

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, February 5, 1990.

The House met at 8 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman (Harold Gilleshammer): I call this committee to order. We shall now proceed with the consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Natural Resources.

We are now considering item 8. Fisheries (a) Administration: (1) Salaries \$224,300—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): The ongoing saga seems always to be between the commercial fishermen and the sports fishing industry. Could the Minister put on the record the latest number he has and the amount of dollars coming in from each of those respective industries?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Chairman, I am looking over at my Director of Fisheries, who has occupied that position for some period now, and on behalf the people of Manitoba, Mr. Worth Hayden, let me introduce him.

I suspect with that kind of a multifaceted bit of information, it would not be within the immediate capability of the department to come up with the figures; that is, the total value of the tourist dollar that the sports angling fisheries on the Red River provides to the Province of Manitoba. I am well aware, as the Member is well aware, that the Red River Fishery is a very significant sports angling fishery to the province. It surprises people who are aware of the numerous lakes, in particular our northern lakes and fisheries that the Red River represents as significant as sports angling opportunity as it does.

I think it represents somewhere in the order of 7 or 8 percent of the total sports angling fisheries in the province. How that translates to dollars, my staff is trying to put that together, and we will attempt to have that information for the Honourable Member.

Mrs. Charles: I hope I have said it correctly the first time, I meant just each industry, one versus the other, not itemizing it down into the Red River fishing but just commercial fishing versus sports fishing. I have some numbers that have been supplied to me, and I do not know how up to date they are, that really when you get down to a per kilogram cost per fish taken out that the amount of income from sports fishing, and this I am sure is as accurate as a person outside of the industry can possibly get it but not necessarily accurate to the percentage that would be quotable to stand and use as complete figures. The sports fishing was indicated here in 1955 as bringing in \$36.20 per kilogram and commercial fishing around that same time was bringing in about \$2 per kilogram.

In general terms, would the department find that to be about in relationship, or if that is possible, to get that figure? Just in ballpark figures, that is all I am looking at today.

* (2005)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I suspect the figures the Honourable Member refers to are probably close. I hasten to add that I would, along with many thousands of other individuals and families who depend, for instance, on commercial fishing for their livelihood, would rue the day that Government policy were set by such a computation of figures. I suppose it can also be said that a bushel of barley, or indeed that of corn, is worth considerably more if processed through the Seagram's liquor plant Gimli than it is to provide food or fodder for the cattle industry or for the poultry industry or for hogs.

Those kinds of comparison are interesting to make, but they do not address the fact that the commercial fishery is extremely important to a significant number of our people. I say significant, particularly in view of the fact that in many instances throughout Manitoba, throughout northern Manitoba, the Native community is involved in the fisheries industries. It is a group of people who we can all acknowledge often are hard pressed, as it is, in terms of finding an economic base to operate from.

I do not disagree with the kind of very commercial adaptation of total tourist dollars that somehow are associated with the fisheries industry, because you are adding into those dollars the value that a hotel owner or lodge owner is getting for that sports angler's visit either to Manitoba, if he is a tourist from abroad, along with all the other adjuncts of sports fishing when compiled in that way.

Mrs. Charles: I am sure in rereading Hansard you will find that in no way did I put anything on the record that said one would be more important to the province. I was just trying to establish the fact that sports fishing does bring in great revenue into our province, probably about, maybe, eight times as much in some indirect ways as perhaps commercial fishing does. I understand commercial fishermen—down to about the number of 600 commercial fishermen, would that be about the range that commercial fishermen exist?

Mr. Enns: No, that would not be correct. Just to also put on the record, I do not take issue with the Member for Selkirk's (Mrs. Charles) generalizations in respect to the importance of the sports angling fisheries to Manitoba. In response to her second question, there are some 3,600 commercially licensed fishermen in the province today.

Mrs. Charles: Although the licensing and the act of fishermen may not be exactly the same, I believe—but

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that is an argument I do not really want to get into either.

I just really want to point out, as is important to our area, as the Minister started to speak about in the beginning on the Red River, the importance of the sports fishing industry to Manitoba, and let us hope for all of us that it increases. As it increases as an industry, then we are going to become more and more into this commercial versus sports industry. I am hoping the ministry is taking some action in having these two factions, who are interested in the fishing industry, come together and have some agreements on it. As the Minister is well aware, there is a great amount of concern on the Red River, as in other areas, about the numbers of trophy fish, in particular on the Red River, that are being depleted in numbers and the amount of fish that perhaps is available from time to time.

I believe, in the Red River Advisory Group, and I sat in on a couple of meetings, that it came to light that there really has not been long-term study of the migration of fish and the culture of fish in the Red River, and perhaps the Minister could catch me up-to-date on that. I believe it has only been about three years worth of study of any detail that has been done on the fishing industry on the Red River.

Mr. Enns: Certainly, Mr. Chairman, I am more than prepared to acknowledge and welcome the interest shown by citizens of the province, and in particular from the Member's own constituency of Selkirk. In the Red River fisheries the act of participation on the Red River Advisory Group—I believe it is called, I may not have the name quite correct, but they have been working co-operatively and actively with the department in enhancing the opportunities on the Red River fisheries.

* (2010)

We have had a good relationship with that organization. They have worked together with us on a management plan for the lower Red River sports fishery, which I am sure the Honourable Member is also equipped with. A lot of these have come about, I think, in the last number of years because of the heightened interest in the fisheries on the Red River.

I am pleased to say that they are certainly an organization that the department contacts when we introduce revenue and different regulatory changes such as the barbless fishing program that we are embarked on in the initial stages on several pilot areas but now, in the year 1990, will be covering the entire province. The catfish and the notoriety of the catfish of recent years has helped tighten that interest specifically in that area.

All in all, I certainly am cognizant of the fact that we have a growing body of interest in the sports angling fisheries, but part of the role of the department, the Fisheries branch, along with myself as Minister, is from time to time to stand on the centre line where the commercial fisheries and the sports angling fisheries come together and a certain amount of conflict arises. This is the case on the Red River and the south basin of Lake Winnipeg.

There have been requests, as the Member is fully aware of, that an extended zone of the south basin which has traditionally been commercially fished for many, many years ought to be zoned off with commercial fishing excluded. We are not equipped or feel we have the kind of data that would support that kind of decision at this particular time. We will continue to monitor the situation and hopefully be able to, through more research, support either the position that the branch is currently taking or indeed modify it if that is called for.

Mrs. Charles: I appreciate the comments, but the question was, how long has research been going on on the fishing process within the Red River? I was asking whether it had been three years, or whether it has been longer than that, and what type of information is collected.

If the Red River fishermen are claiming—and perhaps correctly, they certainly have indicators of it—that the department is not aware of where fish lay their eggs, how far they migrate, how they move along the Red River, indeed what the impact of netting fish commercially at the mouth of the river has on the fishing industry in total. I think that as in all occupations, the sports fishermen as the commercial fishermen should be interested and are interested in maintaining their livelihood, and that is maintaining the stock of fish that is available.

Sports fishermen are saying that the stock is being depleted and do not feel that the numbers being taken out in the industry of sports fishing itself can really be fully accountable for the low numbers of small fish that are being caught and would like to see more concentration on the understanding and the biology of the fish themselves, the habits of where they spawn, where they stay, how they migrate, all the questions that would be more than even I understand for sure in sports fishing and in the fishing industry itself. If this department does not have the funds or the staff available to do it, then I think this is a very sad situation, when so much of our future, hopefully both in commercial and in sports fishing, can rely upon the fish themselves and the availability of the market.

* (2015)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I believe committee members will want to appreciate and understand that the Department of Fisheries has had a number of substantial problems to deal with over the past dozen years, which includes such major happenings as the closure of the entire Lake Winnipeg fishery as a result of a mercury problem. We have just this past season reopened the Lake Winnipegosis fishery, which my friend and former Minister of Natural Resources, the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plozman), will be aware of was closed for a three-year period in the hopes of reviving that important commercial fishery.

What I am suggesting to the Honourable Member is that the research capacity of the department can only be spread so far. We have a specific research program particularly centred on the catfish on the Red River for

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the past three years now. I am advised that we have, partly in response to the concern that has been voiced by the Red River Advisory Group, current programs in effect that hopefully will answer some of the questions that the Honourable Member raises with respect to spawning habits of the fish in the Red River fishery, their travel habits, and specifically that the department knows that they have to try to address the claim, or the belief on behalf of the sports anglers on the Red River, that the commercial fishing activity is injurious to the trophy fish in the sports angling on Red River.

There are programs now being carried out, last summer, and we will continue to attempt to provide some of the specific answers to the questions that the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) raises. In general, I must acknowledge and do acknowledge that we simply have not had the resources available to the department to do other than to kind of respond to need. The situation at the Red River developed over the past five or six years, culminated in the formation of a formal group called the Red River Advisory Group, and we are now responding to those specific concerns raised as a result of our association with that group.

Mrs. Charles: I hope, in this summer season that this department can find the resources to closely monitor the commercial fishermen at the mouth of the Red River. I have had indications that perhaps not all nets are being registered with the department. If that is the case, and I certainly make a big "if" out of that, if the department could keep a close monitoring on it, I think it would be a fair compromise for this season so that the sports fishermen are realizing that your department is working as fully as it can under limited staffing to co-operate with them. If you cannot move the nets out further, then at least keep the nets within the regulation numbers that have been set by the department at the mouth.

Mr. Enns: I accept that for the record, Mr. Chairman, and I welcome her and indeed other Members of the Opposition to acknowledge, now that my friend, the Honourable Member for Arthur, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), who happens also to occupy an influential position on Treasury Board, that he be made aware of the trials and the tribulations that I am being subjected to here because of the limitations of my budget.

Mrs. Charles: I would ask the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) to indicate to the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) that there is about twice as many square miles of water for sports fishing north of the 53rd as there is for water in Lake Winnipeg, Winnipegosis, Manitoba, and St. Martin, where commercial fishing is done. So I am sure the Minister for Northern Affairs is very interested in the sports fishing industry as, of course, he is interested in the commercial fishing—

An Honourable Member: I do every day, but he will not listen.

* (2020)

Mrs. Charles: —and hopefully he will find more money to put into the industry so at least we can track the

fish and know what we are trying to do with them. Along the same lines, though, the Government has seen fit to allow the smaller nets, and I was wondering if the department has been able to follow the impact that perhaps overharvesting of certain species would have on the commercial fishing and sports fishing, and what impacts the small nets will have on fishing itself.

Mr. Enns: That, Mr. Chairman, is a program that is being very carefully monitored, as the Member may or may not be aware, but certainly the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) is aware. It was a controversial decision on the part of Fisheries Branch to introduce small-mesh fishing on several of our fisheries for perch. It is being, we believe, successful. It has added considerable to the economic benefits of the fishermen involved, and although I do not count among my constituents a large number of fishermen, I certainly have a number of them located on the east shores of Lake Manitoba that are currently engaged in the small-mesh perch fisheries. I was caught up as a Member in that debate, whether or not this would ruin the fisheries by allowing it. I must report that debate has subsided at the constituency level, and I would suggest that the department hears little or no complaints about the practice.

Mrs. Charles: They probably were all very upset when we heard that certain fishermen on Lake Manitoba were killing birds in the mistaken idea that they were—Winnipegosis, I am sorry—in the mistaken idea that they were impinging upon their fishing industry, and in checking with department officials just to verify that was certainly not the case as I suspected, that indeed, statistics have shown that their impact would be very minimal on the fish stocks altogether.

I am wondering what steps the Minister has taken to educate those whom he might feel have the need for the education of what role the wildlife in the area would have in enhancing all of the environment, rather than depleting any of it, especially in the fishing industry.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I was very disturbed when that incident was first brought to my attention back in July of last summer. There is the ongoing belief among the fishermen in that area that the cormorant, pelican are responsible for the reduction in prime fish in Lake Winnipegosis. Our staff people are instructed to do as much extension work as time will permit to indicate the opposite. Our published data suggests that the problem that local fishermen attribute to the . . . as they are called, the pelican, are grossly over exaggerated. Members of the committee should be aware that prosecutions are being proceeded with, and we are hoping that these will serve as a deterrent in that practice.

Mrs. Charles: I asked the Minister earlier in the year, concerning the Conawapa Dam, whether there were plans for putting fish ladders in and I will ask it again of the Minister, whether there has been policy in the department, wherever there is a dam or obstruction built on a river, that fish ladders be a part of the construction or part of the project in itself, so that fish are allowed to continue with any migrating activities they may have.

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* (2025)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I can report to the Honourable Member that for several years now, senior members of my staff have worked on this specific problem. We have identified the situation where, with the location of the Conawapa structure, it does pre-empt or preclude the spawning run of trout, particularly to the Limestone River. There are a number of options that are being considered right now by a resource planning group, which includes a ladder, includes replacement stocking, includes development of alternate spawning sites. These, I suspect, will all be dealt with in some detail at the full environmental hearings that will be scheduled prior to any start of construction of the Conawapa dam.

Mrs. Charles: It is my understanding that in the past some dams, other smaller dams and diversion channels and so forth, which have been put up through Ducks Unlimited, and other reasons for rerouting or channelling water that most of those have been constructed without fish ladders and in some cases have had effects on the fishing stocks in particular in the direct areas. I was wondering whether there has been an ability of this department to look into where perhaps fish ladders should be put in place again through all these various diversions that are occurring.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, regrettably, that is probably all too true in too many instances in the past. There are situations where structures are in place. There often is a debate as to their efficiency or their feasibility and how well they are accommodating the fish run. I would acknowledge that too often in the past the solution to a problem has been too narrowly focused. If it was the case of a project undertaken by Ducks Unlimited, it was the concern for creating waterfowl habitat and not taking into consideration the greater impact on all resources.

I must say, and I have said, this upon my re-entry to the ministry to my staff, and I say it whenever I have that opportunity in public. Having the somewhat unique privilege of having been the Minister of Natural Resources just about three decades ago, in 1968 and '69, and having been again the Minister of Natural Resources in the late '70s and the early '80s.

If asked what fundamental difference has occurred in these close to 24 and 25 years, it is that quantum increase in awareness, public concern, about our total net environment, and that is very true about an organization like Ducks Unlimited. It is only in the last few years that they have taken a much broader view of their programming which, I believe, is going to be helpful and effective as we apply it to not only the focused interest that they obviously have as an organization for the enhancement and improvement for duck habitat but it is evident in such programs that they now are offering of prairie care. They are partners with the department in helping us in the maintenance of critical habitat that we have pioneered and piloted it this last year in the Shoal Lake municipality which is reclaiming some 9,000 acres for wildlife habitat, not exclusively waterfowl. It is in the pothole country, and so a great deal of that is concentrated on that.

* (2030)

I am hopeful that program will be expanded considerably in the coming year, but I am digressing from the Honourable Member's question. I am acknowledging that in the past not sufficient care, not sufficient attention was taken. Too often it was focused in too narrow a way. A structure was either put up for water control and water control only, or water tension or for a particular function. That, in my judgment, does not suffice today; it ought not to. We will not be proceeding along those.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Chairman, this is another issue dealing with Fisheries. The Minister mentioned briefly the closure of the lake for three years, Lake Winnipegosis. I understand a number of fishermen took the Government's offer to surrender their licences with the quota to ease pressure on the lake for the summer and fall fishing, whatever, the fishing that was obviously done with fishing boat as opposed to on the ice. The closure took place for three years, and a number of fishermen had a very difficult time during that time because they did not receive a lot of revenue.

Some of them did not have any work placement as a result of the works programs that were put in place by our Government at the time to assist those fishermen. One of them was Mr. Gordon Thompson. He was one of those who surrendered his licence. He believed he was going to get paid for his boat. He got \$10,000 for his licence, to surrender the licence, I understand, from the department. I was told his boat was some foot or two shorter than the 45 feet required for those that are being purchased for Great Slave Lake by fishermen there to be used on that lake and they did not purchase his boat.

He is in desperate straits. He, as I said, went through three years without any revenue from the lake. His wife was sick; she has now passed away and took any savings he had to care for her. Now he seems not even be able to sell his boat. I wonder if the Minister can shed some light on that specific situation.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct in his initial statement that the department was actively involved and indeed promoted the purchase back, if you like, of quota allocations on the lake. I can report to the committee that we believe a successful program was carried out by our Fisheries Branch during the course of the summer and fall. Some 18 licences were purchased, which we believe will considerably enhance the capability of that fishery to respond over the next three, four, five years. The program that we offered was for purchase of quota only. The department was in no way involved in the purchase of any supplies.

We may well have been helpful in arranging this, if that was done at the field level, but the department had no hand in the purchase of any boats, fishing equipment and so forth. The monies made available from the department were for pounds of quota only. The Honourable Member has mentioned this to me just in passing, in a private conversation. I will ask Fisheries to take note of the particular situation the Honourable Member raises to see if indeed there is anything we can do to help Mr. Thompson in his particular problem.

Off hand, inasmuch as we are not acquiring boats or we are not the agents for anybody acquiring boats as far as I understand, we can do little more than to perhaps try to help Mr. Thompson by putting him in contact with somebody who can help him.

Mr. Plohman: I would just advise the Minister, he is still making payments on his boat. Of course, it has been sitting idle for three years. We assisted with interest during that three-year closure, but now I guess he is paying interest again and he still has to make payments. He was under the impression, I understand, from talking to people in the area, that his boat would be one of those that would be purchased. I know that we intended to assist the fishermen, not necessarily by supplying the money, but by ensuring that those kinds of deals were arranged for the fishermen. So I ask the Minister to take this situation under his jurisdiction into consideration with some urgency.

I also want to raise another issue with the Minister. It is a very important one that I raised also privately with the Minister, but still am not satisfied with the way it has been handled up to this point in time. This involves Mr. John Stefisen, who has a Crown permit in north-west quarter 29-32-18, and this particular situation evolved after he had an agriculture Crown lease on some land when he had a ranch in the area, which he sold in 1986 in the spring. During that time, when he realized he was going to sell this particular farm, he arranged to apply for a permit for his fishing supplies and so on, because he is a commercial fisherman on that lake. At the time, the person he sold the farm to also received his leases, which were part of a unit transfer—no value associated with the leases, but certainly necessary to maintain a viable operation for that farm—as was the recognition by the Government that those leases had to go with it.

I am asking this under this particular time because during Crown Lands I did not have the opportunity to be here to question, and I hope the Minister has some more information on this at this time. It involves a commercial fisherman; it involves a fishing campsite permit, so therefore is appropriate under this section.

The latest information seems to indicate that there was an agreement drawn up, but in fact, in talking to Mr. Stefisen tonight, there is no agreement at all. He has not agreed to this and he is under duress in any event in this situation, under a lot of pressure to find another site. He has had this permit for five years now. It has been renewed each year and I do not know what the problem is. Why, because a person has an agricultural lease, there cannot be this permit there for fishing purposes? It is only an acre of the land. It does not impact on the value of that agricultural lease for Mr. Lytwyn. So why on earth does the Government persist in insisting that it has to be cancelled, that they will not renew that permit, when in fact it has been renewed for a number of years and he is not hurting anyone by having that site there?

So I ask the Minister to use what I would consider some common sense in this approach here, because I do not think that has been illustrated. Those permits are very important. I might indicate the commercial

fishermen's association at Lake Winnipegosis, the president has written a letter in support of Mr. Stefisen's contention. It was written to the Minister; just the other day I received a copy of it.

* (2040)

They are concerned about the kind of message this sends out about the fragility of the agreement they have with the Government on permits on Crown land all over the place. In this case it is on Crown land. It is not privately owned, Mr. Lytwyn does not own that land. It does not negatively impact on his agricultural lease, so I do not understand why the Government and the Minister and his department are persisting in insisting that this has to be cancelled and that he has to move off. Now, on top of it, they want him to move off by March 31; before, it was December, I believe, and then Mr. Lytwyn was going to move it himself by the end of January. Now they have March 31. It is still the middle of the winter, and he has skirting around, and it is all going to be broken up when he is trying to move it. I cannot understand this kind of an alleged agreement, why the civil servants in the Minister's department are not using a little bit more common sense.

I can tell the Minister that his assistant has been very helpful in talking to me about this issue. I understand the MLA for Swan River (Mr. Burrell) has been approached by Mr. Stefisen as well, agrees as well. He cannot understand why this action would be taking place by the department, so I think the Minister (Mr. Enns) is in a position where he should take this matter under his own common sense, and just direct the department to use common sense and some understanding in this kind of issue.

I ask the Minister if he has intervened in light of the fact that this memo dated January 31 by Mr. Winstone, Director of Lands Branch, that this finalizes the above matter, whether he has in fact agreed that this is the final solution, which is no solution at all for Mr. Stefisen.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I will find another occasion to debate the use of or the lack of common sense with the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) with respect to myself and indeed that of my Fisheries Branch. Suffice it to say there is no impacting on Mr. Stefisen's continued right and access to commercially fish from that site. That has been made plain to him.

What we have here, and I am certainly more than prepared to let the scene play itself out, I am advised two individuals who have come to a disagreement, a rather serious disagreement with respect to the continued occupancy of that Crown land by Mr. Stefisen, and we have been led to believe that there is possibly some reason for that severe difference of agreement that has arisen between these two parties. The decision that has been rendered on this occasion stands and we will see what happens.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, the Minister calls this a decision. This is a recommendation from his staff and it is to the special assistant to the Minister, so the decision is not final until the Minister makes the

decision, and if he says this is now a decision, then I think he is making the wrong decision, and that he does not have all the facts at his disposal in making this. Perhaps he has not heard all sides of the question to the extent that he should before he endorses this recommendation by his staff.

I would urge him to protect the integrity of a permit that an individual has had and received for the last five years. That is the basis for this concern. It might be that there is another location that Mr. Stefishen could have, but there is no legitimate reason why Mr. Lytwyn should be objecting to this, and I do not even know if there is any provision in this lease that allows him to veto a permit, or to have to force the department to veto. I have asked the Minister's assistant, Grant Baker, to provide me with a copy of the lease, the agricultural Crown lands lease, so that I can have some understanding of how it is that this is a violation of the lease and this can be unilaterally terminated, this permit.

This has not been provided to me up to this point in time. I would remind the Minister that the department feels quite strongly—in the past at least—that a permit is very valid, and it is almost as sacred as a lease in many cases, in all cases. The public should have that feeling, that these are not frivolously cancelled. So there is no legitimate reason, there is no conflict of use—it is not conflicting on the use for the agricultural lease—so there is very unstable ground for the department's action in this particular case. If the department or the Minister are concerned that two individuals might fight about something I would submit to the Minister that is not something that he should be concerned about. What he should be concerned about is the legitimacy of a permit that an individual has had with his department for five years, and for which there is no good reason to cancel.

I would ask him again, because I can tell him that—and even to look at the terms of this agreement, he would realize how poorly thought out this is, when they talk about exercising his full right of his lease, this Mr. Lytwyn, for his forage lease, by March 31. Well, everyone knows there is going to be snow all over, he does not need a forage lease by March 31. Frost will not even be out of the ground; the snow will probably all be there yet. It cannot be moved at that time. It is ridiculous. So I ask the Minister—again, I believe he is making a hasty and ill-conceived decision if he follows this, and I urge him to reverse it. I can tell him the matter will not rest here.

Mr. Enns: I will accept, as notice, the comments made by the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) and will continue to monitor the situation.

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

Mr. Harapiak: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to congratulate the department in extending Bruce Wright's area of operation to include Cedar Lake. I think it makes more sense because it is a complete fishing area there, and I think it makes sense to have the person responsible for that entire area. I am wondering if there is any

consideration being given to The Pas area, the Saskatchewan River fishermen, and the Moose Lake fishermen, in their proposal to have a period of time to have the fish replenish itself. They have been looking at a program similar to Lake Winnipegosis. Is there any consideration for participating in a program of that type?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that active consideration is being given to an overall management plan for that area which may well include, or have as its immediate or principal recommendation, that such a closure could be considered, but at this point in time that kind of decision has not been arrived at.

Mr. Harapiak: The department made a decision to reopen the hatchery at Grand Rapids, and this was greatly appreciated in Grand Rapids, in the community, and I think you had very good success with the rearing of pickerel in Grand Rapids. I know that stocks did not go to the area where the pickerel have been affected to the greatest degree. I am wondering if there are any decisions to be stocking some of the areas in the Cedar Lake area, the Saskatchewan River area, with pickerel this year.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I am, first of all, pleased to hear the Honourable Member's comments. I too am delighted that we were able to bring the Grand Rapids hatchery back to full operation. I would like to acknowledge, though, the role of Manitoba Hydro in this regard. They are, in fact, providing some \$90,000—pardon me, I am corrected, \$60,000—to have helped us to make this possible. I am aware that Manitoba Hydro is revisiting that area with respect to listening to specifically the four communities that were involved and impacted on negatively at the time of the Grand Rapids hydro station construction in the formation of Cedar Lake.

* (2050)

At that particular point in time, and I think the Member is well aware, the hatchery was part of the limited mitigation efforts that were made. We will not point the finger of responsibility but, for whatever reason, was allowed to, in effect, just about come to a halt in terms of its operations in the last number of years. I am pleased that my staff, in co-operation with Hydro's funding, were able to bring those hatcheries back to full production.

Now, the areas into which a restocking program will occur is dependent on the kind of surveying that the department makes from time to time; certainly I would like to think are receptive to our attention being drawn to specific areas. If the need is felt and justified, the stocking will take place.

Mr. Harapiak: Was the proposal being discussed between the The Pas band and Ducks Unlimited and the Department of Natural Resources, the Fisheries Department, about the possibility of rearing pickerel stock in Pike Lake in The Pas? Has that proposal been discussed further?

Mr. Enns: I am advised, Mr. Chairman, to the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), that

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there has been no further action taken in that regard, but we are certainly more than prepared to enter into further negotiations with the band, if they wish to pursue it.

Mr. Harapiak: Has there been any policy change when dealing with the freight assistance for northern fishermen?

Mr. Enns: No, Mr. Chairman, there has not.

Mr. Plohman: Just briefly, there is a last issue I wanted to raise with the Minister under this section. The Minister, I understand, had visited so shortly after assuming office, on this occasion as Minister, with the Winnipegosis fishermen and talked with representatives of the Winnipegosis Fishermen's Co-op, and had at a meeting, I understand, at least I am given to understand, the Minister had made some sort of commitment to assist the Fishermen's Co-op, who were having financial difficulties in view of the fact that the closure of the lake for three years meant they had no revenue generated to maintain that, to pay bills, to keep the semitruck they used to transporting their fish and so on, in good order, or to make payments. I understand they have had to sell that truck now as one essential part of the co-op operation.

I ask the Minister, apparently now he has written a letter to the Winnipegosis Fishermen's Co-op saying he is not going to honour that commitment, to which maybe he will dispute in terms of whether it was a commitment or not. I understand it was at first \$50,000, and then it was \$18,000, that he is not going to provide them with a cent. In view of the fact that there was the closure for three years and in view of the fact that it would impact, was there a consideration by the Minister to assist this co-op with some of the cost?

Will the Minister reconsider that issue in view of the fact that the fishermen have co-operated well in this closure, in an attempt to rejuvenate the lake and ensure that the resource would be sustained over generations in the future?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I remember with pleasure the visit to Lake Winnipegosis and what I considered a good and successful meeting with a number of the fishermen at Lake Winnipegosis. We discussed the reopening of the season, among a number of issues. I specifically recall the request being made to me by the chairman of the meeting, who I believe was Mr. Fleming, who raised the question of additional support or help for the co-op.

I did what you would expect me to do, express my willingness to look into the matter, but at no time did I specifically commit myself to additional support either in dollars or indeed to be specifically directed toward the co-op.

(Mr. Ed Helwer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

I remind all Members of the committee that in the first instance my department, in the process of reopening the Winnipegosis Fisheries and the buy-back of the quota, had authorization from Treasury Board

to expend upwards to \$170,000 to \$180,000 for the buy-back of quota. That is the only kind of authorization we have. In my discussions with members of the co-op—and indeed I have had that transmitted to them since. I know that the MLA has worked on their behalf. Other avenues of support from government such as Co-op Development or assistance through the deferral of certain taxation bills that they were facing, as well, I understand, an outstanding Hydro bill that the MLA had contacted Manitoba Hydro to defer or write off—but I understand that the co-op since has paid.

These are the kinds of avenues of support and help that I was more than willing and encouraged to associate Government departments to engage in. But my department does not have those kinds of funds, nor have we ever had those kinds of funds to support this kind of request. I should also say that it is my understanding that the co-op in question did receive and has enjoyed considerable amount of support in the past. All of that went into consideration when the decision was made.

Mr. Plohman: Perhaps the Minister did not make himself that clear at the meeting. There certainly was a different impression left. The second thing is, would the Minister then work with the Department of Cooperative Development specifically to assist in getting his colleague to look at this situation?

Mr. Enns: Yes, I am more than prepared to do that. I have on several occasions directed the representations from Winnipegosis to make that a post, but I am certainly prepared to use the facilities of my office to further facilitate that. It seems to me that we are talking here about the kind of supportive program for the co-op itself as opposed to the fisheries program that could be properly directed and administered from my department. That is the direction that any assistance, if it is available, ought to come from.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): We are on Fisheries Item 8.(a) Administration (1) Salaries \$224,300—the Member for The Pas.

Mr. Harapiak: Earlier in the evening we passed the entire Department of Forestry. Could we by leave just pass the entire Fisheries?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Does that mean items 8. (a) to (h)? Should the items pass—the Member for Dauphin.

* (2100)

Mr. Plohman: Just one other question if we are passing the whole thing. Mr. Acting Chairman, I agree with that process. Could the Minister just give a brief update on any efforts to enhance the fishery on Lake Dauphin? The committee advisory board has been set up. However, that does not speak directly to the issue of fisheries enhancement, so I look at that issue. I understand that the federal Government has now withdrawn its experimental work there that it was undertaking for a couple of years. Has the province

then, through the Minister's department, picked up on that effort to provide stocking and so on to rejuvenate the fishery in Lake Dauphin?

Mr. Enns: I do not think I can enlighten the Honourable Member any more than what he already knows. He and I both attended what I believe to be an important meeting at Dauphin that had to do with the setting up of the Lake Dauphin and Basin Advisory Committee. He is as well aware as I am that a number of things have to occur in terms of improving the entire basin and the habitat before any great improvement in the fish habitat and the water quality can occur at Lake Dauphin.

I am hopeful, with that advisory group now in place, that I will be in a position to respond to the kind of advice we will be receiving from that group. I am not prepared to preclude or to make arbitrary ministerial or departmental judgments as to what ought to happen and at what schedule. It seems to me that takes away from the very role—if Government seeks out a citizens' group to advise them on how a resource ought to be managed, then this Minister is prepared to listen to them. I think we ought to march to the timetable of that advisory group to some extent. Not that we will always agree, but that is the direction that I hope to walk. I know that in his heart the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plozman) will walk that path with me, and hand in hand we will guide the destiny of that great resource to a brighter future that our grandchildren will appreciate.

Mr. Plozman: I could not have said it any better. I know the Minister has his heart in the right place. All I asked was—and I appreciate that the advisory board is beginning its work and meeting tomorrow night and Wednesday night again, I believe—a simple question in terms of the enhancement, whether the actual stocking operation that was being undertaken by the federal Government, Fisheries and Oceans, I guess—some of those responsibilities were being picked up by the department. That was all I wanted to get at this point because of the time.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, I can indicate to the Honourable Member that last summer I did take the time and occasion to inspect the facilities at Methley Beach. It bothers, I think, the Honourable Member, as it does me, to see substantial Government investment—in this case federal Government investment—representing substantial numbers of taxpayers' dollars, that is vacant there now. Aside from our department having expressed an interest in the possible use of the actual ponds, that may prove useful, particularly a few years down the road as a fish stocking program of some kind may be entertained for Lake Dauphin. In the facilities themselves, they were offered to us, no doubt available to us, at a bargain price; but quite frankly, a bargain price that I could not afford. I do not think the taxpayers of Manitoba could afford at this time.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Item 8. (a) to (h)—pass.

Resolution No. 112: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,183,300 for

Natural Resources, Fisheries, for the fiscal year ending 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

We will go on to Wildlife now. 9.(a) Administration: Salaries \$228,500—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister update us on the known effect on the wildlife of the disastrous fires this spring and summer in the Interlake and other areas?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, during and shortly after the extensive fire season, different staff members have provided me with a host of information. Certainly there will be some immediate losses of some species, but I was surprised at the number of species for which professional advice indicated that the effect of the fires would not be damaging.

The overall impact, and again that is amazing and it varies from species to species, but there will be in a relatively short period of time a vastly improved habitat for many of the species, particularly such species as moose, black bear, who thrive on young growth. We have from field staff and from the trappers themselves reported limited actual loss, that is burned animals found.

Certainly the biggest problem that our trappers face is the kind of disruption to their established trapping trails. I am pleased to indicate that with the assistance of my colleague, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger) and his Emergency Measures Organization, that there will be a two-year program in place to assist trappers to clear their trails. Just the physical difficulty of travelling through the wilds and through a burned-out area with the devastation caused by the fire and the falling limbs and trees is a major problem, and a fairly substantial assistance program is being provided through Emergency Measures Organization that will provide about a two-year work period for northern trappers to re-establish these trails. In addition to this of course the immediate help to the northern trappers was the replacement of cabins and equipment lost.

Mrs. Charles: So the Minister is saying that there was no discernible impact on wildlife due to the fire.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, excuse me, I certainly do not want to leave that on the record. The difficulty is to determine. We are just concluding our first post-fire trapping season, and we will be able to, with the royalties that we collect off of furs, provide a reasonable determination to answer the question the Member raises. I caution her and other Members not to view any royalty figures that they see coming out of this year's trapping as being indicative of a major reduction. As a measure of support to the trappers, we reduced by 50 percent the rate of royalties sometime ago, when Cabinet realized the difficulties that the trappers were already facing.

With the combination of depressed fur prices plus the natural difficulties we are facing, we simply felt, even though I do not wish to overemphasize the significance of it, but it was a small measure that we could indicate as a Government to having some

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empathy for the difficulties the trappers already faced, so we reduced the royalties by half. But when those royalty figures come in, I will be, or anybody else will be in a better position to assess reasonably objectively when compared to other years the effects of the disastrous fires of last year.

Mrs. Charles: Can the Minister tell me if the hunting season was as open this year as it would have been if the fires had not occurred in the area and whether there was any consideration of need for cutting back on the hunting limits as well as on the type of hunting?

* (2110)

I understand that—and I certainly have no knowledge of this background—black bears are allowed to be hunted in the spring, which is the time when many of them are calving, if that is the correct term for bears. I was just wondering whether there was any consideration being given this year to limits, or some considerations on the hunting permits.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, the hunting regulations are constantly being adjusted to respond to a number of different contributing factors that lead, again, professional staff to making judgments as to appropriate harvest levels. Certainly the fires interfered with the hunting practices in certain parts of Manitoba. Entire wildlife management areas were in fact closed in some instances, or considerably reduced with respect to specific species.

The question of the bear hunt is an interesting one. It was not that many years ago that bears were considered a nuisance animal, a predator to some extent if you asked the honey producers in the province. But the bear has become a much more valued animal that I believe the department will have to pay considerably more attention to in terms of how hunting of the black bear is to be continued. The department is making changes on a fairly regular basis. We have pressures on an animal like the bear from non-resident hunters who view it as a desirable hunting experience for which they are prepared to pay . . . outfitters pretty good money to experience, which in turn very often creates employment for local guides.

It is an area that we are constantly looking at, and we will have to keep a careful eye on.

Mrs. Charles: I cannot help but compare the description in the additions to the Estimates, when they are talking about the hunting industry as compared to the sports fishing industry. The hunting resource, they are very pleased to point out that non-resident hunters will spend \$3 million within the province. They seem to give this some real recognition; yet in the sports fishing industry, unless I am—I cannot find it; it does not seem to point out the amount of dollars brought in by the sports fishing from non-residents.

An Honourable Member: Different authors.

Mrs. Charles: As the Member across is saying, different authors—but I think that if we value the non-resident

tourist who comes to use our resources and enjoys our environment in one department's area, then it would be appropriate to show the same input in the sports fishing area as well, and the dollars they bring into the communities.

Mr. Enns: I was casting about for the director of Fisheries to see whether or not he heard those positive, constructive criticisms from my Liberal Critic. She makes the point of consistency if nothing else. If we rated to be important in this area, then I tend to agree with her. It could also be acknowledged in the same way in another department.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister tell me if there is any program ongoing to replace traps with the humane trap system that other provinces have? You bring in a leg hole trap, you will have it replaced with the humane trap system. I was just wondering if this Government has picked up on the same type of program.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I had the pleasure of attending a Wildlife Ministers' Conference in the company of Mr. Harvey Carmichael, who is our director of our fur and trapping operations in the department. I am pleased to report that the item was a major item of the conference all Ministers were addressing themselves to, including the federal Minister. We tend to be acknowledged, I think, and can take some satisfaction out of it, as being somewhat of a leader in this area in the province. We have for a number of years.

I have personally had the privilege of visiting the station that we maintain at Tramping Lake, I think it is, where we have for some years ran a station to conduct our own experiments with our efforts at developing more humane ways of trapping. It involved the trials of different methods of trapping that have been suggested by different animal-rights groups and others. We are going to be in this year making some fundamental changes to the overall trapping rights. Among the recommendations has been the requirement for daily inspection by the trapper of his traps.

The Member will appreciate that these kinds of recommendations, while fairly easily and quickly embraced by jurisdictions in the South or the kind of more domesticated or settled jurisdictions of, say, the Maritimes, present a different problem for far northern communities, the Northwest Territories or in the Yukon where trap lines are hundreds of miles. It is just simply physically not possible for a northern trapper to abide by those kinds of regulations. So those considerations were taken into consideration by the conference, but we are adopting fairly aggressive programs that will make the industry more cognizant of the concerns that people have expressed in this area.

Mrs. Charles: I was wondering if, in the Biological Services, the Minister could point out how many of the staff years that are represented here actually would be on work that is done in the field working directly with doing the biological reviews of our species and wildlife that exist in the province. How much is more in-house

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organization of the department? I have heard some statements saying that it is very difficult to get staff out actually doing the on-hands work, the in-field work, that they are more likely to be used in the offices tending to generate paperwork than getting out there and doing the work. I just wonder if that is a fair comment. I am certainly not indicating it toward any person or any area, but I have just heard that sort of filter down through.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I suspect that a department such as Natural Resources can certainly always be told that certain of their activities are not carried out in the most effective or most efficient manner. What often is forgotten, though, is that the department has a very major and fundamental regulatory role to play, a policing role to play, if you like. With that, and particularly in today's age of litigation and rights, it calls for a substantial amount of administration and paperwork to be carried out. We have a responsibility to collect and do collect for the Consolidated Fund revenue very substantial monies by different branches of our department. Whether it is in the area of the running of our parks systems, whether it is in the area of our many hundreds of vendors who sell different licences, wildlife licences, hunting licences, fishing licences, very substantial monies are handled by this department.

* (2120)

All of this calls for relatively sophisticated accounting procedures, bookkeeping, if you like, and that will account for an observer making that observation that, gee, a lot of your people spend a lot of time shuffling paper in your department. On the other hand, we are expected, and do carry out those in- and on-field responsibilities that my department has a specific mandate for.

Mrs. Charles: Again, in comparing segments of your department, there is a large Biological Services provided in the wildlife field, but not the similar amount of money spent in Biological Services for the fishing industry. And yet, certainly I know this last spring in the Red River in particular, the fish were showing humungous sores that were coming up on them, actually like four-inch holes on the fish where you could see right down into the bone structure. In asking about it, they were not really sure what caused it. Obviously there is a need for biological services within which I would call wildlife for our fishing industry as well, and I am wondering if there is again any way that that type of service is being overlooked in the fishing industry when it is being offered here in the wildlife services.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you could rule, is "humungous" a parliamentary acceptable word?—(interjection)—Okay, I just wanted to know.

I, on the one hand, want to feel that not all of the research that the Honourable Member has referred to now on several occasions is necessarily done nor ought it to be done or needed to be done within the confines of this department. We have federal people that are agencies also involved. They have a sophisticated and substantial ocean and fisheries department with whom we cooperate.

We are privileged to have a federally funded freshwater fish research centre at our own University of Manitoba that helps us in some of these areas. I suspect that we avail ourselves to them just as the Department of Agriculture uses the Faculty of Agriculture for much of their research in various fields of agriculture. Would that not be so—(interjection)—a good, fine faculty, I am told. We look to all of these agencies for this kind of support.

I am somewhat surprised having just made this speech. As a matter of fact, I am advised by my staff who have a habit of just not recognizing when the Minister is on a roll and then tripping him up with information like this—as a matter of fact, in our Wildlife we have what we call 12 biologists in the services. In fish we call it by a different name; we call it Fish Enhancement, where we have 20. So we have more research capacity in our Fisheries than we have in our Wildlife. I will speak to my Deputy Minister after this.

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

Mrs. Charles: I believe I am asking for the questions in this area. Within this department, I am sure will follow the new Bills that are coming forward, The Ecological Reserves Act as well as the Endangered Species Commission. Could the Minister indicate where these will fit in in probability next year when the Acts are in place and, hopefully, up and working?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as they are not any particular assignment of dollar allocation in this year, the developmental work that houses some of the costs is relative to the preparation for the Acts like The Endangered Species Act and is housed, I am informed, in the Communications, Economic and Planning Branch administration costs, which are not easy to pull out of these Estimates.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, I just asked the staff, Mr. Carmichael, to look at one question I had on the constituency matter for the Minister's information. I thought rather than raising it here—it is an important issue, but due to the lateness of the hour and the limited time left for a number of departments in Estimates, I will leave it at that. I am sure they will consider it.

Mr. Harapiak: I wonder if the Minister could tell me how many elk are left in captivity in the Swan River area.

Mr. Enns: The question is: how many elk are left in captivity in the Swan River area? I must tell the Honourable Member this, while the staff tries to research that answer, that we have, just in the last little while, captured some more elk. The department has undertaken that in an effort to house them for a period of time, I understand, until after they drop their calves, to reduce the elk depredation on the surrounding farm land.

We suggest there are less than a hundred elk held in private hands in captivity. The action I alluded to is just normal elk management practices we engage in

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from time to time. We are currently keeping elk in an enclosure for transplanting further back into the park to reduce the amount of elk depredation.

Mr. Harapiak: I witnessed an Order-in-Council which said they purchased some land back quite a ways from Minitonas which would allow the feeding of elk away from the farming community, or at least some funding for that purpose.

I was in Swan River over the weekend, and I was told by several members of the farming community that the feeding is being done right at the edge of the farming community. Therefore, you are saying you have to put many more into captivity because they are problem elk. With the program that is going on, you are going to be getting more yet. That feeding is being done right at the edge of the farming area, so you are definitely going to be attracting more elk out of the wild when the feeding is being done in a close proximity to the farmers. I am wondering if there has been any policy change by this Government in dealing with elk ranching.

Mr. Enns: Pardon me, I am sorry. I was momentarily distracted, and I did not fully apprehend the full significance of the Honourable Member's, what I am sure is detailed and piercing, question.

* (2130)

Mr. Harapiak: Has the department made any policy change in dealing with elk ranching?

Mr. Enns: The answer, Mr. Chairman, is no.

Mr. Harapiak: Are you looking at the possibility of changing that policy that exists now?

Mr. Enns: The Honourable Member is well aware that the department from time to time has reviewed its position. He is also well aware that my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), has looked at the situation from time to time, and is looking at the situation from time to time. There are strong advocates of that addition, particularly at this period in time, perhaps even more so than a few years ago, when, it seems, that agricultural opportunities, or any opportunities for some diversity and greater opportunities in the agricultural field, are deemed important. Certainly our farmers are aware that certain practices are taking place in this regard in some sister jurisdictions, but the short answer to the Honourable Member's question is that no action is being contemplated or under serious consideration by this Government at this time.

Mr. Harapiak: Mr. Chairman, there was one decision made to close down that operation in Minitonas. There was supposed to be a number of dollars, I believe it was \$75,000—

An Honourable Member: Seventy.

Mr. Harapiak: \$70,000, plus the elk were supposed to be returned to the wild. Were those elk returned to the wild?

Mr. Enns: My information is that the arrangement with the then operator was they were deemed not fit to be returned to the wild, and so he was authorized to sell these animals, in addition to receiving the \$60,000 or \$70,000 compensation that the Honourable Member refers to.

Mr. Harapiak: This was additional compensation that these people received for it then?

Mr. Enns: That is correct.

Mr. Harapiak: As far as the Minister knows, are any of these animals that were supposed to be sold in that tent town at this time?

Mr. Enns: I am advised that some are likely there.

Mr. Harapiak: So, therefore, the people that were supposed to be getting out of the elk ranching are still in elk ranching?

Mr. Enns: There is no elk ranching licensed in the Province of Manitoba today.

Mr. Harapiak: But the people who were in elk ranching before are owners of some of the animals that are at the tent town compound now?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that we have, as the Member is well aware, a number of operations that are referred to as game farms, where under very precise control and regulations limiting numbers of animals, certain species of animals are allowed to be held, under those circumstances, in captivity. It is under these regulations, these stipulations, that some elk are still in that facility that he refers to as tent town, but there are very specific numbers that are controlled by regulation.

Mr. Harapiak: I was in the Swan River area over the weekend, and there are several people in that area who suspect that this Government will very shortly be making policy change when coming to elk ranching and these animals are being held, penned down, just waiting for the opportunity to get back into ranching. I wonder if the Minister can confirm that this is happening.

Mr. Enns: I wonder if the Honourable Member is making a recommendation to me.

Mr. Harapiak: Not at this moment.

Mr. Enns: Then I decline likewise. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass? 9. Wildlife, (a) to (j), inclusive—pass.

Resolution 113: BE IT RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,093,900 for Natural Resources Wildlife for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

10. Surveys and Mapping: (a) Administration: (1) Salaries, \$312,300—pass. Is it the will of the committee

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to pass all items in this? No. 10. Surveys and Mapping: (a) to (e)—pass.

Resolution 114: BE IT RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,356,300 for Natural Resources Surveys and Mapping for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

Item 11. Resource Support Programs. Shall the item pass—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: To the Minister on the Garrison Diversion, having been down at the International Coalition on the Red River Water Basin, there was some discussion in the states on the Garrison Diversion. They still seem to have hopes some sort of diversion will go through. I wonder if the Minister could update on what his department knows, and that certainly departments and individuals in the states were indicating they thought there were some further developments that could be undertaken in order to provide the same sort of results, but with the understanding that we still maintain our concerns about the diversion as it was originally planned. At the same time, when they are talking about going ahead, I think we always have to have the fear that we cannot be on the sidelines with this idea and concept that has been planned over the years and changed over the years, but still sits on some people's minds and certainly on the books.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. There is an ongoing concern on the part of Manitoba that the Garrison Project bears watching for some time to come. By way of information, it is for that reason that we maintain to this date a paid legal representative in Washington. We do not pay him a great deal, but a partial retainer.

We have designated within our department a senior staff person, Mr. Bob Clarkson, who is our point man on the Garrison, and who keeps regularly informed as to what is happening, and in this past year has made several visitations to Bismarck to attend different meetings when the subject matter kind of rose to the surface again.

* (2140)

The Member is absolutely correct. It is my judgment, the feeling of this Government, proponents still hope that the full project will come to fruition, at which time we would be, and have reason to be, concerned about the basin transfers of waters from the Missouri to the Hudson River Basin. We tend to use as a barometer, if you like, and keep a careful tab on congressional votes of monies dedicated to the Garrison. It is in that connection just last week, again through our ongoing connection in Washington, I was informed that in the budget currently before the American House of Congress, no allotments have been provided for the Garrison project. That tends to be the trigger. A few years ago, there was an additional \$60,000-\$70,000 being allocated, which the State of North Dakota then used to leverage some of their own funds, and there were continuing proposals being put forward as to how to maximize the overall Garrison project.

Allow me to say this, because it is my belief that despite the fact of partisan politics that we live with in

this province, on this particular issue governments of one political persuasion and others have come and gone, but there has been a very steadfast position emanating from Manitoba, supported by whoever was in power federally, that significantly materially altered that program. That is why it bears watching.

The amended or modified Garrison project as it now stands is short by a full third of what the original proponents of the Garrison project deem it ought to be in terms of irrigated acres and amounts of waters in the reservoirs that they hope to tap into. So, yes, we keep watching it. We believe that it is in hand at the moment, but we will continue to watch that for some time to come. The amounts that we have allocated for this are modest, but we believe it is in Manitoba's interest to continue to expend them.

Mrs. Charles: Obviously then, there is no agreement, gentlemanly or otherwise, that we would be informed of the project going ahead. It would be up to the Province of Manitoba to catch the budget allocations, as the Minister is indicating, that there is no signed agreement that, before they go ahead, they shall have our okay, in that it is a shared waterway between—perhaps it would be more federal to federal governments. It is just strictly—they could do it if they can slip it through, not assuming that they would take that tactic, but that is a possibility that could happen?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, fortunately we are assisted by a number of other interest groups that watch any activity related to the Garrison as well. I do not accuse my opposites in the State of North Dakota of any ill will, but they have consistently not taken seriously the concerns that we have been advised to be concerned about. From their point of view, exchange of biota into our basin is overexaggerated. The trouble is, it is our environment that is endangered from a form of pollution and will suffer the consequences of it, so we certainly continue to take a very hard position on any expansion other than what currently exists on the Garrison project.

There are measures that, from time to time, crop up that even are somewhat distant from the actual Garrison project, but are viewed to be certain flood control measures that border on the Red that have an impact that could eventually bring Missouri River water into our system. So we have to keep a constant watching brief on it.

Mrs. Charles: My last question, when will we receive the Centre for Sustainable Development in the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I want the Honourable Member to be made absolutely aware of the fact that, upon the Prime Minister's visit to Brandon very shortly on February 14, it will be among the first questions that I will ask him.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—the Member for The Pas.

Mr. Harapiak: There has been a further reduction on Manitoba Water Commission. What services will that affect?

Mr. Enns: The Manitoba Water Commission, as such, has really not been in operation for the last year, and it is probably somewhat misleading to have even showing these monies attributed to the commission in that the monies were in fact expended for the departmental costs for last year's extensive soil and water strategy meetings that were held throughout the conference, culminating in the printing of several booklets and brochures associated with that program, and, in fact, developing a new water strategy for the province.

I have taken no action with respect to the defunct commission as such, but I suspect that the kind of development that we are facing will lead to newer and different types of organization, perhaps more ideally suited to take in the growing need for local involvement, the concern about the management of certain aquifers and so forth, that this older water commission simply is not equipped to handle, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. Harapiak: I also look forward to the answer that you will be getting from your federal counterparts in dealing with sustainable development, because I think that the Government has had great mileage out of that theme of sustainable development, and I think that there were a lot of expectations raised in the Province of Manitoba. I hope that you are not disappointed with the answer you will receive in Brandon, and very shortly the construction of that sustainable development centre will start.

Mr. Enns: I appreciate the Honourable Member's opportunity to perhaps respond a little bit more fittingly to the question raised both by the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) and the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak). Certainly this Government continues to hold the federal Government's commitment, promise to the development of a sustainable centre here in Manitoba, as was prominently announced by the Prime Minister in an international forum at the United Nations during an address by our Prime Minister.

* (2150)

I would want to put this on the record, though, the concept of this sustainable development centre ought not to be viewed simply in the forms of bricks and mortar and, you know, how high the office tower will be. It is really viewed more as an opportunity of bringing together a think-tank, if you like, of some of the leading minds on the overall question of how we better manage our resources, how we make development compatible with the principle and the spirit of the Brundtland Commission, which simply says, to ensure that we leave our resources intact, to hand on to future generations, unhurt, preserved, and conserved.

That may encompass something quite differently than what we might think of when we refer to a centre, as it being a certain set of, you know, a commitment to bricks and mortar. It may mean bringing together, through the use of our centres of learning, universities—I think we envisage a physical centre of some kind, but of greater importance is the bringing together of some of our best minds in this area to concentrate,

to house them, and to have them located here in this province to move this country forward in this goal.

And, yes, the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) is correct. I would be remiss if I did not put on the record that this Government is most seriously dedicated to this area of endeavour. We are by far in the forefront in the development of our round table operations. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) of this province takes this matter most seriously. He, as is known, is personally in the chair at these meetings. Upwards to four and five Ministers attend full-day meetings of the table when it meets.

We are moving step by step along well past to the formation stage to where we will be reviewing operations, the widest variety that fall within the category of meeting the criteria which we have established as being truly sustainable in every way. I thank Honourable Members for their consideration of this department's Estimates. I look forward to their continuing help in the near future.— (interjection)— I thought I would slip that one in.

Mr. Chairman: No. 11.(a) to (e)—pass.

Resolution No. 115: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$608,400 for Natural Resources, Resource Support Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

12. Expenditures Related to Capital, (a) to (c)—the Member for The Pas.

Mr. Harapiak: Mr. Chairman, there have been a lot of people in the field of natural resources and conservationists who have been raising the proposal at Oak Hammock. It had been brought to my attention that proposal is going ahead and there are people who are speculating the land. The Crown land has already been—Ducks Unlimited already has that land. Is it true that Ducks Unlimited already has that land transferred in its name for that proposal that is before it?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to make it abundantly clear that the proposal the Honourable Member refers to that is being proposed by Ducks Unlimited at this point in time is precisely that. It has not received any authorization either departmentally or from Government as a whole, which indeed it would be required to receive. Now, having said that, certainly the proponents of, what I view to be an exciting and visionary complex at Oak Hammock, I have certainly been in discussion with the department.

We, as you know, operate an interpretive centre there that successfully copes with upwards to 80,000 visitations a year at Oak Hammock this last year. We view this as an opportunity for enhancing our capability of meeting this growing need of people who are becoming increasingly more aware and appreciative of our wildlife resources, along with other opportunities being offered in the province such as Fort Whyte, to make it a port of call. I am extremely pleased that so many of our youngsters, our schoolchildren, our nature students are taking advantage of this. What other way

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can we find to induce that kind of appreciation among our general population which increasingly is becoming urban?

So I make no question about the fact that I am a strong proponent of it. But it is not the Department of Natural Resources nor indeed the Government of Manitoba that is the proponent of this proposal. Ducks Unlimited has indicated their desire to proceed along these lines. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Cummings) has indicated that he would have to clear and receive the necessary approval and licensing from the Clean Environment Commission. My understanding is that they are in the process of doing just that.

Mr. Chairman: Item 12. Expenditures Related to Capital, (a), (b) and (c)—pass.

Resolution No. 116: BE IT RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,672,400 for Natural Resources Expenditures Related to Capital for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

The last item—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Before the staff leave, I just want to thank the staff for being co-operative and sitting through questions which, I am sure, that they must view with interest at times, and amusement at others, and I thank them for their patience and their interest and look forward to working with them in a closer relationship at some future date.

Mr. Chairman: I thank the Honourable Member for Selkirk. The last item to be completed for the Estimates of the Department of Natural Resources is item 1(a) Minister's Salary \$20,600—pass.

Resolution No. 105: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,819,000 for Natural Resources Administration and Finance for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

This completes consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Natural Resources. The next set of Estimates to be considered by this section of the Committee of Supply are the Estimates for the Department of Justice. What is the will of the committee?

An Honourable Member: Committee rise.

Mr. Chairman: The hour being 10 p.m., committee rise.

* (2000)

SUPPLY—EDUCATION

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Neil Gaudry): Would the Committee of Supply come to order, please? This section of the Committee of Supply has been dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Education.

We are now on item 6, Universities Grants Commission, (a) Salaries \$215,800—the Honourable Member for Transcona.

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): The Universities Grants Commission provides grants to university institutions for debenture sinking funds and principal and interest payments on university capital projects. Now, Mr. Acting Chairman, it is likely that such sinking fund debentures and capital projects do represent direct or indirect liabilities of the province, and I wonder if the Minister could suggest to me what the payments related to debenture sinking funds and principal and interest payments on university capital projects would amount to in the current fiscal year.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): My understanding is that there are no debentured funds as such through the Department of Education. The grants that are given for capital are given through the Universities Grants Commission and then it is the universities that would enter into those kinds of projects. However, I have to indicate that for such projects as—for example, the steam tunnel is one area that we would be debenturing those kinds of costs over a period of time. We are just seeking out that information and, if there is any additional information, I will certainly provide it for the Member if we could continue with the questions.

Mr. Kozak: The Minister did, if I am correct, suggest that the department has something of a hands-off relationship with this form of funding and that the primary responsibility is borne through the Universities Grants Commission. However, Mr. Acting Chairman, surely the financial position of the province is affected by this form of grant; certainly the total amount of the direct and indirect liabilities of the province is affected by this form of grant.

Could the Minister suggest to us at least how much the indebtedness of the universities, whether represented by sinking fund debentures or not, boosts the direct or indirect total indebtedness of the Province of Manitoba? Indeed, could the Minister additionally tell us whether this debt is reflected as a direct or indirect obligation of the province in the province's Public Accounts?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I stand to be corrected in this entire issue. It is not one that I deal with on a day-to-day basis, but let me assure the Member that we make the grants through the Universities Grants Commission. The universities have the ability to raise funds by themselves and to match funds so that they can build new structures or whatever their needs may be.

The funding that is given to the universities comes from general revenue sources, consolidated revenue, and it certainly would be something that would be debated, I would think, through the Department of Finance. It is not something that we would be debenturing as a Department of Education and Training.

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Acting Chairman, I just might additionally ask the Minister of Education whether a grant to a university that is presumably spent in one year could not involve the university and indeed the Government of Manitoba in a long-term obligation to

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carry through a project to its completion, an obligation that would entail a much larger continuing liability for the province.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I guess I have to go back to my previous answer, and that is that any commitment that we as a Government make to a university or any arm's length institution would indeed encumber some responsibility upon the province in that we would have to find the money to do that. But that does not come from within this department's appropriation, if you like. It would come through consolidated revenue and from the Department of Finance.

For example, The Loan Act, which the House passed here, did have within it \$10 million for infrastructure upgrading at the university. Indeed, this is something that through the Department of Finance there would be a loan sought to pay for this and would then be spread over a period of time. It does not reflect necessarily on this particular department's budget in that way.

It is different from the Public Schools Finance Board whereby any capital projects are then debentured through the Public Schools Finance Board and through the department. Therefore, each year thereafter we would show a debentured amount and also the interest on it. In this case, when we deal with the universities, it is quite a bit different in that the grants that we make to them on an annual basis reflect on the Minister of Finance's (Mr. Manness) budget.

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Acting Chairman, I will not pursue this line of questioning. I believe the Minister has attempted to be as helpful as possible. I will follow his advice and pursue this matter further with the Minister of Finance at the earliest opportunity. Before ceding the floor, I will however suggest to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) and his officials that monies granted in one year under this particular program may well entail a long-term commitment on the part of the Province of Manitoba, a commitment that probably, in accordance with good accounting practice, should be reflected as a direct or indirect obligation of the province in the Public Accounts of the province.

Failure to do so—and I am not suggesting such a failure presently exists, certainly not before I question the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) on it—would lead to a significant understatement of the net indebtedness of the Province of Manitoba with regard to its longer term obligations. Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Acting Chairman. I will proceed on this matter with the Minister of Finance and cede the floor to my colleague.

* (2010)

Mr. Derkach: If I could just make a few comments with regard to the statements made by the Member opposite. Indeed it is reflected on the Government's books, if you like, because every annual grant that is given for capital to the Universities Grants Commission is a reflection on the ability of Government to raise

money. It is certainly reflected in the books of Government as well. But it does not mean that it is necessarily shown in the Department of Education's Estimates. It is because the universities are arm's length from Government.

Any monies that we expend on capital structures through, for example, the Post-Secondary Adult and Continuing Education, whether it is for Red River or whether it is for Keewatin Community College, would come through the Department of Government Services, because those buildings then are the responsibility of the Department of Government Services. The buildings, the capital structures at the University of Manitoba are their own in a sense; the funding for those capital programs is a joint function between monies that the university can raise and annual capital amounts of money which are given in block form through the Universities Grants Commission. For that reason we do not show within our books that there is an amortization of any of those facilities or any of those functions. Indeed, the grants that are given come to us from the Department of Finance.

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Acting Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's further clarification. He will of course appreciate my point that a \$10 million advance toward a \$100 million project associated with the universities may conceivably imply a commitment to further funds from the province, which in fact do represent something that can be called direct or indirect obligations of the province. However, I also feel that this is something I should take up at a bit greater length with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) when we discuss items that are not fully reflected on the province's books at present.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Acting Chairperson, a couple of questions just following on the discussion that we had previously, the Minister and I, with respect to the agreement. The Minister said in his final remarks before five o'clock that the new agreement between Minnesota, the province and North Dakota was being worked out, that they had signed an agreement identifying the Minnesota schools as being eligible for student aid. That is a process the Minister is familiar with. That occurs on many schools across the country. The province is continually getting requests to have these schools approved based on their curriculum, and that is normal process.

The question was: does the province not only recognize these institutions as being eligible for student aid, I mean, Canada Student Loan purposes? The question is: are they recognized for provincial Government bursaries; are they currently? Does that apply to North Dakota schools, speech pathology institutions as well?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I would be happy to try and clarify that for the Member. Indeed, in the signing of the agreement there is an understanding that students will be eligible for those kinds of financial support. I could just read a section for the Member's benefit: Since the September 1989 signing of the Minnesota-Manitoba agreement on educational co-

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operation by Premier Filmon and Governor Perpich, all forms of financial aid totally supported by state provincial funds shall be available to a participant.

Also, at the discretion of the Minister, students may be granted, upon special consideration, provincial assistance in the form of special opportunity loans or bursaries. For that reason I say, yes, indeed, students who are going to be participating in the institutions in Minnesota would certainly be eligible for that kind of financial support.

I might just add, Mr. Acting Chairman, there was a remark left on the record by the Member from the Liberal Party from Transcona (Mr. Kozak) that perhaps there was a hint of the province not showing accurately some of these responsibilities or some of these debts that may be incurred as a result of grants to the universities.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to indicate very clearly and unequivocally that the province does account for all grants and all expenditures made to universities or whomever it may be.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairman, I would urge the Minister refer again only to the Minnesota agreement, the agreement that was signed between Governor Perpich and the Premier (Mr. Filmon). I would urge him to make sure that the same reciprocal kinds of agreements are available with schools in North Dakota, particularly those related to speech pathology. I am aware of a situation that occurred this fall where that was not available. I hope the Minister can undertake to make sure that those kinds of reciprocal arrangements are made. We need those professionals, and this is a particularly urgent area.

I leave that, Mr. Acting Chairperson, and move to the question of the possibility of establishing a northern post-secondary educational institution. I am wondering if the Minister can indicate whether the Universities Grants Commission, the adult post-secondary education division or anyone in the department is currently reviewing the possibility of establishing an institution, a polytechnic institution, a university-type institution, not necessarily a campus-based institution but an institution that would have a Board of Governors, that would be representative of the groups interested in post-secondary education in northern Manitoba.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I can allude to two courses of actions that I guess have been undertaken since I took over office of the Minister of Education. First of all, as the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is aware, the Keewatin Community College put out a discussion paper on a northern college concept, which was circulated through the North.

I might add we have had some very positive feedback from many of the communities in northern Manitoba with regard to that paper. There are certainly some areas that need to be changed; that is always the case with a discussion paper, and that is why it is put out. But, indeed, that was certainly a positive kind of initiative that was undertaken by Keewatin Community College.

I can indicate also that recently I have had discussions with the Universities Grants Commission director with

regard to an approach to providing northern Manitoba with university programming. Now, as the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) indicates, it is not necessarily the case where we have to build an institution in the North, but certainly there needs to be a way to address the needs of northern Manitobans where they are not going to be expected to travel to Winnipeg or Brandon to get their university education. Courses are being delivered at the present time and, in some instances in northern Manitoba, through Inter-Universities North. Also, the new Bachelor of Nursing program at Keewatin Community College is, I guess, a new breakthrough in that it is the first time that we have had a university program delivered out of a community college.

There needs to be a greater collaboration, if you like, between universities and our community colleges, and especially in northern Manitoba where it is more difficult to deliver programs. The question of whether we are looking at a northern polytechnic or something of that nature is—the only way I can respond to it accurately is to indicate that we are looking at the whole area of how we as a province can provide better programming for post-secondary education in northern Manitoba. We include in that both the community college programs and the university programs that need to be delivered in that part of the province.

Mr. Storie: I am pleased to hear the Minister's position on that, because my colleague, the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) at the University of Winnipeg, said that the Liberals did not support the idea of a northern university. I emphasize that it is not a question of a campus necessarily, although you would have to have a headquarters, but it is a question of co-ordination because there are IUN courses. The University of Manitoba has courses; Red River Community College has courses; the Swampy Creek Tribal Council has courses; KCC has courses. They span the range of university, college, and adult continuing education courses. But what Northerners are looking for is some more direct control. I include in that not only northern communities but northern bands.

* (2020)

It leads me to my next question with respect to the Minister's position, or any correspondence that he might have had with federal colleagues, federal Ministers, with respect to the changes that the federal Government has implemented in guidelines respecting funding to post-secondary education for Native students, the E-12 guidelines. I am wondering whether the Minister can tell us what the province's position has been and what this Minister has done to see the continuance of a program that has done much to ensure that Native students who manage, through a good deal of hard work, to make it to a point where they can enter a post-secondary institution and now find, as increasing numbers succeed, that they are being turned away because of a federal Government decision.

Mr. Derkach: First of all, to the first remarks the Member made with regard to northern delivery of programs. I know the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is very interested in that whole area; he

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represents the community of Flin Flon and therefore has a sincere interest, I believe, in what goes on in terms of program delivery. I have to say that we believe that Northerners deserve the kinds of educational opportunities that Southerners have enjoyed for a long time. For that reason, the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) has undertaken some very special initiatives to ensure that we can deliver programming in northern Manitoba.

I have some concern about the ACCESS programs that are being negotiated now, I guess, through the Northern Development Agreement which will take on a different form. There is, I think, a will from the federal Government to involve Native people from Manitoba more directly in the kind of programming that is delivered and the kind of programming that is necessary for their people in northern Manitoba. I do not necessarily look at that as a bad thing. I think it is a new way of looking at things; it is a new involvement.

I have spoken about the necessity of parents becoming involved in education in our public school system, in our private school system. I believe that extends also to community involvement and community involvement in northern Manitoba. That would certainly involve the Native communities. So I think we have progressed considerably. The Member is quite right when he says that we have a proliferation of programming in northern Manitoba and that it is difficult for somebody in that area to understand exactly what is available and where. For that reason there has to be some kind of cooperation, some kind of focus put on the delivery of programs in northern Manitoba.

We have attempted to do that by simply bringing the administration of the Northern Training Employment Agency under Keewatin Community College, which does not mean that we extend the Keewatin Community College's boundaries. It means that the employment agency is still very alive in delivering programs. Now the reporting mechanism is different. It is more coherent, and it ensures that northern programs are in fact going to be administered and delivered by Northerners.

It is a beginning. With the new Conawapa dam project coming on stream in the next few years there are going to be needs for training programs in northern Manitoba. For that reason, yes, we have to take a look at what the best possible way of delivering programs in northern Manitoba is. I believe there is a need to take a look at how we can deliver northern university programs. There is a need for greater collaboration between the community college concept and the university concept. That all has to be developed into a way of delivering programs which is effective, which is efficient and which is done by the people of the North as much as possible.

Mr. Storie: I appreciate much of the sentiment the Minister expressed. I am a little concerned about his comments about the ACCESS program. He says he is concerned. I think it is almost too late to be concerned. The fact is that the Minister has told us publicly and told us in committee that there will be no new Northern Development Agreement. One of the goals of the previous Government—and the Minister talked about

the proliferation of courses. The proliferation of courses in northern Manitoba occurred under the NDP Government because we have a real commitment to delivering post-secondary education courses in the North. That is why there was a Limestone Training and Employment Agency. That is why there were ACCESS programs. That is why the KCC developed regional offices.

What we are seeing now under this Minister is actually a cutback. We are going to see the elimination of some of these programs, and the Minister says, well, I have some concerns about ACCESS. He is not exactly being consistent, because we are seeing the programs being diminished, we are seeing no new Northern Development Agreement which funded more than half of those programs. We are losing 60 percent of the dollars that went into the Human Resource section of the Northern Development Agreement—60 percent of the dollars because it was a 60-40 agreement.

We have a real problem. I hope the Minister is sincere when he says that he intends to pursue the idea of that kind of an institution, and I will be anxious to see whether the dollars are forthcoming from the province to fund it adequately.

The other side of the question is the relationship between the federal Government, the provincial Government and the bands, because over the next generation of students in northern Manitoba we are going to see an increasing number of students come from band-run schools and from Frontier School in communities where there are both Metis and band communities.

Native people in northern Manitoba and across the country have only in the last generation really adopted education and the need for education as part of their own philosophy of life, and now to have those opportunities limited, either by carelessness on the part of this Minister and this Government in letting agreements like the Northern Development Agreement lapse, or more callously by cutting programs because they do not believe they are adequate, or by having their federal colleagues cut funding support to Natives who want to pursue post-secondary educations, is moving in the span of a few years in absolutely the wrong direction. So I am hoping this Minister will be more than supportive. I hope that when push comes to shove this Minister will put up the provincial dollars to maintain those programs and not let them collapse on themselves.

He has failed to give us any promises about the next generation of students, for example, in BUNTEP. He has not promised us there will be a similar intake to the previous years on BUNTEP, Northern Nurses Training, Northern Social Work Program. If that is not forthcoming, then it is a major failing on the part of the Conservative Governments of both the province and the federal Government. So I hope that comes.

I have one further question—and the Minister may want to answer it in response to the comments I put on the record—and that is, why is there no funding for the Faculty of Management Support in the Department of Education? Why is that left to Section

1.(f) of Industry, Trade and Tourism? What are we hiding? What is the magic here?

Mr. Derkach: Well, there were two areas that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) addressed, and I would like to address the one regarding the northern education programs. I have to say that we have moved a long way in terms of co-ordinating the kinds of programs that are being delivered in northern Manitoba. Despite what the Member for Flin Flon says, there was a disarray in the approach that was used by the former administration with regard to program delivery.

Mr. Acting Chairman, we had to question the method and the effectiveness and the per-pupil cost that some of those programs were in fact showing. I do not think there was ever a look by the former Member, who was then the Minister of Education, at the cost per pupil. And he does not like to hear this. When I was critic of Education, I was not made aware of the per-pupil cost. It was only after I became Minister that I was astounded at the per-pupil costs because of administration slipping, because of inappropriate administration and too much money being set into administration and not nearly enough into program delivery.

* (2030)

With regard to what we are doing in northern Manitoba, Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to indicate that we are committed to delivering the kinds of program opportunities that Northerners need. I point to two programs; first of all the Bachelor of Nursing program which -(interjection)- Well, that is not a northern Manitoba program. Mr. Acting Chairman, I say to him that since 1985 Swampy Cree were trying to establish a Northern Native Bachelor of Nursing Program, and the former Government could not address it. We did address it, and the federal Government had their money in place since 1985, and that same money was used when we came into Government. There was not a penny more put on the table by the federal Government. Mr. Acting Chairman, it was just a matter of sitting down with Swampy Cree, sitting down with the universities, and establishing exactly what we wanted out of this program. We did achieve that.

I point to another program, and that is the child care program that is being delivered out of Thompson by KCC. Up until this year there was no child care program being delivered in that area of the province, any substantive program. Today we have an established child care program in Thompson. That is our commitment.

That is an example of our commitment to northern Manitoba, and yes, we are not prepared at this point in time to indicate what the Northern Development Agreement is replaced by. That will be announced by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), because it is under that department where that kind of negotiations is going on. When we are prepared to make that announcement, Mr. Acting Chairman, I am sure that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) will understand that there are times when you have to change things, but it does not mean that we simply destroy programs—not by any means.

We have committed ourselves as a Government to ensure that those students enrolled in those ACCESS programs are going to be looked after. Indeed they will be able to complete their programs, as they have started. I think that is, at least, an indication from this provincial Government that we are not going to abandon these students. Yes, there are going to be new programs developed, programs which will lead to jobs, programs that are needed for northern Manitobans, but that is down the road. That we will have an opportunity to debate in our next set of Estimates.

So, Mr. Acting Chairman, yes, there is a commitment on our part. The Member just held up the book, the Coopers & Lybrand report on the Winnipeg Education Centre. I have indicated all along that what we wanted to do was find out the effectiveness of these programs. There had not been any indication of an evaluation of that program as far back as I could go. There was never an evaluation done. If the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) knows of one I would appreciate seeing it, because I could not find one. Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to tell you that this was a thorough report done by an independent firm, not by my department, by an independent firm. Here is a firm who speaks very well of the programs that are delivered there.

The next step is to ensure that there is a permanence to those programs, first of all. Then we address the problem or the challenge before us with regard to facilities and space. Mr. Acting Chairperson, I have to tell you that it is not just a matter of slapping up a new building and saying, we have done our job. I think the more important thing is to ensure that the programs that are being delivered are such that meet the needs of the individuals. Secondly, the whole issue of space will be addressed in due course, and it will be addressed in consultation with the people that are affected to ensure that we deliver the best possible program that we can, that we utilize the money to the best possible effectiveness and efficiency.

So I hope that addresses those issues. But you know, Mr. Acting Chairman, I have forgotten what his last question was. If you would not mind repeating it -(interjection)- oh, IT and T funding for the Faculty of Management. It is Government funding for the Faculty of Management; it is not simply funding that goes from IT and T or from my department. The reason that the funding is going from IT and T is no different than funding going from the Department of Agriculture to the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. It is no different; it is money that is designed to be targeted for a specific program. It is a program that the Government supports. It is not a program that should be built in to the appropriation of my department, and it certainly is an appropriate way.

The former Government -(interjection)- wait a minute, Mr. Acting Chairman, he says: why do you have the Universities Grants Commission? The former administration, which the Member was a part of, did fund the Faculty of Agriculture in that way. The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) also called upon me this year to target funding—or his Members did—to the child care program. So he was supportive of that kind of a concept, and now he asks the question, why are we doing it through IT and T; what are we trying to hide?.

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There is nothing hidden at all; it is very upfront. There has been an agreement struck between the university and the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism as to how the money will flow. It is a long-term agreement, Mr. Acting Chairman, and I think it is very appropriate that funds would flow from the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism to a faculty like the Faculty of Management, just as it is appropriate for funds to flow from the Department of Agriculture to the Faculty of Agriculture.

Mr. Storie: Just so the Minister can be more informed on the value of Program 9 of the Northern Development Agreement, in 1987 there was a major review of Program 9 projects. It was conducted I believe by Salazan Associates. It is a fairly thorough review, and I commend it to the Minister before he starts tinkering with programs that are working well.

Mr. Acting Chairman, the Minister expressed the same kinds of concerns about the Winnipeg Education Centre, the education program and the social work program. Those programs have been working for a long time and they are being used as models across the country and in other parts of the world. The fact is that they worked.

The University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg, Brandon College and Brandon University have been around a long time. Until the NDP Government started implementing programs like ACCESS, there were virtually no Native students in our university professional faculties. It is the only thing that has made the difference. If this Minister starts tinkering with them in the mistaken belief that somehow these institutions can respond in the same way to the needs of Native students and northern students, then he is sadly mistaken.

There is ample evidence at the Minister's disposal, at the disposal of the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), to prevent either of those individuals from undermining these programs. If they do, if they sit idly by and watch their federal cousins, together with the Minister of Finance in some budget-slashing exercise, destroy these programs, the losers are going to be approximately 400 people from northern Manitoba per year who are taking advantage of these programs throughout the province in different institutions.

The fact of the matter is the Minister has no excuse, and let him not pretend in this Chamber that he has concerns that have been unanswered. If he wanted the answers they are there, the programs work, they are positive, and they should not be changed.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I cannot let those comments go unanswered. I have to indicate to the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), if he would stick around, that indeed we have done a tremendous amount with regard to programming in northern Manitoba. We have made sure that the money goes to programming rather than administration.

I have to tell you, he talks about the Salazan Report. The Salazan Report did not do a specific study on the Winnipeg Education Centre, and that is the issue we

were talking about. We were not talking about Program 9 evaluation, we were talking about the Winnipeg Education programs, how they were delivered. If he felt so committed to those programs, then why are there staff at the Winnipeg Education Centre today who do not have any long-term contracts, they are all on term contracts. They approached his Government and asked for some security of programs, which they never received. They never received any kind of long-term commitment from that Government that those programs would be in existence.

That is the same way it was with the Limestone Training Agency. Every instructor with the Limestone Training Agency was on term. Mr. Acting Chairman, we amalgamated that with KCC, Keewatin Community College. Now those same staff have permanent contracts. They are no longer on term as they were with the former Government. They now have permanent contracts.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Order, please; order, please.

* (2040)

Mr. Derkach: I will not take any kind of lecture from the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), because we have improved vastly the programs that are being delivered in northern Manitoba, and we will continue to improve them. Our commitment is solid to ensure that opportunities for northern Manitoba are going to be second to none.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Acting Chairman, I could not resist answering into this discussion because this is the most bizarre statement I have heard yet from a Tory Minister talking about their commitment to northern Manitoba, the situation of Northern Manitobans as well.

We can discuss the Limestone Training Authority or what has happened because the Minister forgot to mention the number of employees who quit in disgust over the actions of this Government because of the elimination of the Limestone Training Authority. It has been eliminated as a separate authority. I would like to ask—

An Honourable Member: It has not!

Mr. Ashton: It has not? It does not exist anymore as the way it was previously. What they have done is to absorb some of the functions from KCC. What I really would have said, Mr. Acting Chairperson, is, why did the Government not establish a Conawapa Training Authority? Conawapa is going to be built in a couple of years. One of the reasons we have Limestone Training in place was to put the programs in place on a long-term basis. I believe the Government had a real opportunity.

Instead, they put training in the North on hold. In fact, I would say they have put it back. That is what

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is being said, Mr. Acting Chairperson, by people in the North. Let us talk about the commitment of the Government to education. Northern university—the Minister, in an article in the Thompson Citizen said, no way, it cannot be done, it is not feasible. British Columbia has a northern university that is just being brought into place. What did we do? For the Minister of Education, we brought in—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Order, please. Order.

Mr. Ashton: —the Bachelor of Social Work Program; we brought in the Northern Nursing Program; we brought in Civil Technology; we brought in many improvements to education in northern Manitoba. We are committed to a northern university. They have carved the expenditures. When we left office, in terms of northern training -(interjection)- what do you call the Bachelor of Social Work Program, for the Member for Portage (Mr. Connery)? I know you are not aware of it. You have not taken the opportunity to come up north and talk to the many people who have been through that program, or the Northern Nursing Program, or Civil Technology. What we did is that we made it a priority in our negotiations with the federal Government to ensure there was NDA program funding for that. There was a commitment.

I would ask the Minister, really, when is he going to make a commitment to—first of all, let us start with the northern university. It is a concept whose time has come, it has come in British Columbia. It can be done here. We are spending upwards of \$20 million on northern training education. Anyway, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) has said flat, no. It was committed to by the previous NDP Government, and the Minister knows that.

It was going to encompass the existing programs, the existing programs that were in place. I do not understand, Mr. Acting Chairperson, why this Minister likes to get up and expound in his rhetoric when the record of the Conservative Government in terms of northern education is as follows: they have not got a renewal of the Northern Development Agreement which is fundamental to the vast majority of programs that do exist. So even if existing programs have an uncertain future because there has been no renewal -(interjection)- The Education Critic on our side talks about it. They have not even kept security for the programs that exist. We can discuss the Limestone Training Authority; we have discussed it many other times.

That has been changed, you know, without any consultation with Northerners. In terms of the so-called improvements, the Minister has not only not improved, he said, no, flat no to the northern University. That is what he said in my own local paper. He said, no, there is not enough population. It is too expensive, it cannot be done. I would ask just one thing of the Minister, just one basic question on the northern university because I believe it encompasses everything and that is, would he please at least do this: not say “no” right now?

Will he take the opportunity to look at the experience in northern British Columbia where they are bringing

in a northern university? Would he not take the time to consult with Northerners, set up a task force, a committee, an action group, a working group? Go and travel around the North yourself. I do not really care how it is done, but would he please ask Northerners what they feel about the concept? Mr. Acting Chairperson, I believe it is a feasible concept; I believe it is concept that works on the groundwork that is there. Many of these programs, as I said, were brought in by the previous Government. So let now the Minister get into those sorts of things. We can get back into what the Sterling Lyon Government did with trying to cut out IUN and the very few initiatives that took place then.

I do not necessarily want to deal with that. Let us look to the future. Will the Minister, at the very least, agree to consult with Northerners about the northern university? Task force, working group, action committee, himself on a one-person tour: will he do something to get some input from Northerners on this very important thing? As I said, northern British Columbia is getting a northern university. Why not northern Manitoba?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to get up and perhaps inform the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), who I know travels up there once in a while to visit with constituents up there, but as a matter of fact I travelled through the North and visited Thompson last fall. As a matter of fact, they asked me, “Steve who?” when I mentioned the Member’s name. But all facetiousness aside, I have to tell you that—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Order, please. We are dealing with Education.

Mr. Derkach: The Member for Thompson says that I indicated in his local paper that I would not look at a northern university. The accuracy of that quote was that I would not favour a campus, an institution, a structure at Thompson which would indicate another building of a university.

Mr. Acting Chairman, the Member for Thompson says this: would you look at the university concept for northern Manitoba? He was a Member of a Government that sat for six years, and for six years they have had the opportunity—six and a half years of misery for Manitobans. During that period of time, he should have been a very influential Member in his caucus where they could have in fact taken a very serious look at the concept of a northern university in this province, at the concept of amalgamating what was going on in northern Manitoba between the community colleges, the Limestone Training Agency and the university concept. What did they do? They almost killed Keewatin Community College. That is what they did. In fact, another couple of years and I am sure there would not be a Keewatin Community College.

When we talk about programs for northern Manitoba, Mr. Acting Chairman, it is not just merely talking about

developing another university, another edifice in the province. It is important to talk about program delivery and the ability to deliver programs whether it is through a distance education method, whether it is through a direct method. It does not matter as long as programming is delivered there in a very effective way. I have to indicate, besides the best of nursing program which the former Government could not get off its feet, besides the child care program which is new, besides the reorganization of Northern Training and Employment Agency which —(interjection)— They talk about hatcheting it away.

I have to indicate to you that we are delivering more programs this year than has been delivered in the past through the Northern Training and Employment Agency, and to more students at a lower cost. But more than that, Mr. Acting Chairperson, I have to indicate that we have already committed ourselves to exploring the idea of delivering a program via distance education in Flin Flon, in Thompson, in the very areas that those Members represent and should have had some influence over a Government that was in power for six and a half years where they could have delivered programming in northern Manitoba, but they could not. Oh, yes, they had to do something because the federal Government was pushing them to do things.

I have to indicate to you that we are committed to ensuring that programming for the North is there. The NDP did a good job of talking. They certainly did nothing in terms of acting on programming for the North. We have some perfect examples of how we are committed to northern Manitobans. I have listed a few. My colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) has certainly shown the way in which action can happen. The Member has asked, what has he done? What has he done? Well, I have to tell you that we have a land settlement of \$10 million which went to the northern communities which again the New Democrats could not deliver on. It is the flood agreement. There was \$10 million that went to the northern Natives of this province which the former Government could not deliver on.

Over six and a half years, \$31 million over six and a half years; this is \$10 million in one short year, Mr. Acting Chairman, which is vastly different. The New Democrats have not served the North well. This Government will. We are committed to delivering education programs in northern Manitoba and we have shown that in one short year three new programs have been established in northern Manitoba plus a reorganization and the revitalization of a northern community college that the other Government, the New Democrats, had almost killed. That is commitment on our part.

* (2050)

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Item 6.(a) Salaries, \$215,800—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Acting Chairperson, it is nice to enter the fray here. I hope it

is not quite as fraylike. I too have to make a few comments about some of the comments that were made by my colleague from Flin Flon, who likes to relay my statement that was presented at the University of Winnipeg some months ago in which I did say that no, I did not agree with the northern university being built up in the North. The concept of northern studies is I think a tremendous one. I have said many, many times that in fact I think the distance education can be enhanced, that there is a place for certainly some teleconferencing type of presentations, that I think it would be far more cost-effective to have programs such as the nursing program run up in the North when the professors from the school of nursing at the University of Manitoba could go up and make presentations far better as far as costs are concerned.

You know it is interesting how things are taken out of context. I must admit as I listen to the badgering back and forth with the boxing gloves raised for the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), and the Member for Roblin-Russell (Mr. Derkach), the interesting thing was the Member for Roblin-Russell, who talked about his —(interjection)— Yes, you are also, yes, you are the Minister.

The Member for Roblin-Russell (Mr. Derkach) reminds me that he is the Minister. I am reminding him that he is also the Member for Roblin-Russell. He was very concerned about the misinterpretation of the newspaper article from the Thompson newspaper, and I must admit I had to chuckle over that comment because the Member for, well, the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), I am not sure what he is the Member for, who loves to wave the newspaper article from Minnedosa and quoting our Leader and her comments, I can say that newspaper articles can be taken out of context so easily, as can statements be taken out of context that are made when I did say that I do not believe in a northern university to be built when, in fact, the University of Manitoba needs some \$30 million, I understand, to bring it up to the level of appropriate maintenance.

We have talked about the tramping through the steam tunnel and we have talked about the Faculty of Agriculture which I think is a dismal excuse for a building when you have a silo type of thing that is falling off the edge of a building and when there are pictures that were taken I think in 1905 or something with this identical building sitting there. The poor Faculty of Agriculture I think is in an absolutely terrible state.

I do not think that another physical site should be built in either Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas. I think when you have, and I have visited Keewatin Community College on a couple of occasions, a rather new building, a building that is not fully utilized, a building that could be enlarged a little bit if that were necessary, I must say I compliment the Minister for the much better utilization of Keewatin Community College. I think there are programs that are being issued with the Keewatin Community College as the broker. I think in the last couple of years that college is much better utilized than it once was.

Back several moments ago, I think there were some questions about student aid. I am wondering if I could also ask the question, is there an age limit, either at

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the low end of the pendulum or at the upper end of the pendulum for students who apply for student aid? In other words, could a 17-year-old apply for some assistance through student aid, and could in fact a 55-, 60-year-old apply for student aid if the need were presented to the student aid people?

Mr. Derkach: As long as the individual is going to a university or a post-secondary institution and shows need, there is certainly the opportunity for a student 17 years old, or in fact a student beyond 21 or 30 to apply for student assistance to the Canada Student Loan Program.

Mrs. Yeo: I know we are talking about post-secondary education and universities here, but could the Minister tell me if in fact a 17-year-old attending high school who was in need of some assistance could apply for student aid.

Mr. Derkach: I have staff just outside the door. If I could ask them to come in we could get the particulars on this aspect clarified. It is my understanding that if the student is attending a post-secondary institution, they certainly are eligible for student aid; but with regard to high school students, I think there is some limitation there. I will get that information for the Member in just a moment, if she could proceed with another question.

Mrs. Yeo: I will just enlarge upon that. That question had never come across my desk before until this afternoon, as a matter of fact, after Estimates were over this afternoon. I picked up all my pink slips and went down and made my return calls. Because I do not have the staff available that some people do in this House, I do all my own phoning basically.

The question was raised to me by a young gentleman who said that he was in difficulty. He was attending a high school, and he was denied student aid. He was a 17-year-old person. I discussed the Taylor Avenue phone calls, et cetera, and he said that he was told that if there was a problem he should call his elected official and, therefore, he was calling me to say how come this discrimination exists.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I deal personally with, I would say, more than 50 of these kinds of situations in a year, and I have just been there a short time. But certainly when an individual has a problem with student aid and we hear about it, we try to ensure that through the process of going through the appeal board, the matter is dealt with adequately.

I am not aware of the individual that the Member speaks of, but certainly if we could have that individual's name we would certainly look into it and ensure whether, in fact, the person fit the criteria to receive a student loan. There are criteria that are set down. First of all, if the student shows need, then that student will be considered.

For high school bursaries, Mr. Acting Chairman, we do have several approaches. First of all, there is the Incentive Awards Program which is available for students who are living at home, and that amounts to

\$275 on a monthly basis or an annual basis. That is an annual basis, I am sorry, and those who are living away from home it is \$550.00.

There is also a maximum of \$900 for students in exceptional cases, but these are limited kinds of assistance programs that are given to high school students. However, if that student is attending a post-secondary institution then, indeed, he or she is eligible for the same student loans that any other student qualifies for in the province. It again depends on need. If there is a situation where an individual has been denied student aid, I would be very happy to look into it to assure the person that, indeed, he or she has been dealt with in a fair and a proper manner.

Mrs. Yeo: I thank the Minister for those comments and I certainly thank his staff for running in armed with the information. I had requested that this young man put his concerns in writing, because as the Minister I am sure is aware, you can get all kinds of phone calls. In the translation it is sort of like playing the party game and I think it is much better to have the request in writing.

My recommendation to the young fellow was to speak to the school counsellor, Bob Robbie, who is at Silver Heights Collegiate. I thought that perhaps there could be some identification of the problem in clearing up at that local level. However, I can assure the Minister if this fellow follows up and does present something in writing, I shall in fact be pleased to forward that to the Minister or the Deputy Minister to perhaps deal directly with the young man.

* (2100)

Moving on then to some questions about university funding, I have just read an article in the CGA magazine, January 1990, in which they talk about audits and greater accountability. Accountability is the term that the Minister and I have used, or the Minister has used, quite frequently with regard to the funding of independent schools as an example. I think when the dollar is getting lower and lower or it is more and more difficult to access the dollar, I think that there must be greater accountability. I am wondering if the Minister could clarify if our universities, our four university settings in Manitoba, have a requirement for both internal and external audits done, if this is a way of existence.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, there are I guess several ways in which universities are held accountable for the funds that they spend. First of all, each of the universities goes through a process of internal audit. Then there is also the external auditor, who does the books if you like of the university, and then we have accountability through the Provincial Auditor as well. In addition, the universities all put out an annual statement, which is certainly a method of public accountability for programs and for finances that are spent by the universities. So there are checks and balances in place.

We are also insuring that, and this may be on a different topic, but going back to student aid if you

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like, we try to collect all outstanding accounts with regard to student aid. There is a vigorous attempt to try and collect every account possible. There are always those that we will never collect because of all kinds of extenuating circumstances. Certainly the board of governors has some control through appointing an external auditor and as I mentioned there is a Provincial Auditor and also the annual report which each of us here has access to.

Mrs. Yeo: The Minister raised the concern about trying to collect the loans that the students have received. The students I believe are currently concerned about the 3 percent administration fee or whatever it is. Is that in fact a fee that is going to be implemented? Is it a fait accompli? Is it something that is most likely to be established or is it still in the query stage? Is it a question mark?

Mr. Derkach: My understanding is that Mr. deCotret did announce that it was in fact going to be imposed on all student loans and that it would be effective for the 1990-91 school term or '91 school term. Mr. Acting Chairman, it is something that we do not support. I feel that it is important that we try and make every dollar available possible to students who need the money. It is obvious that those who need it most are going to be paying the highest administration fee and so, quite frankly, we find it very, very difficult to try and support an initiative of that nature.

Mrs. Yeo: Is there then anticipated an increase in the level of funding that will be available to the individual student to perhaps help offset this 3 percent fee, because it will mean that there will be extreme difficulties for some students, I would say a good number of students in the urban setting and probably even moreso from the rural communities?

Mr. Derkach: My understanding is that the student loan surcharge if you like will be imposed on the students and it will be attached to their student loans which they will have to repay when they set out in the world of work. It is an added cost to the students and we are absolutely opposed to any kind of a move which creates an additional burden to those students who need financial support most.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me if he has been in contact with any of the student presidents from the universities with regard to the statements that he has made in a very sensitive manner in the House?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Acting Chairman, I have not been in touch with any of the student presidents personally and that is not really the way Government does conduct its affairs. We understand the students' concern about that. The Student Advisory Committee did meet with regard to this issue and expressed great dissatisfaction at it and I understand that, but certainly it is now up to myself as the Minister of Education and our Government to approach the federal Government and to voice our displeasure.

The Canadian Council of Education Ministers will be meeting next week and at that point in time we will be

discussing this very important item, because it does affect every province in this country. For that reason all Education Ministers and all Ministers who have responsibility for post-secondary areas have a great concern about how this is going to impact on the students within their jurisdictions.

Mrs. Yeo: I hope that we in Manitoba would hear the Minister bellowing clear across the land.

Pay equity is a concern that we are hearing from both the public and the private sector. There are a lot of people who believe that there should be more table thumping with regard to pay equity. Can the Minister tell us how the implementation of pay equity is moving at all four universities? Are we moving toward the full implementation of pay equity at the four universities?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the status of pay equity at the universities is that it has all been implemented at the three universities and at the St. Boniface College, so it is basically in place at the present time.

Mrs. Yeo: During the process of Estimates the last time we asked some questions about the Universities Grants Commission because there were some individuals within the university community who wondered whether in fact the UGC had a place, if there was not a better way of applying for funds, if it would not be better to have direct submissions, et cetera, from the various faculties. Has there been a change in the direction, or does the Minister still believe that the UGC is a worthwhile organization as it stands now?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to indicate that there has been no change with regard to the relationship between Government, the Universities Grants Commission and the university. Certainly there has been some discussion between the university presidents, myself and the Universities Grants Commission of how perhaps we should look, in the future, at other ways in terms of the relationship between Government and the universities. To date there has been no change in the way that the relationship exists between Government, Universities and the Grants Commission.

Mrs. Yeo: The University of Manitoba is currently after—"a drive for excellence" I believe is the term that they have. They are doing extremely well in soliciting funds from the students, from the faculty, from the alumni, et cetera.

The other type of funding that is a term sort of funding is the University Development Fund, which I believe was established in '86-87. Can the Minister tell me how much money is still available for funding from the UDF, the University Development Fund, and what these amounts are going to be targeted for?

* (2110)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, we are in the fourth year, is it—we will be in the third year of the University Development Fund, and we still have about \$12 million

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available through the University Development Fund to date.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there any specific projects that a portion of these funds are actually targeted for? Are there any specific projects?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I can tell you what the most recent allocations have been. Certainly if the Member wants the allocations from the time that the University Development Fund was established I could provide a list. Most recently, I could tell you that there was an endowment fund at St. Boniface College which was established; there was \$100,000 there. With regard to the steam plant at Brandon, there was \$1.2 million allocated for that particular area, and the University of Manitoba's School of Dentistry Program was \$1.5 million. There was also one at the University of Winnipeg which I will get for the Member.

Mrs. Yeo: Is there any directive given from the Minister's department or even the UGC as far as the drive for excellence goes, or is that funding directly up to Cavanaugh and the other people who are involved with that particular drive. Is that an autonomous source of money when they finally reach their goal?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman, that is really the part of the university, it is their sort of responsibility if you like in terms of their way of raising funds from their alumnae and through other sources. It is not something that we as a Government have any specific control over, or we do not have any responsibility for?

The project for the University of Winnipeg as well as some \$700,000 which went to scientific equipment and other aspects within the university.

Mrs. Yeo: I am certainly pleased to hear that because I know one of the concerns that some of the people in the sciences at all of our universities say is that they have very antiquated microscopes and that sort of thing with which they are trying to teach the up and coming scientists of the next century.

The International Baccalaureate Program is one that raises concerns for people across the province, certainly more for people who are involved with I believe the four programs that are available in urban Manitoba. One of the concerns raised of course is the fact that it is still considered to be a piloted program. The other concern that I have heard from time to time is from graduates of the program who claim that they could in fact access universities in other jurisdictions and be granted full credit for one year, whatever.

Certainly the graduates from Lester Pearson College have been accepted at universities like McGill and move right into the second year of the program. I understand that there is some policy now at the universities in Manitoba that will not grant a full first year, but will grant, I am not sure what they call it, advanced placement in some of the programs or credits for some of the programs. Can the Minister describe the policies at U of M, U of W and Brandon University with regard to the acceptance of full IB graduates from the program?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to indicate that first of all it is really up to the universities with regard to whether they recognize the IB program for any credit or not. The University of Winnipeg I understand does operate under a policy where anybody who enters the university with an IB program will be eligible for a bursary or free tuition to the university. I understand that at the University of Manitoba, various faculties, will recognize the IB program, but there is no consistent approach by the university itself.

I think that is also the case at Brandon University, although I have not discussed it thoroughly with anybody from Brandon University. I understand in some faculties, even at Brandon University, they will recognize some of the IB Programs.

Mr. Acting Chairman, in a broader sense though, the Member asked whether or not this is because of pilot status. That program has been on pilot for some time and will remain on pilot until such time that we have had a clearer review and indication of what we want to do in a general sense with advanced programs in this province.

Although there have been some suggestions from the Members opposite that we should expand the program and take it off pilot, it would also impose a significant cost upon this province because there is no physical way that we could offer this program in each of the high schools across this province.

Therefore, there are some problems associated with just opening up the floodgates, if you like, and trying to offer the program in each of our high schools. As I indicated this is a topic that will be addressed fully through the High School Review process.

Mrs. Yeo: I would suggest there were other aspects of removing the pilot consideration for the IB Program. One of them would be in fact easier accessibility for students from other school divisions to move to the various programs that are available. I am thinking of Transcona and River East individuals.

Students from Assiniboine South where parents have requested that in fact an IB Program would be made available in the Assiniboine South, the school division has said, no. These parents are sending their children to St. James because I think Kelvin has enough of their own, so they will not accept students from places like Assiniboine South.

If I were to ask the same question and insert, instead of IB, advanced placement, would the Minister's response to acceptance or advanced placement for graduates from the AP Programs into universities, would it be a similar response?

Mr. Derkach: In a general sense, Mr. Acting Chairman, I would have to say, yes, to that question.

Mrs. Yeo: I would like to ask the Minister for a definition, if I could have one. The term accreditation is one that we hear often. The Dental Assistant Program at Red River Community College was one, when we were in that particular area, where we have heard that there is a concern they would lose their accreditation.

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When it comes to programs at the university, it is an issue that has caused concern from time to time. Can the Minister tell me what is meant by the term accreditation when it comes to a school at the campus or a faculty at the campus? Is the term the same?

* (2120)

Mr. Derkach: I am sorry, I did not hear the last part of the Member's question. Could I ask her to repeat the last part of it?

Mrs. Yeo: I have had some discussion with people with regard to the definition for the term accreditation. There has been some statement that the term accreditation is different when it is referring to a school. I am thinking of, say, the School of Nursing, the School of Agriculture, there is also I understand a Faculty of Agriculture. Is accreditation similar whether it relates to a school or to a faculty, which are two different types of programs that are offered at the university?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, it is only accreditation as it relates to the professional faculties. It is usually an association that accredits a particular program. I guess I could use by example the Dentistry Program, which the association would be accrediting.

Basically, it would mean that the program lives up to a certain standard that is acceptable to that association, and that the program delivery and the facilities are such that will ensure that graduates of that program do have a standard of quality when those particular graduates leave that school. Accreditation refers to an association's view of a particular program.

Mrs. Yeo: It is my understanding that accreditation surveys are often done by people from outside of the jurisdiction. In other words, it would not be the Manitoba Dental Association that would review our particular dental faculty. It would be a team that would come made up of across-Canada personnel usually.

I am not sure whether they often use people from south of the border. Maybe with free trade that will occur more frequently. I would like to ask the Minister how often the faculties of our universities have to undertake an accreditation survey or review if you will.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, accreditation is given for a period of time. It varies depending on the faculty and accreditation is, yes, done by a body beyond the jurisdictions of the province. In the case of the dental school, it was done by the Canadian Dental Association. In medicine, it may be done by the Royal College of Physicians, but certainly the program itself is one that is worthy and not one that is done on an annual basis or semi-annual basis. It is one where accreditation is given for a period of time and that period of time may vary, it may be two or three years, it may be five years and at the end of that period a new accreditation review would be done of that particular faculty.

Mrs. Yeo: Brandon University is one that I think often gets sort of shoved off to the side a little bit. The board

of governors' appointees were recently made. Can the Minister tell me if the Minister's department actually makes these appointments, or are they made through some other source?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the appointments to the board of governors are done by Government or by the Minister. I reject the statement that was made by the Member with regard to Brandon University being left to the side. Indeed, in my mind, it is a very prominent university, and certainly we give a lot of attention to a university that serves a large part of our rural province and is a very important university not only to the rural part of this province but indeed to some international, some very good international programs and students that attend that university. I reject the statement that suggests that perhaps Brandon University is in some way a second-class university, because it is not.

Mrs. Yeo: I certainly did not say that Brandon University was a second-class university in any way, shape or form. I was sort of amused to hear the Premier (Mr. Filmon) say that the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) was an alumnus of Brandon University, when the Premier is an alumnus of Margaret Scott School, and see what happens to that.

The Brandon University BUNTEP program is one that has been demonstrated to have tremendous success. The statistics that come from the BUNTEP program are impressive indeed. I am wondering if there will be a thrust to in fact enlarge that particular program because it is demonstrating such success.

Mr. Derkach: If you were not so nice, I would take issue with that.

Mrs. Yeo: Oh, I do not know, why change?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, we have spent far too much time on some of these small issues in these Estimates for me to start taking issue with the comment made regarding the Margaret Scott School and Brandon University. I fail to see the correlation. Let me say that the BUNTEP program has indeed been a very successful program. I have to tell you that when we came to Government the BUNTEP program was run out of the Polaris buildings. I know that the Member for Sturgeon Creek perhaps is not familiar with the Polaris buildings in Thompson—she says she is—but it did not give the program any kind of profile whatsoever. It was buried with a whole series of other programs.

Because of the success of the program, I think there was a need to give it some kind of focus in Thompson at least. For that reason we have a BUNTEP program now which does have a focal point in Thompson. It has its own office if you like. It has its own facility. It will have its own sign which will indicate at least to northern Manitobans that the BUNTEP program is alive and well and is certainly meeting the needs of many educators in the city of Thompson and in the northern area of our province. Yes, we believe the BUNTEP program has done a very good job in training teachers for northern Manitoba and for the rest of the province. I think it is one that should be continued into the future.

Mrs. Yeo: The enrollment increases at Brandon University are interesting to watch as well. I think there was an increase of some 6.6 percent this last year. In one of the faculties, the Faculty of Education, the largest increase took place. However, it is my understanding that a good number of those students that are enrolled in that particular faculty come in fact from Ontario. This raises some concern from individuals throughout Manitoba who are in fact forecasting a change to what was once a glut of teachers in Manitoba, so much so that young graduates of the program have had to go to such places as California to find jobs as teachers.

The concern there is that if we are going to be facing a shortage of teachers in Manitoba and we are in fact using a lot of our Manitoba taxes, because as the Minister said earlier this evening tuition fees for students at the universities pay just a very small portion of the actual costs of teaching these students, in fact if we are spending a lot of Manitoba tax dollars to educate teachers for Ontario and then sending by far the majority of them back to Ontario to practise. Is there some move toward perhaps limiting the number of out-of-province students in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University that the Minister knows of?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to indicate that I think as Manitobans we should be proud that we have teachers who are graduates of our universities who in fact take positions outside of this province and outside of this country because indeed they are taking their skills into many of the areas of this world, which I think we can be proud of.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I do not see anything on the horizon which should indicate that we restrict the movement of teachers outside of this province or that we should restrict the admission of students who are coming from outside of this province into some of these faculties. I do not know how we would start to limit admission to some of these programs.

The Premier is right. He says, what will the next step be? Will it be limiting foreign students into our universities? I think that is a regressive approach and one that I am not prepared to take and certainly one that we have not discussed in any way, shape or form within our department.

* (2130)

Mrs. Yeo: Are there spots in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University that Manitoba students are unable to access because they are being filled dramatically by students from Ontario and in fact other foreign students?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Acting Chairman, that does not exist.

Mrs. Yeo: I am glad to hear that, because the concern was raised to me in fact that there were some students from the rural communities and from high schools around the Brandon University area who were having difficulty getting into the program. I am glad to hear that is not the case.

The Child Care Program at the University of Manitoba is one of the other concerns that has been raised, or the lack of this particular program, a Child Care Worker III Program. There was some concern in fact that the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Human Ecology was going to lose its facility and that the CCW III Program was not going to be continued.

Can the Minister tell us today whether in fact there will be funding targeted for this specific program that will be ready to operate in September of 1990?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, we are not into the discussion of the 1990-91 Estimates yet. I would suggest to the Member that that will probably have more appropriate time to discuss this particular issue. That is the kind of funding that is under consideration in the '90-91 Estimates, and I am not prepared at this time to indicate our position on that. I could just say that we are considering it in the preparation of our next Estimates.

Mrs. Yeo: Well you know, we have from time to time talked about the vision that ends at the end of one's nose. It makes it very difficult for people. A social planning council of Winnipeg was one that raised the concern and the people from human ecology have raised the concern, and they want to be able to plan for beyond the end of this particular term. The Minister is saying that there will be no commitment and so these people might as well not hire professors, they might as well not take the opportunity to enhance their staffs, because this Minister will give no commitment.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, this is the perfect example of how the Liberals and the New Democrats have squandered away the Estimate time and prolonged the Estimates to such an extent that now they are beginning to see the error of their ways. Had these Estimates been passed in the regular course of time, we indeed would be in a position today to be talking about what the '90-91 Estimates should look like. It was not the responsibility of us on this side of the House to get on with the Estimates. That is something that we have been trying to encourage the Opposition to do time and time and time again. Finally after squandering their time and finally running out of time, they are pleading to have us tell them what will happen—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Order, please.

Mr. Derkach: —in the 1990-1991 Estimates. Mr. Acting Chairman, let us get through these Estimates and then we will be able to proceed on with the '90-91 Estimates.

Mrs. Yeo: That is more of the ridiculous comment that the Minister made last Thursday in trying to blame the Opposition for asking stupid questions. I can assure the Minister that I have not asked one single question for which I have not sincerely wanted an answer and I find it rather degrading and irresponsible of the Minister to make such comments.

The Northern Bachelor of Social Work program in Thompson is one that needed some federal funding,

I believe, and I am wondering how that particular program is moving.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, may I indicate first of all that I have never suggested for one instant that the questioning of the Member for Sturgeon Creek was stupid. I never did. I just indicated, I have talked about squandering of valuable Estimate time but I did not suggest that her questioning was stupid in any way, shape or form.

With regard to the social development program, Mr. Acting Chairman, that again is a social worker program under the NDA. That is the section we have already passed but it is run by the universities -(Interjection)-

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Order, please. I have recognized the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Derkach: It is one of the Northern Development programs that is currently under discussion through the Department of Northern and Indian Affairs.

Mrs. Yeo: There was also a proposal or a request for an administrative studies program to be started at Brandon University. Back to Brandon University, the very good university that we were talking about before, can the Minister tell me at what stages the administrative studies program for Brandon University is?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, there certainly is a request from the Brandon University to recognize a major in business administration but again that is a request that is going to be considered in the upcoming '90-91 Estimates.

Mrs. Yeo: We can certainly look forward to the 1990-91 questions. The Manitoba Council of Reading Clinicians is a special interest council, I think, associated with the International Reading Association and their field of expertise is literacy which I think is a very important area, which we talked about before, and they were quite concerned because they felt that there was a pulling back of funding to the Faculty of Education. Can the Minister tell me if there has been a decrease in funding to the Faculty of Education so that people prepared at the pre-Masters and Masters levels are going to be available?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am not aware of anything of that nature, but I have to indicate again to the Member that our funding goes to the Universities Grants Commission and then to the universities. It is up to each individual university to allocate its funding to the faculties as that university sees fit, and it is not something that I personally get involved in.

Mrs. Yeo: Surely the Minister is not saying that he has nothing to do with encouraging funding to specific areas when we were talking a while ago about targeting funds to the Faculty of Management at the University of Manitoba. Surely the education of educators is very important. The Minister must feel that in order for his

public and independent schools to have adequately prepared educators that the Faculty of Education is perhaps one of the key faculties at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

* (2140)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to tell the Member for Sturgeon Creek, with regard to the Faculty of Management program, that program is not being funded through my department as she well knows.

Secondly, the request came from the university for special funding to bring that kind of program up to a world-class level, if you like. Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to tell you that to date I have not received a request for any specific kind of funding with regard to the Education Faculty.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me if there is a joint university-Red River College degree program planned for the child care program or if in fact there is one that currently operates?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, there is no program of that nature available at the present time. As I indicated to the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) this whole area of greater collaboration between the universities and the community colleges is one that staff from my department, the Universities Grants Commission, are exploring and discussing at a very preliminary stage. Those kinds of discussions will continue. There is no joint degree program between any of our community colleges and our university at this time.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell us if there is any program that is in the planning stage, if there are some preliminary drafts of curricula, of programs, that are being looked at or prepared at this point for either joint administration and presentation from either Red River, KCC, Assiniboine Community College, Brandon and any of the universities?

Mr. Derkach: There is not any specific program I can pinpoint that is being discussed at the present time. I have to indicate that those kinds of preliminary discussions are taking place and that kind of exploration is taking place within the department and the Universities Grants Commission. There has not been any specific program that has been worked on as a joint degree program between the college and the university.

Mrs. Yeo: The Minister has indicated that there are a larger number of seats for Child Care Worker II programs at the various community colleges. Has he given some thought to where the educators, directors, supervisors and administrators of the child care worker programs of the future are going to come from if in fact there are only Child Care Worker II programs being prepared as of today?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I had indicated that the Child Care Worker III Program through the

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University of Manitoba is something that is going to be considered in the '90-91 Estimates. I am not going to say any more than that at this particular time. The Member will just really have to wait until the debate of the '90-91 Estimates or an official announcement with regard to our approach on that program.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Item 6.(a) Salaries \$215,800—the Honourable Member for Ellice.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): I have just one final question for the Minister of Education. I can appreciate he is saying they are considering the child care course for Estimates for 1990-91. I know that the departments are right now into looking at budgets. In fact, some departments are already preparing X budgets.

I am wondering if the Minister can indicate to us—I am not asking him for a commitment of whether the funding will be there, I am asking the Minister to indicate to the Chamber this evening, does he as the Minister of Education support the implementation of the child care studies course through the Faculty of Human Ecology at the University of Manitoba?

Mr. Derkach: Indeed I can tell the Member that is an important program and it is just one of many programs that I think are important and deserve support that needs to be considered by my department and by Government. Yes, it is one of the many programs, many very important programs that have been put forth to examine in terms of practicality of deliveries, in terms of priority for the universities and for Government. It will be considered in that context.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister tell us, given that, yes, there would be a number of programs which the department would feel would be very valuable programs, what is the criteria that his department is using in order to determine which programs will be receiving serious consideration in the 1990-91 Estimates?

Mr. Derkach: It depends on a variety of issues and I guess it depends on the program that is put forth with regard to how it is viewed. First of all, how does that program fit in the universities scope of priorities? Then that program will be discussed by the Universities Grants Commission with regard to the funding available for the program, whether or not that program can be funded from the general grant that is given to the Universities Grants Commission and then is subsequently given to the universities, or whether in fact there is a need to look at it as a special program. Indeed it is looked at by several bodies before it really gets to my desk and the decisions are made by the Universities Grants Commission, by the board of governors, by the senate and the university. It goes through several steps, several processes before it reaches my desk.

When the Member asks for a set of criteria, there is not one set of criteria that you can adapt to any of these programs. It is, I think, all of the considerations with regard to priorities, with regard to funding, with regard to the need of a program, with regard to shortage

of professionals within that faculty; all of those things are considered when one examines whether or not a new Chair should be established or a new program should be offered.

Ms. Gray: If there is not one set of criteria then the Minister is saying there is a number of sets of criteria. I would like to know what criteria is his department using when determining what they see as the direction that they would like to see the universities go in regard to programs that they may offer. What is the department's criteria? Yes, the university may have one set of criteria, but I am sure the department must have another.

If you are looking at multiyear budgeting and multiyear planning, you must have some sense of the direction that you would like to see post-secondary education go, or what are some of the areas? I would just like to get a sense from the Minister as to what that is.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, it depends on a variety of things, as I indicated. First of all, we take a look at the need of a program in the context of the programs that are available to the province, and the shortage of programs, the shortage of professionals within that given area, the need perhaps for professionals within that given area, whether there is the market for that kind of person in the province, and then universities have a responsibility to identify their priorities with regard to programs.

For example, if child care is of the utmost importance as the university sees it, then that university will put that program forth, I would think, to the Universities Grants Commission. The Universities Grants Commission would then identify the needs in terms of availability of those kinds of professionals in the province at the time, of whether there are other programs which are similar in nature, whether there are other programs of that very same nature available, not only in other universities in the province, but indeed in universities in an adjoining jurisdiction, and whether it may be more beneficial to us to be able to secure some spots at a university outside of our jurisdiction.

When we consider programs, there are a variety of areas that one has to consider, and that is really done by the Universities Grants Commission, and that information then is fed back to myself as Minister and subsequently to Government.

* (2150)

Ms. Gray: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I thank the Minister for that answer and for that clarification.

Following up then on his comments, could he perhaps tell us what are some of the professions that have been identified in regard to there being a shortage of in Manitoba? He mentioned that would be a criterion. Could he, maybe, indicate five or six of the professions where it has been identified that there is a shortage now or will be in the next two or three years?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I think there are a variety of professions that there is a shortage of in

Manitoba. Indeed, if you talk to many of the professionals in this province, any one of them will indicate that there is a shortage of those types of people within their particular industry. I could just point to a few and I am sure the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) would understand.

The ophthalmologists, there is a shortage in that area. There is the psychogeriatrics that we have some shortages in. We have shortages in reading specialists, in speech therapists, the identified shortage of child care worker III's. What we have to do is establish what is the greatest need, where it falls, and then try to sort it out in that way. I do not think there is a Government present today in any jurisdiction in this country that can address all the needs that are before it. What we have to do is prioritize what is the greatest need, and then address it from that point.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Item 6.(a) Salaries \$215,800—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Acting Chairperson, I think the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) did ask the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) a number of questions on the post-graduate education programs, and the Minister has said that it is not his responsibility. It is the Minister of Health's (Mr. Orchard) responsibility. Can he confirm it, that this is not his responsibility?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Acting Chairman, what I did say was there is a co-operative effort between the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and my department and the universities.

If, for example, the School of Medicine would determine that in the field of ophthalmology, which we are talked about on several occasions, there is a shortage of professionals in that particular area then that request would be made to the university and the university then would put that together and make its presentation to the Universities Grants Commission. The Universities Grants Commission would then have the responsibility of ensuring they have heard the request from the university and that they would put it as a priority, that the university has put forth, and then address it from that perspective.

There has to be co-operation between departments, especially in important areas like this. I know that the Member, as a professional doctor, would understand that it just cannot be Education setting the sort of the programs as we think the need arises. There has to be consultation between the medical profession, the Department of Health, the Department of Education and then indeed there has to be some commitment from Government with regard to allocating enough funding to the universities to be able to offer those programs. Sometimes it is a matter of upgrading facilities. Sometimes it is a matter of upgrading standards and teachers, in some instances. So there is a variety of things that come into play and I have to indicate that we are trying to do our utmost to ensure that we address the most critical needs in this province first with the limited resources that we have.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, can the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) tell us if he has received any request from the Health Sciences Centre, especially the section of post-graduate medical education, in regard to the future plans for all the post-graduate programs in Manitoba to meet the needs as the trend is changing all over Canada? Has he received any special request?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I can indicate that there is ongoing dialogue between the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and myself with regard to the many needs that have been expressed by the medical profession and many of the people in the field.

I guess, I could point to an example of how we are trying to address some of the needs by pointing to a significant grant of money that was given to the physical and occupational therapy program at the Health Sciences Centre. Indeed, this was a co-operative effort between the Department of Health and my department to ensure that we addressed the need that was very evident. We are doing this on an ongoing basis.

There are always hurdles to cross. It is not just a matter of saying: well, there is a need, now that it has been identified let us address it. We set our budgets a year ahead of time. When we set our budgets last year many of the problems that have arisen since then were not evident at that time. Although they were sort of ones that were emerging over a period of time they were not made known to us at that particular time.

Since then we have identified some areas. There are some problems with physical space for one thing, as example, to the Dental Assistant Program at Red River Community College. There has been an identified need there to upgrade facilities or else we lose accreditation.

There are all kinds of problems like that that have to be addressed. It is a matter of asking the universities and our health science facilities and our medical professions to perhaps begin planning longer into the future and letting Governments know priorities and what the needs are going to be two and three and four years down the road. That is difficult to do sometimes, but I think that we have to start projecting it in that way if we are to address the needs that are before us and the needs that are going to be before us down the road.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am not sure whether the Minister is aware that today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow there is a three-day inspection at the Health Sciences Centre for all the post-graduate programs. Can the Minister of Education tell us if he has received any communication from the Department of Post-Graduate Medical Education to make sure that all these programs get accreditation?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Acting Chairman, that is not something that I would get involved in directly. Indeed if there is a problem that is identified through the process, it is at that time that I would be apprised of the details of the problem, the nature, and then indeed I would have to make some decisions. Government would have to make some decisions in co-operation

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with other departments as to how we would address those particular areas of concern.

Sometimes when problems are identified, they are internal and can be corrected very easily within the profession itself or the facility itself. When they become so evident, as was the case with the School of Dentistry that it has to be addressed by Government, that is when it would come to my attention. Then it would be our responsibility to react and propose some kind of a course of action to correct the problem.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I have a final question to the Minister again as regards the school of speech therapy. It was reported over the weekend that the process was in place, and they were supposed to be meeting with the right people who are going to make a decision. Can the Minister of Health tell us today if this Government is committed to establish a school of speech therapy in the near future and what is the time frame?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am not aware of the specific discussions the Member speaks about, but I can indicate to him that again establishing a school for speech therapists would be a major consideration, a major initiative, one that would take a certain amount of deliberation.

We have at the present time a good working relationship with our colleges to the south. We will try to enhance our relationship even more than it is today to ensure that those students would come back to Manitoba as an example.

I think our priority first of all rather than establishing a school here would be to ensure that graduates from the schools that are to the south in North Dakota would be attracted to our province. Perhaps we should try and put our money into bringing back those professionals so that they could indeed practise in this province and provide some much needed service, I might add, to this province.

The shortage of speech therapists is prevalent throughout the country, and it is a problem that every jurisdiction is going to have to address over the next while. I cannot be more specific than that at this point in time.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, over the weekend, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the school of speech therapy and audiology had a conference here and their regards to the education process. During that time there was a media report over the weekend indicating the possibility of establishing a school for speech pathology. It was my understanding through the executive members that ongoing presentations are going on so that there could be establishment of a school, probably within a year or two years. I am not sure about the whole situation, but I would like the Minister to put on the record, is he aware of such a development to establish a school?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am aware of many discussions that have gone on with regard to speech

therapy and the shortage of speech therapists in the province and the fact that there are some who would indeed like to see a faculty right here in the Province of Manitoba.

However, I do not think it has gone so far as to have the University of Manitoba or the University of Winnipeg in a position where they are prepared to make presentation to the Universities Grants Commission. The Universities Grants Commission has not received that request at this time. Indeed we will deal with it in the whole realm of priorities that we would have to deal with in affording our funding to universities in the next year.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): The hour being 10 p.m., what is the will of the committee?

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairman, before it becomes ten o'clock, I have a committee change. If there is agreement to have the Chairperson rise for a few minutes and become the Speaker, we could reconvene and finish off the Department of Education Estimates; otherwise it is committee rise.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): I will advise the Honourable Member that he can do his committee change by leave after we have completed committee and supply.

6.(a) Salaries, \$215,800—pass; 6.(b) Other Expenditures, \$148,700—pass; 6.(c) Grants, \$186,689,600—pass; 6.(d) Access Fund, \$790,000—pass.

Resolution 33: RESOLVED that there be granted to her majesty a sum not exceeding \$187,844,100 for Education and Training for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

What is the will of the committee? Committee rise.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION COMMITTEE CHANGE

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be amended as follows: Maloway for Harapiak.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Gaudry): Does the Member for Flin Flon have leave? Agreed and so ordered.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Gaudry): The hour being 10 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. (Tuesday).