good to admit you were wrong once in a while.

I would invite my honourable friends in the Liberal Party to admit they are wrong.—(Interjection)—Is this not interesting? My honourable friend, the Liberal Health critic (Mr. Cheema), is very quiet but some of his friends choose not to be so quiet. They are really supportive of this person who will not put the information on the record, or his Deputy Leader will not put the information on the record.

I am glad the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Carr) is here because maybe he will have the courage to put the full information of the negotiated package on the record contrary to what his Liberal Health critic, his benchmark, will not do. Maybe he will.

An Honourable Member: I doubt it.

Mr. Orchard: I doubt it because I do not think he has the constitutional fortitude to do that, and I am dead serious about that, and neither does his Leader. I simply want to point out to my honourable friends that on this issue they have been wrong. They have been totally and completely wrong. I want to read a letter for the record and I wish to table copies for my honourable friends. I want this to go over to my honourable friend, the Liberal Health critic (Mr. Cheema), because he said he has seen the letter and we will see if he has seen the letter. This is an open letter, November 21, 1988, to all Manitoba psychiatrists. Is that the letter you had seen?

Mr. Cheema: Yes, I got a copy from your office. They sent me a copy.

Mr. Orchard: Oh, good. My honourable friend has seen it. I want to tell my honourable friend, I want to refer him, because they have indicated all along that there has been no cooperation and no consultation in terms of our arrangements that we were trying to make in Brandon. I want to refer my honourable friend to the second-last paragraph of the first page:

“Several meetings have been held with officials of the Manitoba Medical Association to develop a satisfactory, temporary solution at Brandon as well as address the longer term problems more effectively than Government has in the past. During these discussions we agreed that one of the causes of our difficulty has been the compensation for physicians employed by the Manitoba Government has fallen behind.

“As a result of our discussions with the MMA, this week, Cabinet approved an immediate \$10,000 per annum qualification pay increase for all certified specialists employed by the Province of Manitoba.” That would include psychiatrists.

* (1440)

Contrary to what my honourable friends in the Liberal Party are trying to say, we have moved in consultation, we have moved in cooperation and we have taken advice and we have sought solutions to this problem, solutions in the short run, solutions in the long run. My honourable friends have attempted to either do one of two things: argue without full facts, which is reprehensible for a responsible Opposition Party; or choose to hide the facts from the people of Manitoba, facts about the circumstances under which those psychiatrists would have gone to Brandon.

Either case is devastating to an Opposition Party that wants to be Government some day. You cannot govern without the full facts and you cannot govern hiding facts from the people of Manitoba. You have done one of the two as an Opposition Party.

The people of Manitoba are not going to forget this little fiasco of the Liberal Party and their political opportunism on Friday of last week, where they were so bold as to negotiate in this Chamber with half the facts, on behalf of those psychiatrists; when challenged to bring all the facts to the Table they are silent. They are running and hiding because they do not want Manitobans to know the position they supported as a Liberal Party. I can understand that because I would not want Manitobans to know that I was willing, as a political Party, to support the kind of demands that we could not live with in those negotiations.

The Liberal Party has chosen to support them, except they will not let the people of Manitoba know what they chose to support. They prefer to hide that from the people of Manitoba. I find that quite reprehensible, quite irresponsible and quite contrary to what the Liberal Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) said she would do when she arrived in this Chamber; that being trying an attempt to work cooperatively with problems that are long standing in Government. There is nothing more

long standing than the problem of psychiatric care in Government. My honourable friends in the Liberal Party have chosen the cheap, narrow, opportunistic approach politically to try to score cheap, narrow, opportunistic political points and have ignored completely the reality of the situation and the facts that they know that they cannot defend in public. I regret that we now have an Official Opposition with such shallow values and such opportunistic intent.

Mr. Cheema: Since the Session has opened, we, on this side of the House, have advocated mental health care in Manitoba more than my honourable friend has done. I tell you the record shows it. It is very clear that we have been advocating to get care at Brandon. We have been advocating to get care at Selkirk. If the Minister is trying to make an issue out of this, that is his way of dealing with the issue, but our concerns still remain the same, patient care.

This Honourable Minister has not solved the problem. Brandon is still with half psychiatrists, Selkirk is left with three-and-a-half to four psychiatrists, and a possibility of a few more going from that place. So what has the Minister achieved? Can the Minister put on the record, does he care for the patient? Does he care for the Brandon Health Centre? Does he care about the Selkirk Mental Health Centre? No, they have not achieved anything.

They have been only able to hire two psychiatrists since he took over the administration. So the only message is very clear, the previous administration did not care that is why 20 people left. Now this administration is following the same path. They are going with the same message that we do not care. We have a unilateral way of dealing with things. We have other priorities but we do not care for the patient. The patient is the most important thing for the Liberal Party. Patient care, mental health care is one of our main objectives. We have been requesting this Minister, but the Minister has failed to solve the problem.

The Minister may not agree but he has. That is why he is going over this to try to correct the record. That is not going to be done because the public of Manitoba would know that. Selkirk people know what is happening there. Brandon people are also suffering. They will be because, if you do not solve the problem, how are you going to handle the whole situation? Now what has been created that Brandon is with half psychiatrists, Selkirk is with three and a half. Out of three and a half, two remaining, that two hospitals are competing for the same thing.

So the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) even created an environment where people are going to fight for two individuals. You are even putting those individuals just to decide where to go. The patient care is going to suffer. It has suffered and the Minister should admit that it has suffered, so he should maybe consider a more cooperative action to solve this crisis, because without cooperation he is not going to be able to solve this crisis. All of a sudden, we are receiving this letter—these things should have been done in the first place. We should not be in this mess today. They should have done it when the Minister announced in this House

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from his chair, he said they have solved the problem. The next day we were notified that these two individuals were notified after the decision was made. That still remains the same.

The question that ultimately comes to this House is that have we solved the problem? In our view, no, the problem has not been solved. The problem is worse. Under this attitude, our Minister admits that decision was wrong, that the consultation process is going on. Get a message across to the young other psychiatrists, we welcome them, if this message is not going to welcome those people. We have lost 20 last year. We have been able to retain only two. We have been able to attract two. So we need actually 38. Can the Minister tell me, how far has he been successful? Give us the numbers. The results have to be shown in numbers. We do not need a five-minute, ten-minute talk on the same issue. We need some action.

The Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) has more experience than anyone else in this House. What do you think about this whole mess? Where are the solutions? I think that you might be able to pass some advice there and solve the crisis. The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is saying the Minister was soft.- (Interjection)- Okay, sorry, I misunderstood. I think it is an important issue. I do not think we should laugh at this issue. I think when the public finds out that we are laughing on mental health care, they are going to be very upset. They are already upset. You are going to annoy them more and more.

Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister tell us exactly what he has achieved over the weekend with his big two meetings? What is the outcome? What can he say to the public of Selkirk that his achievement is to protect mental health in Selkirk and Brandon?

Mr. Orchard: What I can tell my honourable friend is that the Liberal Party would not defend in public the decision or the circumstances under which two psychiatrists would go to Brandon. They have been noticeable by their absence in this House and in this debate in laying out the whole issue on the floor of this Chamber. That is what I can tell the people of Selkirk. Their concerns are not the concerns of the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party will only bring out psychiatry if they believe they can score cheap short-term political gain. They have not put the—

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): On a point of order. The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has been in this Chamber longer than most and knows full well that to impute motive to Members opposite is not honourable and is not parliamentary. I would ask him to withdraw.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Minister to the point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

Mr. Orchard: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. My honourable friend, No. 1, does not have a point of order; and No. 2, my honourable friend is part of the front row of the Liberal Party that on Friday said they would bring the full and complete information on the circumstances of

secondment to Brandon to this House. They have failed to do it because they know what they did on Friday was wrong, would leave the impression that they cared only for cheap political gain.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) does not have a point of order. The Honourable Minister of Health.

* (1450)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, in terms of the Selkirk situation, as I indicated earlier, my staff met with the senior staff at Selkirk on Friday. We have some assurance that the level of care will continue. We are working with other deliverers of psychiatric service in this system to assure that we get over this temporary crisis. Further to that, armed with the \$10,000 per year qualification pay enhancement, that we are beginning forthwith a recruiting drive for psychiatrists to bring them to Manitoba.

My honourable friend asked the question, what have we done since in Government? In July of 1988, there were eight graduates in psychiatry. Seven of the eight have remained in the Province of Manitoba. One has left the province for further studies. In addition to that, we have other psychiatrists who have come to the Province of Manitoba to further their educational careers or their professional careers. What has happened in the short six months that we have been Government is that I believe we have restored some level of confidence and faith in Government and its ability to deliver mental health services. As a consequence, we now find the trend established of loss of psychiatrists to one of gain of psychiatrists. That in six months, Mr. Chairman, and I am very pleased that trend appears to be certainly if not reversing, certainly stopping.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to this House what specific steps he is taking to ensure that we will not have a shortage of supply at Selkirk and Brandon by the end of this year?

Mr. Orchard: By working cooperatively with the MMA, the Manitoba Psychiatric Association, the community and teaching hospitals.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us what other measures he is thinking of when these two psychiatrists have refused to go to Brandon? What are the other provisions in place? What are the other mechanisms to make sure that services are provided at Brandon?

Mr. Orchard: Exactly as I have indicated to my honourable friend. Cooperative discussions with the profession, with the hospitals, with professionals to see if, in the short run, we can achieve a temporary solution at Brandon, and armed with the salary enhancement, a proactive recruitment drive out of province.

Mr. Cheema: Another form of solution could be the rotational basis with consultation with the other psychiatrists. Maybe they would like to spend a few

days, at least a week, so that the present crisis does not get worse. My question still remains the same, can the Minister tell us what other mechanism he is going to use to recruit psychiatrists from other parts of Canada since we do not have fresh graduates coming at least until July? What other plans does he have?

Mr. Orchard: Cabinet last week approved an additional \$10,000 salary enhancement. That is one rather significant commitment, commitment and indication of faith to the psychiatric profession that we hope will enhance our recruitment efforts, plus, we have ongoing discussions with the Faculty of Psychiatry regarding facilities, regarding the new head that they wish to recruit. We have been supportive as Government of all of those efforts. It is my most profound hope that those will begin to pay dividends. We believe that to be the case. Our recruitment effort starts in earnest December 1, and hopefully we will have some additional recruitment to Manitoba following that.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): Mr. Chairperson, we have heard from this Government about the increased emphasis on mental health services, and certainly on the surface we applaud that statement because we know that in the past there have never been enough dollars and resources given to mental health services in this province. Certainly, they are far behind the level of services in the area of mental health in comparison to some other provinces.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us if there has been any shift in emphasis in the mental health services. Could he indicate to us, are the resources and dollars in the mental health area? Will the emphasis be on community-based services and community-based care versus institutional care?

(The Acting Chairman, Neil Gaudry, in the Chair.)

Mr. Orchard: If my honourable friend goes through the Estimates of the Department of Health, she will find that there is still a significant emphasis in these Estimates on institutional delivery of service. It is with all due respect that I indicate to my honourable friend that will likely continue despite the emphasis to shift the focus to community. These figures will remain for the next number of years because you do not dramatically turn around and change the system to a community-based system without substantial planning, substantial resource allocation, and substantial training to focus on adequate delivery of community program. I simply have to tell my honourable friend that in six months I have not been able to achieve all of that.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, with the percentage of dollars that are community-based versus institutional, has his Government increased at all any dollars that would go to what would be considered community-based care versus institutional? Does it mean any increase in dollars and what is that percentage?

Mr. Orchard: I am certainly pleased that my honourable friend would ask that question because it was just on the 15th of this month that I announced a program

which focuses entirely on the provision of program away from the traditional institution. It fits with a number of agendas: (a) the agenda of the study on psychogeriatric care; (b) on the agenda that her colleague, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), as Health critic, has constantly brought before this House as to what are we doing in terms of psychogeriatric care.

Ms. Gray: In the personal care homes?

* (1500)

Mr. Orchard: On the 15th of this month, my honourable friend might have noticed a plan of psychogeriatric care that was announced by myself. It involves some \$300,000 in funding per year. It is set up on the basis of three teams, three professional teams, each based in a separate long-term care facility to serve other long-term care facilities to provide patient services in their residence. Now that residence happens in this case to be a facility funded by Government. It is the first time that focus of care in psychogeriatric delivery of service has been brought forward.

I think it is a very positive initiative. I think it is a very cost-effective delivery mechanism since its announcement in September to the personal care homes, and the wider spread information, in terms of what is happening, what direction we are taking. We have had a number of inquiries from out of province to see whether the program that we are bringing in can be duplicated in other jurisdictions, because it is a first of its kind in Canada and emphasizes two things: first of all, a very cost-effective approach to delivery in the community beyond the institutions, beyond the acute care hospitals; and, secondly, emphasizes in this case the most efficient use of professional training to bring staff in the personal care homes and their families into a proposition of being better able to cope and handle the difficulties posed in terms of care for those seniors who have mental health problems.

Ms. Gray: Certainly, we have no difficulty in agreeing that this service is certainly needed but my question was specifically related to community-based care and certainly services to personal care homes is defined as institutional, but since the Minister has brought up this point perhaps he could indicate. These services that are being developed in Bethania, Tache and Deer Lodge, are these staff, are these part of also a behavioural unit, for instance at Bethania that has been developed where there is a special unit for elderly individuals who do have psychiatric difficulties and behaviour difficulties? Is that part of that plan?

The Minister indicates, yes, Mr. Acting Chairperson, and that is very interesting. I just hope that the Minister will allow me to correct the record. He seems to give the impression it is a new initiative by his Government and we all very well know that those behavioural units and the one as I mentioned at Bethania, certainly, the plans were well under way during the previous administration. So although we are certainly pleased they are going to go ahead with it, I do hope that the Minister will not allow the record to state that in fact his Government should take credit for those initiatives.

I go back to my other question and it still remains the same. Could the Minister indicate to us, has there been any increase, percentage-wise of the resources allocated to community-based mental health services versus institutional?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend is correct. That program was developed in-house in Bethania. It appeared to work in that facility and this administration took that beyond the single facility and added the capability of three resource teams to cover 30 facilities in the City of Winnipeg. Depending on the success of that program in Winnipeg it will give us the ability to decide whether to expand this to rural Manitoba facilities which are much more expensive to serve.

The initiatives in terms of community-based programs are basically funded at the same level, slightly increased over last year.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister have the percentage as to what that slight increase is?

Mr. Orchard: The slight increase is almost 3 percent.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, in the chart in these Estimates he talks about percentage distribution of staff years by program and of course Mental Health is lumped together at 59 percent. Does the Minister have information as to has there been any increase in staff years for community-based resources in Mental Health Services and does he have the numbers as to what the number of those staff years would be?

Mr. Orchard: To date, that is constant.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that training is one of the difficulties in regard to increasing community-based services. Could the Minister indicate, what particular initiatives has his department put forth or implemented to in fact ensure that staff in the field in the community are better trained or that community groups who provide services in mental health care in the community are better trained and better equipped to actually provide that service so that we can see an increase in coming years in community-based care?

Mr. Orchard: There are a couple of training programs that are funded within the department for adult staff, service delivery staff, in the field. They involve some 38 days of training, 444 employees attending.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, is this the same program that has been ongoing for a number of years?

Mr. Orchard: That is correct.

Ms. Gray: If it is the same program that has been ongoing and the Minister has indicated that there is a problem with training, obviously the training which the Minister has said been ongoing is not working. So could the Minister indicate, are there any new initiatives that his Government has come forth with to really deal with what he says is inadequate training of staff so that in

fact we can increase community-based services in mental health.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, my honourable friend is suggesting things that I have not suggested. I have not suggested that level of staff training is inadequate. I have indicated the level of program delivery in community based is adequate. It remains inadequate after six months of assuming Government. It will remain by many people's standards inadequate two years from now. I simply indicate to my honourable friend that the direction is and will be established in the reorganization of the department in the way we deliver Mental Health Services in terms of internal reallocation of funds which will take place in the course of this fiscal year and no doubt next fiscal year as we become more familiar with the directions that are possible to achieve, that the system will be moved away from the institution to the community.

If my honourable friend thinks nothing is happening, my honourable friend is wrong. I cannot, no doubt, convince my honourable friend that I am correct and that there is progress being made. She will continue to make the position there are none. That is her prerogative and right.

Ms. Gray: I am not necessarily suggesting that there is no progress that is occurring. I am simply asking questions and seeking clarification based on the information that this Minister has provided to date. Although we know that there is a new reorganization of Mental Health Services, as the Minister has indicated, we of course have not been privy to any of that information as to what that new structure and what those new services will look like. So it is difficult for us to have faith that there will be progress as we would like to see.

I do have some concerns with a system that is reorganized that if there are no resources, whether they be person power or dollars or other resources which are put into the system, that even with a new structure that we will not be moving towards quickly enough increased services for the post-mentally ill in the community.

The Minister had indicated, just going back to the Psychogeriatric services in the personal care homes, that this service that his Government has expanded upon, that this will be a cost effective approach. Could the Minister indicate to us what evaluation mechanisms have been put in place to evaluate the service so that he will be able to state very clearly that it has become cost effective?

Mr. Orchard: The evaluation is in terms of the welcomeness of the program. The homes that are there and now have this service available to them are welcoming the program and the direction it will provide for their staff. They expect the benefit will be a staff which is better trained to handle the unique problems of psychogeriatric care. With that speciality training, they expect that staff will become much more efficient in their use of time and their ability to deal with patients. That leads to less staff stress, less staffing problems,

greater staffing satisfaction with their job and their roles in the institutions. We think that is very possible.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated what are some of the outcomes that he would like to see. Is there a formal evaluation mechanism in place so that his statements about outcome can actually be measured?

Mr. Orchard: The implementation of the program will be evaluated as it has been.

* (1510)

Ms. Gray: Again just for clarification, could the Minister indicate to me, has that formal evaluation been already established to go along with the implementation or is this an afterthought that may come later on?

Mr. Orchard: No.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Item 4.(a)(1) Salaries—pass; 4.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(b)(1) Salaries—pass.

4.(b)(2) Chief Provincial Psychiatrist, Other Expenditures—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: I just have one question. Is the chief provincial psychiatrist position full-time and what is the function of the chief provincial psychiatrist in the Medical Advisory Network? Is he going to be part of the Advisory Network or not?

Mr. Orchard: The chief provincial psychiatrist is serving in that capacity two days a week and is involved with all of the steps of planning and reorganization in terms of delivery of Mental Health.

Mr. Cheema: Will the chief psychiatrist be playing a role in the Advisory Network also or not?

Mr. Orchard: Like every other professional who is called upon when the Health Advisory Network needs his expertise and his knowledge of the system for advice and consultation.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us what is the amount of time that is being spent by the chief provincial psychiatrist on clinical work as compared to administrative work?

Mr. Orchard: The 80 percent is the estimate for administrative; 20 percent clinical.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): 4.(b)(2)—pass.

4.(c) Mental Health Directorate: (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Will the Minister tell us what are the names of the agencies who receive the major funds from the Mental Health Directorate and what is the agreement for this year? What kind of programs are there to evaluate that the funds are being used in the right way?

Mr. Orchard: The external agencies being funded are Sarah Riel Inc., Eden Residential Care Services Incorporated, Manitoba Friends of Schizophrenics Incorporated, Canadian Mental Health Association - Westman Community Residence Development, Canadian Mental Health Association - Winnipeg Region, Northern YM-YWCA, YMHA Jewish Community Centre Incorporated, Residence Langevin Incorporated, Canadian Mental Health Association - Manitoba Division, Manitoba Mental Health Research Foundation, Community Therapy Services of Manitoba, Salvation Army and the Society for Self-Help Incorporated.

Mr. Cheema: Just for clarification, this \$745,800 under Professional Fees, what are the services that are being provided under that term? Also, why is there a cut in the total budget for Mental Health? Not a cut, but there is only an increase of maybe \$20,000 in the whole budget.

Mr. Orchard: There are several categories of the \$745,000, if you will, areas. Funded out of here is the audiovisual link from university to the Brandon Mental Health Centre. We have residential resources, including community residences and semi-dependent residential living programs funded from here. We have the day programming group. We have services to individual clients, including service contracts with external agencies in the proctored programs funded out of here and some small funding items of \$3.5 thousand and \$3 thousand, respectively, for van transportation for clients to Camp Whiskey Jack and to day programs in the Winnipeg West Central Region, as well as \$3,000 for specialized client services such as an interpreter for the deaf.

Mr. Cheema: One of the expected results is to increase the availability of psychiatric services to rural Manitoba. On Friday, we asked a question of the Minister. We do not have services available for the teenagers in northern and rural communities, and also there is a lack of mental health care workers. What is being done to correct that situation?

Mr. Orchard: That issue is not a new one. That issue has been with us for literally years. It is part of the broad range of issues that this Government hopes to address in cooperation with the service deliverers to attempt to broaden that range of service availability throughout Manitoba. That is all part of the hoped for achievements out of reorganization and new focus of delivery in mental health.

Mr. Cheema: What is being done in the meantime to have at least mental health care workers to reach the communities of northern Manitoba and rural Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: There are three workers dedicated to service in the North.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us, are those three workers serving the whole northern and rural communities? Can you tell us, for one person, how many clients are they serving?

Mr. Orchard: They work out of The Pas, Flin Flon and Thompson, and we will have to get the number of clients served for my honourable friend.

Mr. Cheema: As the Minister is going to bring in his new mental health care system, one of the activities is the ensuring interaction and coordination of institutional and community-based mental health services. Can he tell us, that new mental health, how much time is he going to take? What kind of places are they going to develop? Can he share some information with us so at least we could discuss some of the important factors? For a change in such a big system, there has to be a gradual process of transforming institutional care to the community-based care. Can the Minister tell us what model he is basing his new concept on? Is he using the Saskatchewan model, or Ontario, or the New Brunswick model?

Mr. Orchard: It will be the Manitoba model, one which has been developed in consultation with various groups. Pending the completion of those discussions and the announcement of the reorganization, my honourable friend will be, I think, quite satisfied with the direction and the enthusiasm with which this change in approach will be met in the community.

To answer my honourable friend's question on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, there are a total of 295 clients in Thompson and the Norman Region served by those three individuals.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us what is the time frame for this community-based new mental health care system? Why I am insisting on that question is because I think it has to be on the caution side if you are transforming a major system and changing it into the community based. You have indicated that you have met with a lot of groups. Can you tell us what are the major groups you have met with and could you share with us their views on the system?

Mr. Orchard: I could but I would prefer not. We have met with all of the major groups; I have met personally with all the major groups. Staff has met much more extensively with all the major groups. Those include the professional associations as well as the Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Division.

Mr. Acting Chairman, not that I want to get into a battle with my two honourable friends, but I seem to detect from my honourable friend's question, the health critic from Kildonan, that he is offering to us some caution in terms of moving towards community based and not doing it in too quick a fashion. I seem to detect from the question of the Deputy Health critic some criticism that in six months when things have not changed instantly that we are not moving fast enough. I have some concern as to where the Liberal Party is going to end up coming from on the whole issue of mental health because discussion is relatively inexpensive they say.

I simply indicate to my honourable friend that the Manitoba reorganization I think will be unique in Canada, in that no other province particularly follows the service delivery pattern and the reorganization that we have to date discussed and committed to paper. It will be a hybrid, if you will, of probably pulling the best of a lot of systems across Canada, the best from

the Saskatchewan system, for instance, and the best from the Ontario initiatives that they are starting to work on. I think our system will emerge as a unique one because we have within it several flows of service delivery. The major objective is to better coordinate and facilitate cooperation between those flows.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, we are asking questions and we are cautioning on the reason that we are having a major change. I think we have the right at least to ask some questions and have some positive criticism. The Minister should not take it in a negative form. My next question is, what kind of programs are in place at present in community-based mental health other than his new system?

* (1520)

Mr. Orchard: There are a range of services, if you will, that are available. There is assessment, of course, diagnosis, delivery of service on the regional level. There is the Proctor Program. There are residential homes for the mentally ill. There are day programs in the community so that services can be made available to a certain client group during the day. There are a range of programs that are available.

It is not that we are completely devoid of community-based programs. It is not the case. There are community-based programs that have been of varying degrees of success in terms of their outcome and their ability to deliver services. Some of the programs have shown good strength and those will be built upon. I guess it is like any other Government initiative. We fully intend to build on the strength in the system and add what we consider to be new strengths.

Mr. Cheema: As the Minister has indicated, there are a few programs that are functioning quite well, one of them Seven Oaks, the other is Deer Lodge. I think we have asked the Minister the question in the past and he said we will discuss it in the Mental Health Directorate. Can he tell us, are those programs going to be expanded and are there other programs going to be—similar programs initiated in the rural communities as well in the near future?

Mr. Orchard: I missed the last part of the question.

Mr. Cheema: Could we expect similar programs to be initiated in the rural communities, and also in Brandon, Dauphin and other places, because Dauphin has a teaching hospital, and I think that kind of program will definitely benefit.

Mr. Orchard: That is entirely the focus that the reorganization and the change in direction will focus upon.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if there has been any increase in spaces for the day programs for services to the post-mentally ill in this budget?

Mr. Orchard: No change.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Item No. 4.(c)(1)—pass; item 4.(c)(2)—pass; item 4.(c)(3)—pass.

Item No. 4.(d) Forensic Services: (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us, what is the present level of services provided under Forensic Services? What is the basic waiting period? How many total people are served in these services? How many are being serviced specifically for the Headingley Jail and other penitentiaries? What is being done to alleviate the problem because we are aware that we do not have many people serving the situations? What is specifically being done to correct the situation? Just to save time, all questions in one.

Mr. Orchard: In terms of Adult Forensic Services, we are providing approximately 100 out-patient assessments annually. In terms of in-patient admissions, we are projecting 213 for this fiscal year. The services to Headingley Correctional Institute are projected to be 995, and follow-up care under Forensic Services is projected to be 974.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us, what is the waiting period for assessment?

Mr. Orchard: I am told approximately two weeks.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us, what is the follow-up being done by the offenders who need these services? What is the mechanism in place that those cases will be followed up, to be more specific, in northern Manitoba and rural Manitoba, as compared to Winnipeg areas?

Mr. Orchard: Two part-time psychiatrists are under the direction of Dr. Yaren, and follow-up at Headingley Remand Centre, etc., etc., to follow those clients.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate, is there any follow-up study because these people, these individuals who suffer from mental disorders of various forms, there is a possibility that they may get lost in the system. So what I am asking specifically, is any evaluation for this being done or not?

Mr. Orchard: There certainly is a follow-up program and my honourable friend might recall some concern about forensic rehabilitation that was expressed by one individual on, I believe, CBC Television a short while ago, wherein a number of problems were identified, not the least of which was the physical facility and level of service because of that that Manitoba had moved within its complement of service. Clearly, I made no bones about it then nor do I make any bones about it today. We do not have an adequate facility but that is to be addressed in the very near future with everything fitting together in terms of planning, design, and contracting.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): 4.(d)(1)—pass; item No. 4.(d)(2)—pass.

Item 4.(e)(1)—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us the total number of practitioners providing mental health services to children throughout Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: We have a clinical director who is under half-time contract right now, a psychologist, a psychiatrist—the psychiatrist being three-fifths time—with services to Headingley and the Children's Forensic Services, and a secretary, but that is not professional.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us what the waiting period is for the assessment?

Mr. Orchard: I want to also indicate because possibly I did not give my friend all of the information he requested. That is with Children's Forensic Services, but the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, there is a director full-time, psychiatrist as director, as well as seven out of eight medical officers' positions are filled by this program coordinator and administrative support in terms of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. I am also told that given that resource dedication that their two-week waiting time for assessment is about maximum.

Mr. Cheema: Just for clarification, is that two-week waiting period common in all Manitoba or just for a specific centre we are talking about inpatients or outpatients? Can the Minister clarify that?

Mr. Orchard: With the exception of some of the logistics involved with Rural Manitoba Assessment, i.e., getting individual in, that two-week waiting time is an approximate waiting time in which we think we can provide majority service.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): 4.(e)(1)—pass; (e)(2)—pass.

Item No. 4.(f) Brandon Mental Health Centre: (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us why there is a decrease of 10 staff years at Brandon Mental Health Centre?

Mr. Orchard: Basically to bring the staffing ratios in line with what are the ratios in the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us then what is the optimum, or what is the acceptable ratio of patient to staff at both centres now?

Mr. Orchard: In all honesty, I cannot. I will tell you what is the optimum one because there is, as my honourable friend can appreciate, a fairly substantial range as you go across Canada, and I can simply indicate to my honourable friend that with a decline in patient numbers at each of Brandon and Selkirk, the staff-to-patient ratio has been increasing over the last number of years, and part is a reflection of declining patients and enhanced services, but I cannot give you what is an optimum range because it varies across Canada.

We are currently at 1.5 staff per patient. For instance, eight years ago, that staff-to-patient ratio was 1.2.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us, out of this 10 staff years, can he tell us exactly as to how

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many were the occupational therapists or physiotherapists or mental health care? Can he give us a breakdown?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot give that to you, but if the management of the Mental Health Centre were to take in, find in accordance with the patient ratios, that Selkirk has to adjust their staffing complement to come close to that, and that would require probably some vacancies not being filled across the board in various disciplines, and those staff years not being part of the funded staff years which were not filled. These are not actual positions that are being reduced. There are no people in these. These are vacancies that have ensued over the years in terms of lower patient numbers. Those vacancies have been there. They have been indicated in the budget year in and year out. We have taken them out this year because there is an imbalance between Selkirk and Brandon.

* (1530)

Mr. Cheema: I still would like to know the number of people who were let go or whatever. These positions which were terminated, but these positions are decreased, so we would like to know on what basis the decision was made. What is the level of service at Selkirk? If the Minister does not have this information right now, maybe we could have it later on.

Mr. Orchard: Let me correct my honourable friend. There were no people let go. These are vacant positions. Those positions have not been filled possibly for 18 months, some of them more. They represent a funding request which we took away in terms of unfilled SYs and approval to fill them. The approval to fill them was always there but they were not filled. This removal of 10 SYs from Brandon brings Brandon's ratio of staff to patient more in line with Selkirk's. There were no layoffs. These are simply vacant positions that will no longer be present in the budget, and hence the authority to hire if the management so exercised is now taken away. There are no people being laid off as a result of this.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us why there is a staff turnover allowance up to \$578,000.00? What is the reason for such a big staff turnover allowance?

Mr. Orchard: That reflects the reality of what happens in the institutions. You will note if you go to Selkirk, the staff turnover ratio has again doubled over last year. That is simply reflecting the reality of what time it takes for recruitment and the level of vacancies in each of those institutions.

Mr. Cheema: Is there any amount out of this \$578,000 and \$378,000 being paid as a compensation for people who are let go, if there is some kind of package for them with any suits against these two institutions?

Mr. Orchard: No, not at all. If my honourable friend is trying to indicate that, that simply is not what staff turnover allowance is. It is there to reflect more accurately what your actual salary costs will be in a given year.

Let me take the example of Brandon. You have 587 positions approved. Now those positions are approved at a given level of salary according to competence. At the end of the year, you will come up with a salary figure, \$17,736,500.00. That is what the institution has authority to spend up to. But given that every year there are vacancies through retirement, through change of jobs, the normal vacancy, you end up finding that you have not used your allocation of \$17,736,500.00. What we are attempting to do in these Estimates is to more realistically reflect the actual salary experience that will be in there.

If my honourable friend would turn to page 4 of the Department of Health Supplementary to the Estimates, he would find staff turnover allowance explained by the Estimates process.

* (1540)

Mr. Cheema: I thank the Minister for explaining that to me.

My next question is for the delivery of the Registered Psychiatric Nursing Training Program at both Selkirk and Brandon. We have asked this question in the past. I would like the Minister to explain to the House is there any possibility of any of the schools being closed? Is one of the schools going to be part of the new mental health care system in Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot give my honourable friend any different answer than what I have given him in the House in Question Period.

For four years now, the option has been presented as an X-budget option wherein reductions are proposed. That is normal with the budget exercise in the department commissioned through the Government. One of the X-budget options that was brought forward over the last number of years, four to be exact, is the closure of the Selkirk Psychiatric School of Nursing. For four successive years, that reduction option was not deemed appropriate. I made that decision in June of this year in preparation of these Estimates.

Now, I tell my honourable friend that it is my understanding, and I have not gotten to the X-budget option, the Selkirk Centre of Psychiatric Nursing is presented as an X-budget option for reduction. We have made no decision on that. One can only make a decision on that in the context of several things. First of all, in terms of the ability to graduate sufficient numbers of Registered Psychiatric Nurses and whether that program needs two facilities or one facility can do it. You have got to remember, we closed one school of psychiatric nursing already in Manitoba and that being at Portage.

I cannot answer the question in terms of graduate needs and capacity to suit graduate needs. That was in part the question asked by my honourable friend's colleague on Friday, the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles).

Secondly, there has developed at Brandon a School of Bachelors Program in Mental Health at the University of Brandon. That program appears to be effective. We

have had some discussions with concerned individuals and associations involved centering around the Centre of Excellence of concept, Centre of Excellence for education, in terms of provision of mental health workers to serve the needs of the system on into the next century. Any time you plan educational programs, you have to plan for very much a moving agenda some 5, 10, 15 years into the future. I cannot tell you today how those discussions will end up recommending to Government decisions on schools of nursing. I simply cannot give you any indication as to yes or no, Selkirk, yes or no, Brandon, in terms of the School of Psychiatric Nursing.

But I do tell my honourable friend and I make no apologies for it that, if Government is presented by the professional analysis by those involved with an enhancement to the education program, which may mean the development of a Centre of Excellence, the closing of a School of Psychiatric Nursing, and that makes sense in terms of the manpower planning over the years, I would have to seriously consider that option despite the obvious political downside of potentially closing the School of Psychiatric Nursing.

If our desire in Government is to provide better educated people to provide services to Manitobans in need, and that can be accomplished within a changed system focusing on Centre of Excellence, then I am prepared to make those kinds of tough decisions and justify them to my honourable friend, and justify them to the people of Manitoba.

To date, I can simply tell my honourable friend that I am not faced with sufficient education on the concept of the Centre of Excellence to give him any previous position on what my decision might be. Certainly, I do not hide it from my honourable friend.

As has happened in the last four budget cycles, again the closure of a School of Psychiatric Nursing is before us for a next budget option. I am not able to make that decision as I stand here today because I do not have the back-up information and the plan for the future fully presented to me which would justify such a closure. Today the answer is there will be no closure. That does not preclude in future planning for proper manpower recruitment and training that possibility however.

Mr. Cheema: Just for clarification, that means the possibility is there after that there may or may not be a new program. Is that what the Minister is saying?

Mr. Orchard: Certainly, the possibility is there either way. The possibility is there that we will maintain both schools. The possibility is there that we may centralize to one school if it provides what we believe—and I have to emphasize to my honourable friend that this is not a decision taken unilaterally by Government. There will be substantial discussion with the professions and with the mental health community so that they can offer their views and their insight and knowledge on any decision making that we are proceeding with. The goal of Government is to attempt to provide an adequate foundation of training as is possible with the bottom line and the end result goal being enhanced patient care.

Mr. Cheema: Has there been any meeting by his department with the School of Nursing in the recent past to discuss these various possibilities, and what kind of studies have they done to at least at the initial stage to see whether we need these graduates or not, or if there is any shortage of nurses in Manitoba? What is the cost benefit of having these two programs and is this going to be part of the planning?

Also, is the School of Nursing going to be part of the new mental health care system? If we close down Selkirk and there is already a problem with the psychiatric shortage there, we still have the patients there, the 300 inpatients. Is there a possibility of creating more suffering for the mental health care patients?

We know it is a tough decision but we are still asking the question because there have been rumours and people are speculating a few things, that there may be the possibility of closing Selkirk School of Nursing. A petition is going around, some of the staff is concerned and morale has been down. Also it is causing a lot of concern in the Selkirk community itself. Can the Minister at least explain or let them know that this is not a great concern at present, or at least that issue is settled for now?

Mr. Orchard: That is exactly what I have attempted to do. In addition to that, the Deputy Minister and senior staff have met with the senior management at the Selkirk Mental Hospital. My Assistant Deputy Minister has arranged a meeting this week with staff out there because naturally we know the concern that is out there. That is the nature of this Chamber. It has been exacerbated by the fact that there have been questions in the Chamber. I fully expect that, but we can give to the individuals involved at Selkirk the assurance that no decision has been made. Decisions of this nature are only going to be made after substantial consultation to assure that it is the correct decision to make. We have not had that kind of consultation and that presentation of information to date which would justify a decision to close. I did not have that when that decision was asked of me in June of this year, that is only four months ago. I still do not have that information base.

I simply tell my honourable friend, so that he knows exactly the process that is going on, as long as it is presented, it has to be considered; but no decision will be made to close any school of psychiatric nursing until we are satisfied that we suit two objectives: (a) the enhancement of personnel training for delivery of Mental Health Services; and (b) in our estimation the need to create a Centre of Excellence in terms of education in mental health. Neither of those criterion have been met to date; hence no decision has been made to close.

* (1550)

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us the day program report, Brandon and Selkirk, what is their level of functioning and what is the method of follow-up, and what is the patient to staff ratio in each and every centre, and staff ratio in terms of other 10 psychiatrists, the mental health worker, the district nurses and the occupational therapists? Can he give us a breakdown?

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Mr. Orchard: There are up to 2,000 outpatients in Brandon, and the outpatient contacts in Brandon have been upwards of 8,000 per year. So that would average, I suppose, four contacts on average per year, but of course my honourable friend would understand that that could mean one outpatient contact per patient and up to 20 for another, for instance.

In Selkirk, the outpatients seen are under the 1,000. They are projecting well, just under the 1,000 for this coming year, and they are projecting some 4,700 patient contacts in the course of the year.

This is achieved by professional staff at each institution and the necessary follow-up in the community is dealt by family physician and the outpatient services deal directly with provision of Mental Health Services naturally.

Mr. Cheema: The day hospital works out very well. Can the Minister tell us how many patients at these two day care hospitals have re-entered the community for the last, say, two years or five years, or can he give us a yearly number of the patients who are being entered into the community as a benefit of these day care hospitals?

Mr. Orchard: We find that we are searching for the discharges and we find that we do not have the discharge statistics here. We will have to get that and provide it for my honourable friend at a later date.

Mr. Cheema: The reason for my asking the question was very clear because I think we have this day care hospital at Brandon and Selkirk. So there are so many outpatient visitors. It will be a good idea to see how many patients have been placed in the community and any follow-up study will definitely benefit the new system.

My next question is, what is the range of specialized social worker services provided at both centres? Can the Minister give us in short, what is the basic nature of these services? How many people are being employed and what is the level of training? Are they being done by registered nurses or the specialized mental health care workers?

Mr. Orchard: I thank my honourable friend for his advice and his first statement. In answer to the second, in Selkirk, we have eight social workers, either MSWs and BSWs, and they provide, in cooperation with psychologists and occupational therapists, their assistance in providing patient services, counselling and activity direction. In terms of Brandon, we have 19 social workers again, MSWs and BSWs.

Mr. Cheema: What is the patient versus social workers ratio? Is there any evaluation study again being done as we are going towards a new system? I think we could benefit from all the work that has been done in the past. We do not have to wait for six months to one year to have an evaluation study done.

Mr. Orchard: I am informed that the social workers are involved as needed with the patient population in

each centre and there is no specific ratios developed. Their services are utilized as and when needed and to the maximum amount of availability of time.

Mr. Cheema: There are still patients who are chronically suffering from mental disorders and who have been followed by social workers for years and years. There should be some kind of follow-up study to see the beneficial effect and specifically that benefits could be used for the new system. That was my question and I think if anything can be done even now to trace all those records I think it would be a good idea to save money in the future.

Mr. Orchard: I thank my honourable friend for his advice and certainly we will have that area discussed with both centres.

Mr. Cheema: My final question on mental health care is that we asked the Minister about the delivery of psychogeriatric care and we were pleased to see those three programs being expanded at nursing homes. But could the Minister tell us, there were 21 recommendations and there were a few recommendations which were supposed to be followed immediately. What are the recommendations they have started already and are they going to be reorganizing the system according to past reports, or is this system, the psychogeriatric system, going to be part of the new mental health system?

Mr. Orchard: Eleven of those recommendations are in the process of implementation and either will be implemented in whole or in part within the next year.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Gaudry): 4.(f)(1) Salaries—pass; 4.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(g)(1) Salaries—pass; 4.(g)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 81: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$41,841,800 million for Health, Mental Health Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item No. 5, The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us, what would be the upgrading of the facilities intended for this fiscal year?

Mr. Orchard: Basically, the major addition to this year's Estimates is the continued support of River House. My honourable friend might recall that it was a decision made by the previous Government to not fund River House in terms of River House being a centre for services to women, in terms of dealing with their problems of drug and alcohol abuse, and we believed that an integration of treatment facilities was not appropriate, and decided that we would continue the funding of River House, and that decision has been achieved.

In addition to that, we are providing enhanced service capabilities focused on women's programming by

adding staff years to work on an outpatient basis and a counselling basis for women with drug and alcohol abuse problems.

Mr. Cheema: Would the Minister indicate to us who is responsible for the employees' performance appraisal system, and what plan is in place to utilize the present Government's system of performance appraisals?

* (1600)

Mr. Orchard: That is the responsibility of ultimately the provincial executive, the board ultimately, but the executive and the executive director are ultimately responsible for that. That is for both program initiation, evaluation of the effectiveness of program delivery and the evaluation of individual employees in terms of their effective delivery of service and their utility as continuing employees of AFM.

In answer specifically to my honourable friend's first question, there is budgeted to be a \$40,000 basement repair to Polaris Place in Thompson this year in this year's Capital Estimates.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister explain the uniform data system that is being utilized by the foundation? What is the cost of this system so far?

Mr. Orchard: I am told that the computerized system analyzes each client in terms of assessment of needs, program enrollment and performance of the individual in terms of how well the programs have served their needs, success ratios, etc., are all part of the information system that my honourable friend is questioning.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us what have been the benefits of this system and can the Minister describe some data which has been used to redirect or reorder the services?

Mr. Orchard: The cost of the program is \$17,000, and the real benefit of the program is that it allows the AFM to basically, if you will, customize or tailor-make their program and the type of program they offer the clients, to specifically address their unique needs. For instance, consider a program specifically tailored to those individuals who are unemployed and as a result, or as a cause, have an alcohol consumption problem. That presents a unique set of circumstances with which the counsellors and the service deliverers must deal. This computerized system allows for an analysis of how effective a more tailored program approach is in terms of successful treatment of the individual's problem.

Mr. Cheema: What is the review of cost-sharing arrangement per person with the disabled?

Mr. Orchard: That is under the VRDP Program federally where we have the opportunity to cost share 50/50. I am pretty sure that is what my honourable friend is referring to. What page is he on in terms of the supplement?

Mr. Cheema: Page 28.

Mr. Orchard: Page 28? I will just check to make sure. I did not expect to be this far along. I have my AFM materials upstairs.

Mr. Cheema: What are the objectives established by the AFM to deal with the youth alcohol problems in Winnipeg as well as the northern communities this year?

Mr. Orchard: That very much is not an area that has been ignored but it is an area of growing need for program focus. We are right now attempting to find out what program innovation or what program change would be effective in terms of delivery of program to youth in Winnipeg as well as rural and northern Manitoba to try and determine what is the best vehicle for implementation of a youth alcohol and drug program.

My honourable friend will know that there are a number of organizations, for instance, that are undertaking this kind of a program analysis in bringing in a new program. I have talked to two different groups—one of them a service organization, the other one a high school organization, who have taken, for instance, a program from the U.S. which have been successfully trial runned if you will, or trial ran—I do not know what the right vernacular is—but basically programs with some success with youth in different parts of the United States. They have picked up the expertise, the direction of the program initiatives from those out of province new initiatives and tailored them to the Manitoba need. They are kicking off a couple of them right now. For instance, the High School Athletic Association is doing that in terms of a program supported in part by donations from the private sector to bring a drug and alcohol program specifically aimed at the youth in athletics throughout the high school system.

I talked with one of the top individuals within the Lion organization. They were operating a program focused, if I understood it properly—I have not had the opportunity to follow-up since—dedicated to teacher/counsellor training within the school system to make those teachers, counsellors and even trustees, in some cases, apparently, more familiar with the problems of youth drug and alcohol abuse so that they can effectively intervene and provide support and counselling and indeed program initiative for youths to deal with that problem and indeed for the families to deal with those problems. So there are a number of initiatives that are under way.

I guess what we are really wrestling with now in terms of Government and within the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba is what is the most appropriate and effective approach to initiate needed new programming in terms of youth drug and alcohol awareness and treatment. To this date, we have not struck upon what we think is the most effective approach. Discussions certainly are ongoing and hopefully we will have that direction established within the near future, two or three months at the latest, I am hopeful.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us what is this day treatment program and is there any evaluation study being done for this program and is there a possibility of expansion of this program in other parts of Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: That has been a pilot project for adults in Winnipeg, has met with some good degree of success and is amongst the proposals for expanded program delivery that the AFM is considering.

* (1610)

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us if there is any study available to see the people who are admitted to the hospital with alcohol-related problems as compared to the day treatment programs?

Mr. Orchard: I think my honourable friend is referring to a study, if I recall the background correctly on it. There was an admission study done with the federal Government funding support on hospital admissions to show by different age groups even the level of alcohol problems on patients admitted to Winnipeg hospitals. Now the results of that are finished and what is ongoing is a program evaluation to see whether that would be—how would I put this in the way that I want it to be understood—whether initiation of a hospital admissions program and a program designed for intervention/treatment is the most effective use of a new resource.

With the AFM, the AFM is no different than hospitals or regional services or any other spending entity of the Department of Health where there is a whole range of demands for new funding and new initiative each year, and this is one of them, to implement some treatment experience based on the analysis done on the study done just recently completed.

Mr. Cheema: One of the problems that is being faced by the hospitals and emergency departments are people coming in with acute alcohol intoxication, and there is only one centre at the Health Sciences Centre, who does not take patients, who do not meet their criteria, but still those patients end up staying in the emergency for 48 hours, two or three days, and that is costing taxpayers a lot of money because it becomes very difficult to send them home and to find a place for them somewhere else. So is there any possibility of thinking of a system or a crisis centre where these people could be sent so at least we could save some money, at the same time provide services and not to occupy the emergency beds in hospitals?

Mr. Orchard: In terms of the specific circumstance my honourable friend has indicated, when the medical needs of those patients have been met and they are stabilized, if you will, it is at that point in time that the AFM is accessed for further services and treatment and that is the next step in their patients' recovery.

Mr. Cheema: But that does not solve the problem. We have a system in that the AFM will take only patients who are stabilized who are not intoxicated at that time, but there is a gap of three to five days and these patients end up staying in the emergency wards or they end up going home calling ambulances back and forth. It is costing taxpayers a lot of money. I think there should be some system where these patients could be placed in the meantime before they get counselling from AFM or other sources.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I do not belittle or underestimate the problem my honourable friend is bringing out. However, the AFM does have a detox unit staff during the day with medical capability. I am told that as soon as the medical circumstance of the individual has been stabilized at either the Health Sciences Centre or other hospitals for that matter, that when the individual is stabilized from a pure medical standpoint, addiction condition and other notwithstanding, the next step is the AFM where they access service there. Our reliance on the hospital system to do that is one where it has at present the 24-hour capability of providing that kind of medical intervention.

Mr. Cheema: That does not solve the problem. I think the best way of doing it would be to have the emergency of the hospital requested to provide the information on patients who are in the hospital system for two to three days, who could be sent home or sent to the AFM. Those patients are still in the emergency rooms and have not been able to obtain the necessary counselling at the same time. What am I saying is that we could still save money by keeping those patients away from the emergency wards. That could be done easily. There is no need of getting another study done. The record is available in all the hospitals. Just find those numbers and compare it with the cost being provided by the hospital system as compared by AFM or the other sources.

Mr. Orchard: I am always open to suggestions that are going to contain costs in the system and we will certainly investigate my honourable friend's suggestion.

Ms. Gray: I am wondering if the Minister could indicate for us, with the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, is the emphasis on their programs in the area of rehabilitation and treatment or is it in the area of prevention?

Mr. Orchard: I think it is fair to say that to date the major role of the AFM has been on treatment. That is exactly why for instance we are looking at a youth drug and alcohol program which will be geared at prevention. That is, if I can be so blunt, one of our major criticisms of the federal Youth Drug Initiative in that it centres on treatment and our initiatives, although treatment is a new component, one no doubt that we will have to allocate some additional resources to. We would very much prefer to have a more substantive emphasis on prevention in terms of our youth program. We can do that and will do that, but it limits our access to federal funds under the current structure of the program. We find that is one of the flaws in the federal criterion for joint participation.

Ms. Gray: I am pleased to hear from the Minister that he feels that there should be an emphasis on prevention. He has talked about some suggestions for programs in the area of youth and drug abuse. Could the Minister indicate does the Alcoholism Foundation Association of Manitoba, does this agency actually work with other community groups such as schools, etc., to actually develop prevention programs?

* (1620)

Mr. Orchard: The foundation does have that role, interrelation, particularly with education. My honourable friend might be familiar with the TITH Program—Tuning Into Health. That was a program that I guess was developed about six or seven years ago and has since been fully implemented and widely available within the school system and has had some considerable outside acclaim. A number of jurisdictions have accessed our program both across Canada and across the U.S. and I believe even internationally. That speaks for the kind of program that was developed and its effectiveness in the school system.

I suppose if you want a realistic assessment, that was probably one of the most successful prevention promotion programs for youth. However, that does not preclude—we are missing a gap, an age gap, within our education system. Where the Tuning Into Health is for Grades 2 to 9, we do not have a program focused on let us say from Grades 7 to 12. Even though if the Tuning Into Health Program goes to Grade 9, I am wanting a junior high and senior high program to evolve from discussions that we have with the AFM and with outside community groups as well.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate for us—and I am not as familiar with the structure of AFM—this Tuning Into Health Program and other programs which AFM have been involved with, would this be the prevention consultant who would have a major role in those programs, or would have had a major role?

Mr. Orchard: That position and that individual was involved in the development of the program.

Ms. Gray: If these programs are successful and, in fact, the Minister indicates a need and his desire to increase, where possible, in the area of providing prevention programs—I do not know how many prevention consultants there are—but at least one of those positions that that person is no longer in that job and has been moved into another job area, could the Minister indicate why that decision was made?

Mr. Orchard: The evaluation is ongoing of the Tuning Into Health Program and it appears as if it will get reasonably good marks. I guess, as I indicated earlier on, probably as good an endorsement is the fact that the program has been in demand outside of the province in other provinces and jurisdictions in the U.S., plus internationally. If I understand my honourable friend's question, the position that she has in question has been relocated with River House.

Ms. Gray: My question is given that this individual in this position, the major focus of the position, as I understand it, was in Program Planning and Implementation, the whole area of prevention, why has there been a change in this role when, as the Minister has indicated, his desire for in fact increased emphasis in the area of prevention?

Mr. Orchard: That individual is carrying on the role of prevention counselling at River House for women.

Ms. Gray: My understanding is that River House is a treatment. So how does one do prevention in a

treatment facility? My understanding is that in fact the job description has significantly changed and, in fact, this person has been red-circled or the job description is significantly different because there may be a change in salary down the road. I am wondering if the Minister can again indicate why this prevention consultant position is no longer there when the Minister himself has indicated that in fact prevention is a high priority. Why has there been a change in this position description?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, my honourable friend missed my earlier statement on River House. We did two things. First of all, we reversed the decision to close it and amalgamate; secondly, in reversing that decision, we made the decision to enhance the program delivery capability on an outpatient basis at River House. That is where the staff year will go to, that is where the individual is currently working, or will be working if not currently working—I understand, currently working. It is for the very prevention programs and outpatient services and enhancement of programs for women out of River House, a program that did not exist before.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, this person who is being moved to River House will they still have the same job responsibilities as they did as prevention consultant in regard to dealing with community agencies, and particularly with the education system, with the school system, and could the Minister also indicate has there been a change in salary or has there been a red circling of this person's salary?

Mr. Orchard: That individual's responsibilities were provincial; now they will be Winnipeg and women. The individual's salary has been frozen for two years.

Ms. Gray: I could ask the same question over again, but I will not bother for the sake of time, but it is clear that no matter which way the Minister wants to say, or try to put on the record, the prevention consultant position which had provincial responsibilities is no longer there. Therefore, we see a decrease in emphasis on prevention and even though this individual has moved to River House the duties are much more specific. The Minister has indicated that the salary is frozen. So, for the record, what we see is talk about prevention and lip service, but in actuality, when you look at what is occurring and where the emphasis is, it is not forthcoming from this Government.

Mr. Orchard: I appreciate my honourable friend's advocacy for an individual in the Civil Service and I appreciate my honourable friend wanting to make a point on program. The cold hard reality of the facts is that there has been a maintenance of a program specifically designed for women in River House, an enhancement of program capability through that and a \$100,000 commitment to initiate a youth drug and alcohol prevention and education program. If my honourable friend thinks that is a reduction and a cutback in service, let us hear what the Liberals would do and we will add up the numbers.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): I just want to put a few general comments on the record. Given the need to

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complete the Estimates hopefully within the next little while and the time constraints associated with that, it will not be possible to ask the detailed series of questions. There are some questions which I will address to the Minister in correspondence following the completion of the Estimates and he can respond back to me in a similar fashion. They are more specific questions on some of the program areas which might be best addressed in that area and I look forward to his responses when I do provide him with the specific questions.

However, I do want to make some general comments with respect to the program area overall and ask one or two general questions. I agree with what both the Liberal critics and the Minister have said with respect to prevention as being a primary objective and focus of this particular agency. There are crippling consequences to an action when it comes to the area of drug abuse and chemical dependency and alcohol abuse. For that reason, one has to front-end the process to the extent possible, and the Minister is going to be confronted with a number of very serious questions on how best to do that. I would hope that when he has to deal with those specific issues, he does follow through with his stated objectives here of prevention as being a primary objective and mode of operation for the Alcoholism Foundation.

The two specific areas that I want to address—actually there are three, excuse me—are with respect to impaired driving, and I would ask the Minister if he can provide us with any overview of how the impaired driving program of AFM has worked over the past little while, or since its inception actually because it is not a program of long duration. I note that there is an evaluation that is anticipated to be completed in the '88-89 year.

* (1630)

I would ask the Minister if we can have some assurance from him that, once that evaluation is completed, he will make it available to Members of the Legislative Assembly and to the public so that we can have an informed debate about the values and the benefits of that program and, more importantly, how one would want to carry on with that particular initiative, because I believe that is one of the areas that cries out for further work and more intensive work. As a member for the previous administration, we made some progress in this area, I believe, but there is much more that needs to be done and we would want to see that momentum continue. So that is one area in one specific question, or actually two specific questions.

Can he give us general review now and can he commit to make an evaluation available when it is completed?

The second is with respect to youth, and again I note in the Supplementary Estimates that there is discussion as to a national strategy and how to deal with chemical dependency among young people. If one is going to ever conquer the problem, and perhaps that is too far-reaching objective for this day and age, but at least if one is going to deal seriously and effectively with the problem, one has to start with individuals who have

not yet developed the chemical dependency but are perhaps—because of their socioeconomic circumstances, because of their family circumstances, because of a whole host of personal reasons—potential victims of a chemical dependency.

The goal, of course, has to be to eradicate the socioeconomic conditions that lead to that dependency and that is a longer term goal which I think as legislators we all share, although we may have different ideas as to how to actually accomplish it. But in the meanwhile, one has to identify the specific target groups that are going to be most vulnerable because there is not enough resource base to go all around and to cover all the bases, so one has to try to gain efficiencies by targeting. For that reason, one has to identify the groupings. One has to then, I believe, in a very proactive way, reach out into those particular groupings and to carry out programs, develop and carry out programs that are extremely proactive in their approach to preventing people from developing a dependency and that means catching them before they start, that means educating them as to what the effects of the dependency means, and that means also providing some early treatment to those who have, for one reason or another, started on the path of their own dependency on chemical substances.

I would ask the Minister, therefore, if we are going to be leaders with respect to that national strategy, how he anticipates positioning Manitoba in the leadership role in that particular area. I also ask him if he can provide copies of curriculum materials that are now available at a later date to the Opposition critics, both the Liberals and myself, and would ask him if he could address one issue which I find particularly concerning with respect to preventing young people from developing these dependencies.

I would ask the Minister what his Government, and if he cannot provide his Government's response in this, what his personal opinions are with respect to advertising of alcoholic products during the hours that young people are normally watching TV. This is an issue that has captured the attention of legislators in this House on a number of occasions. I think this is very serious issue. I think it is an important issue and I think it is one where there is an honest divergence of opinion as to the circumstances that now exist and the potential future circumstances that could result from changes to existing legislation.

So I would ask him firstly if his Government is anticipating changes in that area. If he does not feel comfortable in providing that answer, then I would ask him for his personal opinion or the opinion, even better yet, of AFM with respect to advertising and its impact on potential victims of the chemical dependency, particularly of a younger age.

The third area, and there are many others that could be dealt with but again time is a limitation, but the third area is equally important and that is with respect to Native alcoholism and drug dependence programs. It is an area where there has to be a high level of cooperation and that has to sometimes go beyond the normal parameters of our existing programs and institutions.

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One of the reasons I believe there is a significant problem with particularly alcohol abuse but other drug abuse in some remote communities is firstly socioeconomic. When you do not have a job and when you do not see a future for yourself, and when you live in houses that are substandard and when you look around your community and you see all those sorts of personal circumstances which you suffer through, compounded and multiplied, so that the entire community loses a sense of hope and optimism, then I do not care who you are, you are going to look to ways to escape your environment. If you do not have the financial wherewithal to escape your environment in the ways that we sometimes have with respect to taking a holiday, or moving somewhere else, and if you do not have the skill base that is necessary to remove yourself from your community, you are going to turn to other avenues of escape, and one of those avenues of escape, of course, is alcohol, and alcohol over a period of time, I believe, in those circumstances is easily abused. So I think the real problem is a socioeconomic problem and has to be dealt with on that basis. I think any one of us would be a victim in those circumstances.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

I think there is also another problem though, and that is the cultural problem. The type of responses that we have developed over a period of time to that problem, which is a problem largely of society's own making, are responses that have been designed and implemented by a bureaucracy—and I do not use that term in a derogatory sense—but a bureaucracy that is composed of non-Natives and more attuned to the cultural and social values of non-Natives.

For that reason we have seen over the past little while the Native community begin to demand more control over those sorts of programs which are designed to deal with their own cultural values and their own unique problems in their communities. I believe that is a rational approach, I believe that is the correct approach, and I believe that is an approach that should be supported by Government. However, if Government is going to support that approach, then it is going to have to step back from itself a bit and allow the programs to be developed outside of Government, and by doing so, they may not exactly fit the Government standards, the Government policies and the Government programs. So one has to allow for a large deal of autonomy in the development of those programs, and as a matter of fact one should encourage that significant autonomy in the development of those programs.

So I would ask the Minister for some explanation of his approach in that particular area and hopefully encourage him to carry on with what is a developing trend with respect to working in a cooperative but equal fashion with Native organizations to ensure that the programs that are in place to deal with this problem at least on a temporary basis until we can deal with the socioeconomic problems better are culturally appropriate and for that reason most effective.

* (1640)

Mr. Orchard: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I have all of the areas mentioned by my honourable friend and will

attempt to respond briefly in the interests of time constraints.

The Impaired Drivers Program evaluation is under way and the AFM expects results in six to nine months. I think that all Members share a common concern in the Impaired Drivers Program. For instance, we are asking the question right now as to why our admissions appear to be on the decline? We want that answer very, very quickly and I do not know whether we are going to get it very, very quickly, but that is a serious concern to us as Government and as I know it is to Members of the Opposition.

I have no difficulty because we share common concerns in terms of rehabilitation of the impaired driver and in terms of hoping to decrease their numbers on the roads and sharing with my honourable friends the results of that review because I think the widest possible debate is important to the operation.

In terms of the Youth Program, it was indicated earlier either to the critic or the deputy, the critic of the Official Opposition, to access fully the federal program, to initiate a new treatment program primarily with emphasis on treatment, and I guess that is the major concern we have. I have had discussions with the federal Minister in this regard in that we prefer to dedicate, at this stage of the game, at this juncture, more resource to education and prevention. I can quite frankly appreciate the federal Minister's dilemma in some regard on this because many provinces have a very mature prevention program aimed at youth, and education programs. Basically, if you threw the criterion open you may well, through negotiations, be funding already existing programs. That is sort of the dilemma the federal Minister finds. However, I think that can be worked around. That is certainly the focus of discussions.

In terms of the new treatment program, there are a number of options that have been under discussion. Quite frankly, we have not come to the conclusion as to which direction we ought to take and where we ought to dedicate resource in terms of treatment.

We have, as a measure which is not a Manitoba solution, but nevertheless is a solution that is open to us in terms of new treatment, access to White Spruce—I always get the name wrong, I usually call it White Pine—White Spruce, which is a treatment facility just outside of Yorkton in Saskatchewan. We have offered to us that facility, a very, very favourable financial arrangement and that is per treatment. That is a different approach to treatment that the Saskatchewan Government, through fairly substantial investigation procedures, come to the conclusion is their best approach. We say though that, from discussions I have had with them, that it is an expensive program. It is a very expensive program. We certainly want to see how effective that program is before we would move in part or whole in that direction. We think there is a substantial advantage to education and prevention. In terms of the curriculum that is available, yes, we will forward that over to both critics.

The advertising issue in terms of the advertising of alcoholic beverages, Manitoba, as my honourable friend

knows because his Government wrestled with this problem, is unique in Canada in that we are the only province that prevents advertising until after 10 p.m. That does not say that there is no advertising prior to 10 p.m., because with the advent of cable television, a phenomenon that was not unique to the change of Government, there is substantial advertising prior to 10 p.m. I live in an area in the Province of Manitoba where, although we do not have cable television on the farm—

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): The things you see on that television!

An Honourable Member: He has to get a new dish.

Mr. Orchard: No, I do not have a dish and I do not have cable, but we do have off-air access to American channels wherein the advertising of alcohol takes place well before 10 p.m. That is a proposition that is in need of resolution.

I can simply indicate to you that as one might expect and as was the circumstance when my honourable friend was Government, the AFM would prefer to see the status quo maintained—no advertising, prohibition of advertising prior to ten o'clock. However, that decision by Government has not been made. I suppose when it is made, my honourable friend will know my position because if Government makes the decision it is going to be one in which all Members of Cabinet will no doubt be supporting, I think. However, I cannot give my honourable friend any clear direction.

It is an issue of equity as was faced with by my honourable friends where Manitoba broadcasters, because of Manitoba law, are prevented from achieving revenues that are available in Manitoba to the U.S. competitors and providers of television services. They have made with us, as they have made with the previous administration, numerous arguments in terms of equitability and in terms of revenues, job creation in Manitoba, etc., etc. All those arguments are the same as they were when you faced the problem. I can only indicate to my honourable friend that he will have to use some patience in seeing whether the problem ends up being resolved by Government.

Let me give my honourable friend some treatment statistics in terms of Native versus status Indian and non-status Metis versus all other Manitobans. Currently in 1987-88, in terms of treatment, almost 41 percent of the treatment program was focused to Native and non-Native Metis of Manitoba. The other 59 percent of the program was dedicated to all Manitobans other than the status and non-status Natives and the Metis population. There are two options in terms of the treatment program, one available through Native organizations which is culturally sensitive.

In addition to that, within the treatment program offered by AFM is a component in which the non-Native providers of counselling services and deliverers of the treatment program are culturally sensitized, if that is the terminology. It is a program delivered by non-status employees of AFM, non-Native employees of AFM which attempts as best as possible to reflect the unique

cultural concerns that status and non-status and Metis Manitobans have in facing their alcohol problems. So the AFM has been, I think it is fair to say, sensitive to that cultural difference between the status and Metis and other Manitoba components involved in the program. That sensitivity, Mr. Chairman, will continue. I think that is the extent of the questions that my honourable friend posed.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, I thank the Honourable Minister for those answers. One question, perhaps he will want to come back with the detailed information at a later date following his comments, and that is with respect to the number of Native clients who go through the program under the auspices of a Native-run organization versus those who go through the programs that are run directly by AFM. If he does not have that available today, he can provide that to me at a later date.

I just want to reinforce one point as well, and that is with respect to sensitivity to cultural values versus the control over programs to ensure that cultural values are not only reflected but are built right into the program. There is a bit of a distinction there and I would encourage the Minister to move more towards the development of funding which allows for the Native organizations to actually develop and implement the programs on their own. I do not want to get into a long discussion with him here today but I would hope that he would take that under consideration when new programs are brought to his attention and as evaluations of existing programs are made so that we might see a bit of a trend towards that over time. I do believe that is going to be one of the answers in this area.

* (1650)

Mr. Chairman: 5. The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba—pass.

Resolution No. 82: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,397,400 for Health, The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Mr. Orchard: At the risk of interrupting such fine progress, I wonder if I could suggest a short two or three minute break at the outside.

(RECESS)

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: The Committee of Supply come to order, please.

Mr. Orchard: Because I know we want to speed along here this afternoon, let me give you some of the main indications in terms of the Capital Program. On page 3 are projects that have been tendered since April 26: tenders received, construction commenced. Not all projects have the tenders been, for instance, proceeded with. Gimli Betel, we have a successful tender on that

one. Foyer Notre Dame is not tendered as of yet. Of course, completion of Deer Lodge is under way. Let me take my honourable friends to page 4.

Mr. Chairman: Does the Honourable Minister wish to table this report?

Mr. Orchard: Sorry. The Members have the report and it is tabled as an addendum to the Manitoba Health Services Estimate consideration.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, let me deal with the item on page 4, because I think this item is important to us from a number of areas. We have talked about Mental Health, program delivery, reorganization, etc., etc. The previous administration had the new free-standing psychiatric building under consideration for at least two years in terms of development. What we are doing in this set of Estimates is advancing the construction program on the psychiatric facility, hopefully to have this facility advance in service at least a year ahead of the former plans.

The reason for this is to enhance recruitment capability in terms of Head of Psychiatry and a number of other issues. My honourable friends have brought up the issue of forensic services. The new psychiatric free-standing facility will go a long way to addressing that, and it is being fast-tracked. It is being pulled out in advance.

In addition to that, we have a number of capital projects that have been under study for some time. For instance, a \$250 million, approximately, redevelopment of the Health Sciences Centre. That project, along with the significant redevelopment at St. Boniface and some lesser redevelopments at the community hospitals in Winnipeg, are going to be the subject of the subcommittee review of the Health Advisory Network. Hopefully, we will be able to make some concrete decisions as to the direction to go there, because this is a very much more complex decision-making process than ever I appreciated in terms of my Opposition days.

Because we are moving into an era of changing focus on acute care delivery, an emphasis away from beds, the plans that were set in place in 1978 was the first time for phase 3 of redevelopment of the Health Sciences Centre and have gone through a number of planning stages until today. Very much, we have to make the right kind of decisions because we are talking substantial capital investment upwards of a quarter of a billion dollars of that one centre alone. We have to assure that we plan appropriately for the next several decades when we make those redevelopment decisions.

I am hoping that we garner together some of the very best in terms of opinion through the Health Advisory Network to assist Government in making that decision, because let me tell you, the easiest decision I could make as Minister of Health is to proceed with major capital redevelopment. The dollars do not appear in terms of capital borrowing by Government. They are all arranged by the facilities. They are the easiest dollars a Minister of Health can spend.

The implication, and my honourable friend from the New Democratic Party, the Leader (Mr. Doer), knows that the decision to proceed is the easy one because they always have future funding implications that commit you to a stream of funding to retire both capital and interest on the required debt by the sponsoring facility. So we are proceeding with some caution on the very major decisions, and included in that is the decision on the three hospitals in Winnipeg in terms of their extended care beds, those hospitals being Grace, Concordia and, of course, Municipals.

We have got a number of circumstances that are coming together in terms of the planning direction within the system. We have Deer Lodge being completed with 204 additional extended care beds. Deer Lodge was unique in that the federal Government put up the capital for redevelopment and were responsible for the operating costs. The impact on those bed openings within six months is yet to be determined in terms of the Winnipeg system planning, and the impact on Municipals, Concordia and Grace, because those three facilities also had extended treatment beds proposed as an addition to their respective facilities in two cases, and of course with Municipals, as a direct replacement of old and outdated in time expired buildings.

Those three projects, Concordia, Grace and Municipals, are put into a separate category. We want to, as quickly as possible, have decisions made. What this Capital Program does is give us the authority to proceed with construction depending on the outcome of analysis by the department, by those hospitals and by the community at large in terms of determining our future needs so we make the correct decisions. We have in here the authority to make those decisions soon after the impact of Deer Lodge is known to the Winnipeg system and how it relieves pressure, etc., etc.

With those few comments, Mr. Chairman, I recommend the Capital Program to the House and I will be prepared to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I will be very brief because we just got this report and we welcome the Minister's approach to this whole system, but there are a few areas of great concern to me.

St. Boniface Hospital, there is only the replacement of cardioangiography equipment. The problem is with the obstetrical floor. The number of delivery beds are limited; the post-partum beds are limited. Is there any provision in this capital fund to provide more beds at St. Boniface Hospital?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that is an issue my honourable friend has debated in this House before. Let me tell you, the overall decision-making process that I think faces me as Minister, first of all, when St. Boniface was given the role four years ago of the obstetrical centre, it brought in some very innovative programming in terms of early discharge, etc., etc., early post-partum discharge, and other programs. It was expected that with the closure of Concordia and Seven Oaks that any needs at St. Boniface would be reassessed.

Now let me tell you the dilemma that I am facing in terms of making those kinds of decisions. We have

capacity for obstetrics underutilized in other hospitals in Winnipeg. Misericordia is one that is underutilized and the Grace. What is the solution? The solution from St. Boniface's perspective is to add capacity, put capital there, but when one takes a look at the overview, and this is where I am seeking better advice than I can provide myself. I am seeking advice on this issue. How can the Government justify, in global terms, an investment in additional capital when we have unused capacity throughout the system? There has to come a time when these decisions are not made facility by facility but must be made in more of a global context.

I recognize fully that not making a positive decision in terms of that specific undertaking at St. Boniface is not popular with the specialists who undertake a very excellent program delivery. I cannot offer them any comfort in the statements I have just made, but I have to assure myself on behalf of the department and the taxpayers of Manitoba that the expansion decisions we make are the appropriate ones for the system. That is the difficult dilemma one is in.

Mr. Cheema: By not expanding the St. Boniface obstetrical floor, we are going to have this problem which has been lingering for the last 16 or 18 months, and for the last seven months the unit was closed several times.

The Minister had indicated we have space at Grace Hospital, but we have to look at the geographical situation of the city, too, and also St. Boniface is a tertiary care hospital. It delivers one of the specialized services. We have intensive care nurses there. We have the other services available. So I think just expanding two beds and the beds are in the post-partum ward because when the post-partum ward is full the patients occupy the delivery area. That is why these patients are being transferred and closing a ward, but I think more than 8 to 10 times in six months is terrible.

I think it is a rational decision to expand their services because the Victoria Hospital is not underserved. Victoria Hospital has more deliveries than last year. Health Sciences may have less numbers but with the present number at St. Boniface they are going to exceed 4,200 deliveries for this year. By closing Concordia and Seven Oaks and not expanding St. Boniface, I think this administration is doing a mistake and we are going to come up with this problem time after time after time.

It is not a major decision. You have to expand at least a few beds to accommodate the patients in the obstetrical floor. I think it is going to save money to the Government in the ultimate time because you are transferring patients back and forth from St. Boniface to Grace Hospital. Anyone coming from the North End, it takes about 25 minutes in the normal drive and in the rush hour it may take one hour. If somebody is a high-risk patient and you are transferring them to Grace and Victoria and transferring them back again to the St. Boniface and Health Sciences, I do not think it is going to be very popular.

I do not think it is acceptable to the patients and to the professionals and other people who provide the services because by not providing these beds you are

going to limit the work of the obstetrics and gynecology people. You have to provide them operating time at two hospitals, so we are going to cost more and more.

I would still suggest to the Minister that probably he should look at this, expanding at least a few beds at St. Boniface and definitely we will support that.

My next question is what is the money available for the Municipal Hospital? That hospital is 100 years old and that is in Osborne riding. The question was asked and the Minister told us we should wait for the Estimates. Is there any mechanism for this year to spend money there because they are expecting something from this Government?

* (1710)

Mr. Orchard: Let me deal first of all with the obstetrics situation. My honourable friend has pointed out that there have been closures a number of times during the year, during the last number of months at St. Boniface. He is correct when he indicates that part of the problem has been visited upon St. Boniface because of the closure of obstetrics at both Concordia and Seven Oaks in 1983.

At the time, we questioned the efficacy of that decision and we, quite frankly, raised quite a fuss over it in the House. We have long since visited that decision and basically it is a nigh-unto-impossible circumstance to reverse that decision. Concordia has used their obstetric wing for, I believe, outpatient surgery and Seven Oaks is using the obstetric area for the new ophthalmology day surgery program.

That is not to say that Seven Oaks could not go back in, but it still gives us the overall situation where we have some facilities in Winnipeg underutilized and, although my honourable friend makes the case that it would save money in the long run, I just do not believe that that is a factual interpretation according to information given by the commission. It would be an add-on in cost to expand at St. Boniface because we would not decrease the level of activity significantly at any of the other hospitals probably, so you would still be operating.

Really the only way, if you want to be blunt, you would ever achieve any savings is if you expanded St. Boniface and closed down another hospital's obstetric wing, and with the next closest hospital being Misericordia at some 800 deliveries per year, that is a decision that I do not think any Government is going to make. So we are faced with a dilemma.

The transfers my honourable friend refers to have always been done with the utmost in patient safety, mother and potential baby's safety in regard. It has been without incident and it has been low-risk deliveries that have been transferred. Now I full well realize and recognize that that is not a satisfactory circumstance for that new mother. I am not defending that in any way, shape or form. The ideal would be for them to not be transferred etc., etc., but in the circumstance we are faced with, it does happen upon occasion. At Misericordia, where the patient transfer has been to Misericordia, there has been on staff and on call, 24

hours a day, an anesthetic physician.—(Interjection)— My honourable friend says no. That is the information that I have. I visited Misericordia Hospital just some short three weeks ago. They have a very excellent arrangement with their anesthetic staff that they can provide that kind of service on an emergency basis.

I know we have got a difficult circumstance. In no small way, we are seeing the visitor upon the system, the results of decisions made five years ago in terms of closing the obstetrics at Seven Oaks and Concordia.

My honourable friend asked about Municipals and I simply want to indicate that is why I specifically focused on Municipals in my opening remarks—Municipals, Concordia and Grace Hospitals—because all of them involve almost the same kind of expanded service in some cases or replacement of existing services. I toured the Municipals and I know that their buildings are not providing adequate and quality care in the 1980s-1990s contents. There is no question that we have to resolve that problem.

I am not able, in this Capital Program, to say that we are going to put Municipals to tender, Concordia to tender or Grace to tender immediately. We have those three programs sitting there with the ability to put them to tender once we fully determine the impact of an additional 204 beds coming on stream at Deer Lodge, beds which will serve to some degree, we believe, similar patient needs as to the proposed expansions at the other three facilities. That is why they are in a separate category.

Mr. Gary Doer (Concordia): Just a couple of brief questions, the Minister has not indicated a time frame for the decision on the Concordia Hospital. It is somewhat different than the Municipal Hospitals in terms of its demand, its health care demand and population growth projections in that particular area. The Minister mentioned, and I have to read Hansard, that he would be involving the community and others in the decision pursuant to the Deer Lodge situation.

I would ask: (a) what date that the Minister would expect to make that decision; (b) what involvement in what community would the Minister be considering; (c) would that include the local Member of the Legislature of that particular area; and (d) would it include a discussion with a broad range of health experts in terms of the population growth projections and the health care growth projections of that facility?

Mr. Orchard: I can almost give a “Yes” answer to all four questions with the exception of the third one. This whole idea of doing this planning is not to do it in isolation but to do it in full cooperation with experts, the boards, the community involved.

My honourable friend is right. The east quadrant of the city is a very rapidly growing quadrant of the city. There, I have identified within the commission planning some shortcomings in terms of how we are adequately addressing not only the medical bed but indeed the need for long-term care beds. That is exactly the kind of information we want to compile. We quite frankly do not know the impact of 204 beds at Deer Lodge.

We expect it will be very significant, very favourable. That Deer Lodge advent of beds may change our planning to some degree in terms of timing, not of what but of when the expansions take place because over the longer term the expansions no doubt will take place.

I say to my honourable friend the only qualification I put on his third request of involvement of the local MLA is that we are expecting a high degree of collaboration and cooperation. If he could assure me of that, I would involve him.

An Honourable Member: It goes without saying.

Mr. Cheema: Just to clarify, to the best of my knowledge, the person who is available to the Misericordia Hospital is not on call for 24 hours. He could be called at home. The deliveries always require somebody to be present because there is a certain number, even normal delivery could have problems. I am just cautioning that that problem should not exist and that I think has to be looked at.

My next question is what are the specific programs for the expansion of ambulatory care or other services at Seven Oaks Hospital and is there any possibility—in the long run is there any measure to have obstetrics being reopened at Seven Oaks Hospital, because the community is growing? I know the space is being utilized for the cardiac surgery, but the hospital was just given two years of life and the delivery—the number of population has grown up, and mostly it is between 25 and 35 years of age. We know that we are going to have problems in that area if we do not address the issue and most specifically we have a teaching program in Family Practice there and that program should have never been cut in the first place. Is there any possibility of reinstating in the near future?

* (1720)

Mr. Orchard: I do not want to get into a prolonged debate, but my honourable friend has indicated earlier on that St. Boniface needed some expansion because they were from time to time having to send patients from St. Boniface over to Misericordia.

One of the concerns my honourable friend expressed was the lack of 24-hour anesthesiology, etc., etc. My honourable friend must know that that capability is not there at Seven Oaks in terms of obstetrics. So if he were to criticize the in-transfers from St. Boniface to Misericordia for that reason, I find it difficult to concur with his advocacy on behalf of Seven Oaks when that service does not exist and would have to be added.

I am not satisfied with the decision that was made in 1983-84. I think it needed more complete investigation. However, that decision was made, we are faced in the system right now with anomalies in terms of utilization, with some obstetrical wards being utilized at a 100 percent or above 100 percent from time to time causing temporary closures and transfers. On the other hand, we have other community hospitals that are not operating at 100 percent capacity and puts the dilemma of saying that we ought to spend more capital when we are underutilizing capital. That is a tendency

that has to be very fully investigated before decisions are made because we are talking about the use of very scarce capital in operating resources today.

Mr. Cheema: The last question was because the Seven Oaks is in my riding and that serves at least 40,000 to 50,000 new families in that area. That question was asked by each and every candidate during my election campaign and all these people felt that is important to have a service there. I think we are going to have a problem, not maybe this year or next year, the way the population is growing, still the community hospital should have the obstetrics and that does not indicate that we should not be expanding the much needed services at St. Boniface Hospital. Due to shortage of time, Mr. Chairperson, I have no further question on this.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass this item?

Mr. Cheema: Just, Mr. Chairperson, there is one question on the CAT scanning. Can he also include in this section so that we could pass it? Are there any specific parts available for the CAT scanners for Seven Oaks and Victoria Hospital?

Mr. Orchard: Let me indicate to my honourable friend what we are doing in terms of CAT scans. You will note, if you go to page—the CAT scan, what we are doing this year is we are putting our first CAT scan or giving authority to place our first CAT scan into a community hospital in Winnipeg and that being into Victoria. I thought it was broken out but it is not.—(Interjection)—Yes, that is right. It is not in the Capital Program because the criterion under which it was going into Victoria Hospital is several fold. We have come into what we think is a reasoned policy approach to placing CAT scans in the community hospital and first of all we were pleased to announce the installation of CAT scan in Victoria Hospital as the first of that pilot project, if you will, and determine a year from now how effective it is.

There are several criteria that we want the community hospitals to meet because as my honourable friend can appreciate, for high-tech diagnostic imaging, the demand is unlimited and you simply would throw the floodgates open. What we are doing, we are putting on certain criteria and I will give you the three of them so my honourable friend knows the three criteria that if met, we will consider the installation of CAT scans in community hospitals, and this is consideration a year out because we want to see the Victoria experience first.

First and foremost, if the installation of a CAT scan will replace a fluoroscopy or a special procedures radiology equipment; in other words, so that we are replacing time-expired R.F. equipment, if you will.

Secondly, where all of the equipment costs are funded from non-Government sources. In other words, the auxiliaries in the hospitals raise the capital funding.

Thirdly, where the majority of the operating costs would be—and this excludes medical remuneration—

in part provided by reallocation of the global budget if it was in excess of the operating costs of a regular R.F. unit, and there we are open to negotiations and it is on that point that we will be studying our experience in Victoria, but the Victoria Hospital will be the first community hospital to have an operative CAT scan.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us the number of the personal care beds being created this year and next year, and what impact that will have on the waiting period in the community hospital and other places for the next five years?

Mr. Orchard: I am trying to find—here we go on page 3—yes, okay. In part the answer is on the bottom of page 3 in that we will have 124 new beds with the implementation of this Capital Program. That, no doubt, will help to reduce the impact on the waiting list for placement in personal care homes.

But I simply tell my honourable friend that we are not likely, not likely to bring that waiting list down by significant numbers because I think my honourable friend appreciates how the waiting list is established. It is through the panelling process. It is in constant flux as we have beds available for admission. People are taken off the list but then of course they are added on a regular basis.

I want to give my honourable friend more specifics because—yes—in total the projects approved for construction will add 118 new beds, replace 137 beds in time-expired facilities and give a major upgrade to a further 125 beds. So those are the combination of new beds and upgraded beds that will be available as a result of this Capital program.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Chairman, I have one question. I see The Pas is slated for upgrading in our architectural work, and The Pas is a central delivery agency for a large number of Native communities and I know over the last year they have received a dialysis machine in that area.

I am wondering if there is any consideration to delivering more of those services to The Pas rather than going to the expensive means of transporting people to Winnipeg to receive many of the services they require.

Mr. Orchard: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I have often done with my honourable friends when the Governments have brought in programs that were good, I have given them credit for it.

In terms of the Outpatient Dialysis Service that was moved to various locations in Manitoba and will continue to be moved and make more resources available; so that program move outside of Winnipeg to The Pas, to Morden, to other communities, is a positive enhancement of service delivery. It is some additional cost in terms of capital investment but basically the operating costs are the same no matter whether you do it in The Pas or do you it in Winnipeg. That is a direction that was taken by the last two Governments and will be taken by this Government.

Secondly, in another area that I think my honourable friend is probably familiar with, of course, is the

Outpatient Oncology where we provide chemotherapy treatment in a number of rural facilities in conjunction with the Cancer Treatment Research Foundation of Manitoba; again so that patients do not have to move from northern or rural Manitoba to a Winnipeg setting to receive chemotherapy. Again that program will be enhanced as resources are made available.

Mr. Chairman: 6. Manitoba Health Services Commission—pass.

Resolution No. 83: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,265,690,700 for Health, Manitoba Health Services Commission, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

7. Expenditures Related to Capital - Manitoba Health Services Commission (a) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets—pass; 7.(b) Capital Grants—pass.

Resolution No. 84: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$41,775,400 for Health, Expenditures Related to Capital - Manitoba Health Services Commission, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

I would direct Members' attention to the final item, a matter that was deferred, consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Health, Item 1.(a) Minister's Salary—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

* (1730)

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, certain sections of the Health Care Estimates were not covered due to time shortage. I feel that we will have more time in other forms so that we could put our views to the public of Manitoba, the policies and direction of this Government, and also some of the areas where I think the Minister definitely has not been able to achieve to his full capacity. The Minister has not been able to solve the psychiatric manpower both at Brandon and Selkirk. His unilateral action has caused some problems and we hope that he will be able to solve them.

We still were not able to solve the problem of the *in vitro* fertilization program. That program is still not existing. Part of the AIDS campaign is going on and the rest will be started next year. That is disappointing. There is a delayed response with respect to psychogeriatric care and we hope that will be part of the new mental health care system. We have not seen much of the new ideas for ambulatory care. We have not heard much from the Minister as regards to hospitals of excellence and we have not heard many new ideas to solve again the manpower in psychiatry.

There is a delay still in the radiation therapy for two to three weeks now. There has been some improvement and we are hoping to have the new machines some time next year, but that is not still solving the purpose. They are still waiting in the coronary by-pass surgery. We still have a wait in the speech therapy. However there was a positive step from this Minister which will help definitely to cut short the delay in speech therapy and that will help the children but we have not solved

anything for our personal care homes. We are still waiting for the announcement on the comprehensive new mental health care system.

Physiotherapy still remains a problem because it still takes four to six months sometimes to have an assessment and rehabilitation program done at the Rehabilitation Centre at the Health Sciences Centre. We still have a waiting period for physiotherapy for young children. There are a lot of other areas of great concern but we will be debating them when our opportunity comes.

Personally I would like to say that I have learned a lot for the last 36 hours. I wish to thank my colleagues and especially our Deputy Health critic, the Honourable Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray), who has contributed a lot to the Estimates. I appreciate that very much. I would definitely pay my compliments to our NDP Health critic, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), who was very cooperative.

However, I was a little bit disappointed that the Minister did not cooperate a few times but that is okay. I think we still achieved. We have covered a lot of ground. I definitely learned a lot from the Minister's approach. We came to know his views on our health care. Certainly, we are looking forward with some of our positive criticism. At times there was a heated exchange but that is for the benefit of patients. I think that is our prime responsibility and will continue to contribute very positive criticism. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Ms. Gray: I think our Health critic, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), has certainly summed up very well these Estimates. So I certainly will not repeat his sentiments since he has certainly indicated better than I perhaps can what has happened in the last 36 hours.

I have one question for the Minister because I did not have the opportunity to ask it earlier and that was the funding to the Sister Clermont Health Plan. The Minister and I have discussed this informally before. I understand that monies have been given to the Sister Clermont for an operating grant for their community services and that is a temporary funding arrangement. Does the Minister have information as to whether that service has been evaluated by his department and is there a move to continue that funding beyond the temporary three-month basis?

Mr. Orchard: I am going to have to take that question as notice and provide my honourable friend with an answer.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us when and how he might be able to provide us with that information later?

Mr. Orchard: In person, by letter, by telegram, by telephone, however my honourable friend would think it most appropriate.

Ms. Gray: By letter? Thank you.

Mr. Cowan: I sense a desire to conclude the Estimates so I will not take a lot of time. There are a few comments that I do want to put on the record.

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One is with respect to the process itself. Although we spent a fair amount of time in the Estimates debate on Health this year, there were a number of issues, I think that were particular to this year, that occupied a lot of time that might not have been as time consuming in other years. For example, the whole area of free trade which I felt, and I believe the Minister feels and the Opposition critics generally feel, is an important area and one which demanded a great deal of debate, is an issue that required that time and in the future, unfortunately now, I believe with the results of the election, we will require some time to evaluate the effects of it.

I hope the Minister was right in his assumption. I believe though that the threat that comes with free trade goes far beyond what he has acknowledged to date. I guess that is a matter of how one approaches the whole issue. I think that is an area that we are going to have to watch very carefully over time. I hope that the Minister will, now that the election has been fought and won by his Party, congratulations to his Party for that victory. The public have spoken and they have a mandate to go ahead. Although it is a weak mandate with respect to the area of free trade, it is a mandate nonetheless and they will have to deal with it as they will, but I hope the Minister will watch very carefully and evaluate very carefully what is happening during the negotiations on the subsidies, what is happening with respect to management services and the requirements for national treatment of management services for certain health care facilities under the Free Trade Agreement and will be quick to provide a constructive and positive response to those areas where he sees the possibility or the potentiality of the erosion of the medicare system incrementally over a period of time as a result of that particular agreement.

It is like any other agreement. There is some good to it and there is some bad to it. I think the bad to it is largely with respect to an incremental erosion of the Medicare system and I hope that the Government, regardless of their political stripe—as a matter of fact, in this instance, in spite of their political stripe—will watch that unfold very carefully and be quick to respond if there are areas of concern.

We did not have enough time as well to talk about community health issues so I am looking forward to some private discussions with the Minister. I am looking forward probably to some exchange of correspondence with the Minister with respect to community health, because I believe that there is one area that demands more attention than we have been able to give it in the past and that is in the area of community-based health services.

* (1740)

When I talk about community-based health services, I am not talking about community-based facilities. I am talking about a concept of providing health services not only at the community level, but through the community so that you have enfolded in that whole approach of community-based service an empowerment component, so that you allow people more control over their health services and you encourage them to take

more control over their own health circumstances on a personal basis. That can be done through education and that can be done through incentive.

You also need to have the facilities that are located right in the community. In order to do that, you have got to redirect some of the funding from the large institutions and channel it more towards smaller community-based facilities and institutions. That is not easy because there is really not enough money for the large institutions and there is not enough money for the community-based institutions. When one wants to change the status quo, one takes from one area and provides to another area if they happen to be in the undesirable predicament of working within a closed circle.

There is only so much money. It is a closed pie and, if you slice it up differently, you are going to be taking some from one area and putting it in another area. There is a requirement for some financing that is temporary that takes you over the hump, but there is also a requirement when reforming a system to change the system. That is going to be a painful process. The Minister is going to be faced with some tough decisions in that area and he will not always make the right decision.

When he does not, in Opposition, I guess we have the responsibility to be critical of him, but we also have a responsibility to offer some constructive alternatives if we believe they are embarking upon a wrong approach. The Minister will also make some right decisions. I want to assure him that when he makes those right decisions we will be supporting him in those decisions. That is not to say that we might not find things to quibble about and ways to help him fine-tune that decision, and we are going to take him at his word that he has provided to us during these Estimates that he is going to focus in on prevention, that he is going to focus in on community-based facilities, that he is going to try to change the system even although it is going to require some tough decisions and some criticism and some problems for him as quickly as it can be changed over the next little while.

It is a big system and it is not going to change rapidly, but it does require reform and it does require a different approach. The previous administration was perhaps late in starting that reform and that different approach and I think we have to assume some of the responsibility for that. But we had started it. We were embarked upon it. We had a lot of distance yet to cover; as a matter of fact, probably more distance to cover for certain than we had already covered, but we did see the need and we did start to try to put in place some programs. It is a matter of prioritization and it is a matter of your best judgment when you are faced with decisions that do require some philosophical as well as program-based approach. So we will continue to press the Minister, hopefully in a constructive fashion, to undertake that reform.

I apologize for not being here to speak to the discussion on the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Unfortunately, we have two Estimates going on at the same time and I was required over in

Housing to talk about some northern issues under Research and Planning during the other committee, but I will say to the Minister that there is one area in MHSC that I believe requires some significant research, hopefully done over a short period of time, and some changes. That is with respect to Northern Patient Transportation Program.

I received a large number of complaints from individuals from the North, northern residents who have to use that particular program. The fact that there is an inequity sensed in how that program is applied in the different communities at different times. It is an expensive program but is one that I believe substantially increases the quality of health for Northerners and for that reason one which requires a bit more commitment from the Government. I know the Minister went through a number of other items in my absence and, again, what I would like to do is have the opportunity to discuss those with him privately.

This Estimates process, as with any Estimates process, has been somewhat frustrating and I know the Minister, when he was Health critic, expressed frustration with the way things transpired under the Estimates process in their sense that they did not get enough information and that they were not provided with the complete factual picture in all instances and we have that same frustration. I think it is partly because the process itself does not allow for the type of exchange that would be required to be to be perfectly frank and open with each other. It often gets sidetracked by personal attacks and philosophical attacks. I do not mind the philosophical attacks; I do mind the personal attacks, and I think there is a bit too much of that. Perhaps I am as guilty of it as others. I hope not, I try not to be, but I am as human as others and from time to time probably fall prey to that bad habit as well.

I would caution the Minister that the questions were asked sincerely and the questions were asked for the most part for the purposes of eliciting specific information, although from time to time there was a wide ranging philosophical debate. I did become frustrated with his attempt to suggest that the motivations for the questions were more personal or political than philosophical or related to our responsibility as Opposition Members. I think that throws the process off a bit, but that is something that comes with time. I hope that the Minister will resort less to that, less to those sorts of attacks in the future.

I also think that the Minister has charted off for himself an ambitious program, and I hope he is successful in it, but I saw how that program based on what I believe are very good intentions went quickly astray and ended up in confrontation with respect to the provision of psychiatric services at Brandon and Selkirk. I think that could have been avoided if perhaps the Minister had just slowed down a bit, not a lot, and undertaken a bit more consultation before making the final decision. But then I do not know if the demands of these psychiatrists are appropriate or inappropriate, or if the offers of the Government are appropriate and inappropriate. I do not know the level of consultation that was undertaken, but I do know that there is a sense on the Party's part in Selkirk that the consultation

was not effective and consultation was not comprehensive. I think when you want to change things, whether it is change of location of where someone works, or change in the entire system upon which people rely, you have to rely very heavily on a consultation.

The Minister has talked a lot about consultation. I have not seen as much action as I have seen talk in that area, but I have seen some and I will give him credit for that. I think he has to do a bit more, a lot more, with respect to working with the different groups out there and hearing what they have to say with respect to the changes that he is attempting to implement.

I know we want to finish by six. There is a lot more that I could say. I have probably been more gentle in these comments than I would under other circumstances but we had a bit more time to go back and forth.

I would like to end, at least for my part, on a high note and that is one of encouragement for reform, encouragement for keeping what is the best in the system in place, and ensuring where there are gaps and deficiencies in the system that the Minister works with those who are going to be affected by the change. to implement positive, constructive, progressive change so that we do have in 10 years hence—not that the Minister will still be responsible in 10 years hence—and 20 years hence and for generations to come, the excellent health care service that we have today that really is the envy of many other nations and many other individuals across this continent and others.

* (1750)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, let me take a few minutes to offer my thanks to both Opposition critics and the deputy critic for the Official Opposition.

I can pay no more larger compliment in that I think we have had some good constructive debate in here. I will admit that we did not have enough for instance on the commission. I know we all would have wanted to spend more time on the commission, but one set of Estimates do not a Government make. We will be there next year and we will have our full and open debate.

A number of people have indicated—as a matter of fact I think all have indicated—over the last little while that they express a desire of cooperation for decisions made by myself, by the Government that I am part of, which are good for the system, and those will be supported in broad terms. We are not going to always agree on every "it" and the dotting of every "i." I have been in Opposition too long to realize that is part of this forum. It simply is not.

I simply want to indicate to my honourable friends in Opposition that I have no other desire in terms of my duties as Minister of Health than to attempt to make this health care system serve the people of Manitoba in a more effective and a better fashion. I do not think that is a goal and an objective that is not shared commonly in this House and commonly amongst the people of Manitoba. We will from time to time disagree on the method and the approach and I accept

that. That is what political Parties are all about. That is what this forum is all about.

I simply want to indicate to my honourable friends that I believe—and I want to indicate this in very short and very sincere terms—that in the Province of Manitoba right now there exists the window of opportunity for implementing and deciding upon positive change in the method in which we delivery health care. That is not exclusive to the teaching hospitals and the community hospitals and rural facilities. It is not exclusive to professional associations. I sense that that desire is there across the board.

I have had in meetings with various groups, organizations, professional groups the offer of support which I believe is genuine, sincere and valuable, because we can approach change to the health care system in one of two ways. Government can sit back as the fountainhead of all knowledge and say this is the way it is going to be and have that approach rightfully picked apart by all of those involved in it.

What I have attempted to do and what has been attempted through the professionals in the Civil Service directing the Department of Health and of the Manitoba Health Services Commission is to bring that spirit of cooperation from the department, from the Minister's office, to the community and to those involved, and they have reciprocated in large part by responding positively. I think there is a window of opportunity that we all can participate in in terms of changing the form of this system and being part of the positive change.

In stating that, I am asking for cooperation of my honourable friends in this House because I have been in Opposition as a critic of Health and I know that you can foil and pester and stymie and disrupt any Government's plans for health care reform. I do not expect the course of change to be uneventful. It is naturally going to be probably the strongest debated issue that we will face as Members of this Chamber.

I simply indicate to you that if and when I ask for your support or your cooperation on a direction that I think is appropriate to be taken, it will have been undertaken only after extensive consultation with what I consider to be the wealth of expertise in the field and indeed amongst those individuals in the community who have a broader understanding, notwithstanding professional qualifications. I will not be bringing those kinds of change in program to this House lightly or without what I believe says some pretty solid conviction that we are moving in the right direction.

I will make this commitment to my honourable friends in Opposition that I will listen very sincerely, as I have attempted to do in this set of Estimates, to your critique of any change I bring forward. I am not afraid to admit that we may not have considered all the angles and

that some of your suggestions may well more positively allow us to approach change. So I welcome those kinds of constructive criticisms. They have been proffered before. They were proffered again this afternoon as we approach the close of Health Estimates. I simply indicate to you that I am receptive to that kind of approach. I think it will work to the enhancement of health care delivery to all Manitobans and will work to the enhancement of the respect that we sometimes do not engender in terms of our approach in this House on issues.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to recommend to my honourable friend from Churchill a very excellent transcript which was from CBC Radio on Sunday, the 20th, I think about 11 a.m. It was a radio documentary on free trade in which they considered some of the major issues as enunciated by the three Party Leaders and had an independent pair of panelists dissect those charges and countercharges, if you will, on free trade. I found that half hour or one hour—I do not know how long it took because I was engrossed and I listened very extensively to it—was one of the most informed discussions on free trade that I had listened to in the media. I think if it was missing anything, it was in its timing in that we could have avoided a very vitriolic federal election campaign had the knowledge imparted at eleven o'clock Sunday morning, the day before the election, had been available three weeks ago, four weeks ago, three months ago, because it was a very informed discussion. I am seeking to get that transcript and possibly I might provide my honourable friend with a copy of it because I found it most explanatory.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I simply want to thank my honourable friends for their contributions. I look forward to their further contributions in the House. We will not always agree and move as cooperatively as we have this afternoon but that is the nature of this place as well. I thank you for your input and your suggestions and I will attempt as quickly as possible to provide any answers that have been requested and not supplied to date so that we can have that kind of exchange of information that allows us to proceed in a very cooperative manner. I thank you for your participation in the discussion of the Department of Health Estimates.

* (1800)

Mr. Chairman: 1.(a) Minister's Salary—pass.

Resolution No. 78: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,520,400 for Health, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Is it the will of the committee to call it 6 p.m? So agreed. I am now leaving the Chair and we shall return at 8 p.m. this evening.