

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 22 April, 1982

Time — 8:00 p.m.

## SUPPLY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Phil Eyler (River East):** We are considering Item 2.(c)(1) Salaries, Small Enterprise Development.

The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):** Mr. Chairman, the First Minister has indicated on several occasions now that there may be, or could be, an increase in the sales tax in the Province of Manitoba. Now I know the Minister said earlier today that we've been trying to anticipate what the budget is going to be but the fact that the First Minister, on many occasions as I said, has indicated that the sales tax may go up and there has been a delegation that came down from the western part of Manitoba to meet with the Minister of Finance regarding the problems that could cause with the businesses along the border in Manitoba, the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border.

Was the Minister involved in those meetings and has the department done any extensive research or any research at all regarding the effects that an increase in sales tax in Manitoba would have on the businesses in the western part of the province?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Madam Minister.

**HON. MURIEL SMITH (Osborne):** Mr. Chairperson, I wasn't part of that delegation but I have spent some time in the western area, the northwestern area of the province, and spoken to business people in the Roblin, Grandview and Dauphin areas. In the Roblin area I know there's a lot of travel back and forth across the border and I guess those particular merchants feel very sensitive to minor changes in costs.

My own feeling would be that probably the pattern of movement back and forth across the border is based partly on desire for some variety and attachment to the recreation facilities. I gather that Manitobans tend to like to go into Saskatchewan to Madge Lake and Saskatchewanites tend to like to come into Manitoba. I guess it has a little bit of the feeling of going to some place a little more exotic even if the facilities are almost identical and that the impact of a slight increase in cost probably wouldn't deter the great majority.

I confess that there's been no specific detailed analysis on an impact of a particular tax in this instance but I think we're well aware that anything which raises costs to any business person or distributor or consumer tends to wreak a bit of a hardship. I guess we would all like to live in the best of all possible worlds where prices went down and income went up and life would get better and rosier for all and sundry day after day. We don't live in that kind of a world and, therefore, the choices that will be available to me and my colleagues will be to make prudent choices in terms of how to raise money and how to spend money, and because it's part of our basic philosophy,

we will be looking at the impact on all groups in the community and we will be taking care to ensure that the heaviest burden doesn't fall upon the most vulnerable or the weakest members of society.

We know that there may be short-term problems for people who feel an immediate impact, but it is our belief backed up by all the economic research that we have done on a broad scale, that the community as a whole benefits most when there is a mixed package of public and private investment and an equitable form of raising money and distributing benefits and it will be that spirit that will govern us when we make our final decisions of the mix of measures in our Budget.

I think, therefore, to focus especially prematurely because the members Opposite are at this point guessing what will be our final package and they're focusing on one factor only, rather than looking at the mix of possibilities available to us, that it's premature and not terribly productive to zero in on this one hypothetical possibility.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm very concerned about it. I would like to refer to an article in the Free Press, March 22nd, regarding "Fargo Flourishes and Moorhead Licks its Wounds," where we've had a thousand jobs lost in Fargo or lost in Moorhead to Fargo, where we've had companies moving into Fargo from Moorhead and establishing there, and it says, "It's really depressing," says Lynn Fundingsland - whoever that may be - the city planner at Moorhead, "if you drive around Moorhead and see the closure of businesses going to Fargo." Bob Langsmith and Roger Moe who is a democratic farm labour representative from Ada, north of Moorhead and other members of the Minnesota Democratic Farm Labour Party, who have said that it's the case of better tax structure in North and South Dakota that is absolutely devastating the towns of Minnesota. It says here that at the Holiday Mall, a shopping centre south of town, there are several empty store fronts abandoned by retailers, buffeted by the poor economy and hard pressed to compete with retailers less than a mile away in North Dakota, where among other things the sales tax is two percent less than in Minnesota.

I submit that that's an excellent example because they're both smaller communities than Winnipeg is. They're small communities like we have on the western part of our province that are not too far away from shopping areas in Saskatchewan and if our taxes are such in Manitoba, any type of taxes or all types of taxes are not competitive, we are only going to be losing our small businesses to Saskatchewan and those small businesses are being established there because of businesses such as the oil plant and, hopefully, the potash plant. Saskatchewan businesses will end up being the supplier to our industries in Manitoba and the Manitoba businesses will either have to stand by and watch or move to Saskatchewan.

The same thing applies along the Saskatchewan-Alberta border in many places where we find that shopping is being done in Alberta by Saskatchewan residents. The Minister may say that a small increase if it comes in will not be effective but I can tell you,

when you're buying the higher ticket items and there's 2 percent more tax — or let's just say more tax we won't guess at what it may be in the Province of Manitoba — our business people will suffer.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if there has been any studies done or any work done to anticipate or get some idea of what we may lose in Manitoba by looking at the Saskatchewan-Alberta situation and also having a very close look at what's happened between Fargo and Moorhead in the States to the south of us.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I am a little surprised at the illustrations that are coming from our neighbours to the south because I thought where the market system held more sway that somehow such problems didn't tend to occur at least not such magnitude. I'm not too surprised at that kind of instability because I think one of the points we've been trying to make is that an open market system is an unstable system.

I have particular sympathy for the people in Minnesota who may lose business or find that their economy is slowing when they also don't have health coverage and access to some of the social programs that we pride ourselves on here in Canada. Let's not forget why we're talking about taxes at all.

We're talking about taxes to raise the necessary funds to provide some of the social benefits that we all share, highways for you and for me, airports, hospitals, schools, social programs for your grandparents or mine who may be in distress, for disabled children or relatives that we might have, for people who are met with particular adversity and I for one don't think that my right to shop in a small store at a slightly lower price, when weighed in the balance against the very basic needs of some of those people for economic security, always weighs in my favour.

Business, of course, is important but small business is a part of the total economy and the total society and its needs and rights, if you like, have to be balanced out against those of other groups in the community.

I think the notion of human behaviour as tied only, or even primarily to economic concerns, is a simplistic notion. I think people are very much affected by the larger swings or by just inadequate income where they can't get access to the necessities of life. But, I think a good argument can be made for increases in the cost of some items. There is in the whole tax question, as I'm sure the members opposite don't need me to explain to them, there are a package of things that can be done. One can be quite selective so that the net impact on a group is measured. I think that you'll find our approach is to see that the most vulnerable or hard up in this society are not worse hit than the rest of us and that the problems of small business will be dealt with sympathetically but they'll be set in the context, in perspective.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister says that the increase in taxes is to provide for Manitobans to have the social amenities that she mentioned.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Point of order. Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. AL MACKLING (St. James):** I heard the obser-

ventions that the Member for Sturgeon Creek was making. I was under the impression that we're dealing with the Minister of Finance's Estimates. The Estimate that we have before us deals with the Minister of Tourism and Economics and the line has nothing to do with taxation. We've been listening to questions dealing with hypothetical changes in tax and how that possible would effect small business. Now, we don't have before us the Estimates of the Department of Finance and I suggest that this kind of dialogue, although it may be very interesting, is not in order in respect to these Estimates.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, on the point of order. If the Honourable Minister had taken the time to read the item we're on he would see it's (c), Small Enterprise Development provides services and supports to small business through consulting assistance and incentive programs. If there is to be more tax, as has been indicated by the First Minister, and I can that our concern is for the advancement of small business in the Province of Manitoba that is going to be supporting hopefully some of the programs that the present government is thinking of, such as maybe ManOil in the southwestern part of Manitoba, I would hope that there has been consideration taken that the businesses in the Province of Manitoba will benefit from it instead of the businesses in Saskatchewan. So, I submit that the item of increased taxes, or possible increased taxes, in Manitoba that would affect our small businesses in that area is very much part of this discussion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Norbert on that same point of order.

**MR. G.W.J. (Jerry) MERCIER (St. Norbert):** The topic is small business development, the Premier of this Province has on a couple of occasions at least, warned Manitobans about increasing tax rates and we on this side are very concerned with the adverse affects of an increase in sales tax, not only on the consumer but on small business development in this province. I would ask you, Mr. Chairman, to rule these questions in order.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Radisson on that same point of order.

**MR. GERARD LECUYER (Radisson):** I can go along as much the Member for St. Norbert mentions, I think that, having voiced that concern we should move on to some other area in the discussion of this particular topic. I sat here this afternoon and I heard discussion on the valley dykes which I heard under three Minister's Estimates now and I don't know what it has to do with this particular line in the Estimates and I feel that, the Minister having expressed the reaction to the concerns raised, we should now move along.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Sturgeon Creek on the point of order.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, I respect the honourable member's concern that maybe we're talking about dykes, but Mr. Chair-

man, I guess I am called the critic for Economic Development and I will ask some of the questions that I believe should be asked. I would submit that the members that asked about the dykes in Southern Manitoba today were asking questions on the basis that they were concerned about what affect signs saying "This is a Flood Area" would have on small business. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that in this Legislature, any member has the right or should have the right to bring up his concerns about something that is important to him and to his constituents. I would hope, and I will assure the Chairman and say this to him, I personally would not ask any of the members of our caucus to hold back asking questions that are of concern to them as far as their constituencies are concerned.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I believe we've had a fairly wide-ranging debate in this department up to now and I think that some of these topics, whether it be flood control or taxes, tend to stray a bit from the topic. I would hope that people would relate their concerns a little bit closer to the items which are being discussed, and if taxation should come up again I would think it perhaps would be just as appropriate in the Estimates of the Department of Finance or during the Budget debate as here, unless it can be related specifically to a concern in a specific line of the Estimates.

The Member for Swan River.

**MR. D.M. (Doug) GOURLAY (Swan River):** Mr. Chairman, I represent the constituency, the Town of Swan River, which is only some 20 miles from the Saskatchewan border, and I think that an increase in the sales tax in this province certainly directly affects the amount of business and tourist activity that we would get from the Province of Saskatchewan. Right now we have serious competition from the City of Yorkton. A lot of people from my constituency shop in Yorkton, we do have a good shopping centre in Swan River and we haven't suffered all that much to this point in time. But with the 2 percent or 1 percent or whatever it might be increase in sales tax, I think that you can appreciate that this is going to have a very serious effect particularly in the economic situation we're in at the present time.

I think it has a lot to do with this part in the Estimates whether this increase comes to be or not and I think it will have serious effect on our economic situation in, not only the Swan River constituency but in Roblin, which is closer to the Saskatchewan border, Virden, Melita, The Pas, Flin Flon and certainly I don't see how you can curtail discussion on this topic when we're dealing with an important item such as increase in taxes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Excuse me, is the Member for Swan River speaking to a point of order or to the Minister?

**MR. GOURLAY:** Point of order.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, to just follow what I wanted to say on this particular item, is that very often the reason for increased taxes is for the social programs that the government may want to

support and roads as the Minister has said. I repeat, and I show a concern that there has not been a lot of study done on the basis of you may gain by the increase in taxes from Manitobans but we will lose considerably by having money spent in another province. We will lose probably more tax revenue than we'll gain if there is not a careful study made of it to make sure that Saskatchewan won't benefit more from a tax increase in Manitoba than Manitobans do.

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, Mr. Chairperson, I've perhaps been more tolerant than some of my colleagues about the wide-rangingness of the questions and the debate. I've done it for a very specific reason. I think the reason that I will give will give you some understanding of why I am also answering the questions the way I am. I am a Minister of Economic Development and Tourism but I'm also a member of a government. I'm a member of a government that has a philosophy and an integrated approach in program. Consequently, when I look at measures which will benefit or harm a business sector or tourism I have to relate those concerns to what happens to all the other groups and the other departments of our government. The well-being of small business, in my opinion and that of my government, cannot be looked at in isolation from these other factors.

I've spent a lot of years shopping; I have raised a bundle of kids; I've spent a lot of time in cars, driving different places and trying to keep my eye on all of them and buy the necessities and a few extras and I know a lot of the decisions we used to make about where we would go to shop wasn't the cent or two difference in cost, it was what was close to the friends we wanted to visit or our grandparents. It had to do with perhaps the cost of fuel if it was going to be a drive over the border.

If I were up in Swan River or across the border from Swan it might depend on whether the Fair was on that weekend. There are many factors that go into people's decisions about where to shop and how much to buy. I wouldn't have felt guilty as a homemaker if I occasionally decided not to spend my money in the small shops or small businesses, but to put it away, save it or invest it for the future, or to allocate it for some other purpose, perhaps save it to the Christmas season. I suspect a lot of Manitobans do that.

I was interested to note the very very high retail trade figures that came out of Manitoba at the end of December last year. I mean, I could have said, well, it's because of the great enthusiasm and optimism at the electoral victory, but I prefer to think that it represented the bubble of high expenditure that tends to go along with the Christmas season. But families use many, many factors in their decisions about where to shop and I'm sympathetic to the particular marketing business problems of the people in Swan River and along the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border, but I'm also concerned about what's going on for the people in the rest of the province. I think studies we do, we do compare what's being done in other provinces so that if we make decisions that put us ahead, behind or on a par with other provinces, we do it knowingly and we've thought out the pros and cons. But choices like that aren't simple.

Now I know there's disagreement as to whether this

is relevant to the question of small business development. With due respect to the members opposite, I would be pleased if they felt that we've covered this subject quite thoroughly, that we've probably arrived at an impasse. You set your priorities in how you would allocate money or make decisions and I and my colleagues set ours.

I think I've been patient in giving you the underlying assumptions and the background of our approach. I don't know that we're going to persuade one another over the table here tonight. I would suggest that we move on and focus specifically on the items in the Estimates.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(c)(1). The Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister has gone around the mulberry bush on this question. She is the Minister of Economic Development and she is the Minister responsible on this item for small business development. Is she, in carrying out these responsibilities and these duties, supportive of an increase in the sales tax or will she oppose an increase in the sales tax?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Point of order for the Member of Ste. Rose.

**HON. A. R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose):** Mr. Chairman, I think that question is an abuse of the privilege of this Committee. The member has been here for a number of years and knows very well what he is asking is an abuse of the time of this Committee. It's a question that should be asked of the Minister of Finance and to ask the Minister for an opinion, I believe, is in abuse and the honourable member should know better.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Tuxedo on the same point of order.

**MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo):** On that same point of order, I think it's extremely relevant. The fact of the matter is that in looking at small business development in this province, there are certain things that may serve to assist in the attracting of investment in small businesses and certain strategies and decisions, whether they be tax-related, whether they be the hydro rate freeze, whether they be any of those things can have a direct bearing and a severe impact on whether or not we can attract small business to this province. And I think it's both pertinent and relevant for the Minister to get on the record as to whether or not she thinks that a measure such as a sales tax increase will attract investment and stimulate the development of small business in this province. I think it's extremely relevant and she is not responsible in this Cabinet or in this government for anything else. She's not responsible for taxation matters; she's responsible to ensure that the economic development strategy is the best possible one that we can put forward in this province. She doesn't need to take responsibility for covering somebody else's needs and concerns in this. She's a member of a team and she has to act as a member of a team, but she also has to ensure that she's holding up her position in the

team as well as possible and that's why I think that question ought to be answered.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, speaking to this point of order, the members of the Opposition are asking questions, forcing debate on issues that are related but they're not germane to the Estimates under review. They know there is ample opportunity to debate the whole question of taxation and its effect not only on small business, but on anyone. You can relate tax to any department. In the Department of Natural Resources, I presume, you could have asked questions —(Interjection)— oh yes, about resource taxation.

But there is a time for discussion about tax matters and that is when the Budget is brought forward and there are eight days provided in the Legislative Assembly for discussion on Budget, and there is time during the Estimates of the Department of Finance to discuss fiscal matters. It's an abuse of the privileges of this House and the members of this House to try indirectly to discuss taxation policy during the course of the Estimates of a line department.

Out of fairness, out of a consideration to be generous in answering questions, Ministers have answered those kind of questions and I sat here and heard that. If the honourable members persist, then certainly the Chairman may say, well, it's fair enough to let it go on. But I want to record that I think it's an abuse and the honourable members are taking advantage of a decent Minister who's trying to be fair and provide answers, but is an abuse of this House and it'll be established then as a precedent that will haunt them.

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, Mr. Chairperson, I can accept that the members opposite, when they ran a government, somehow must have thought of themselves as being Ministers in water-tight boxes, and the only time they would come out of the box was when they would go to Cabinet and they would scrap for the best deal for their box or the people in their box. Then they would retreat and go back and operate in isolation.

I don't conceive of my Ministry that way. I certainly don't function that way in the Cabinet and nor do any of my colleagues. We make the best case for the difficulties and the opportunities, the needs of the particular group that we represent in our department and then we listen to one another. Because we have an integrated philosophy where people's social needs, all the people's social needs, and their economic needs are taken into account, what we come up with is what we think is the fairest and best system of all. We see economic strategy differently, not in this simplistic and separate way that the members opposite do.

I can see their frustration with how we look at the world, but we do look at the world differently and I, for one, would never look at one tax and say, am I for it or am I against it. I would want to look at the total situation. What's the income level? What are the needs of that group of people? What are the other taxes they have? What is the package of things that we're putting forward? What's the impact on the daily lives of these groups of people? Then I would make my decision. So to say whether one's for or against a sales tax in isolation, to me is a rather irrelevant question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Pembina on the same point of order.

**HON. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina):** Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order, I want to tell the Minister that my glasses are pink-tinted. I don't happen to accept her assessment of our Cabinet members being holed up in little watertight boxes, as she said. She indicated in her reply that it's a team approach. I think it is most relevant tonight when we have an article here on the problems that Fargo and Moorhead had where Moorhead is suffering greatly. Their business community is suffering greatly because of a 2 percent differential in retail tax across a State border; that same problem will be part of Manitoba's economy and the problems of that economy on the west side of our province when this government brings in a 2 percent sales tax increase, or maybe it's a 3 percent sales tax increase. It is extremely important that we have a handle in this province.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. I believe the Member for Pembina is debating the issue.

**MR. ORCHARD:** No, I'm making a Point of Order, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Could you come to the point please?

**MR. ORCHARD:** Yes, I will come to the point, Mr. Chairman. I think it is extremely important that, when we're discussing the Estimates of the Minister of Economic Development, because it's economic development in this Province that's going to provide the revenues to government to create this world of equality the Minister so desires to provide the social benefit funding that this Minister so desires and we want to know what her reaction is to a sales tax increase that's being proposed by her own First Minister. It is extremely important to the business community and the viability of the business community of Manitoba, the jobs in it . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Could you relate your comments to the specific Point of Order, whether or not tax is relevant to this particular section of the Estimates.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I thought I had been; that it's very relevant to economic development in the Province of Manitoba. Economic development is the only source of tax revenue. We want to know what this Minister believes will happen to the business climate, particularly on the west side, when her government, her First Minister, brings in tax measures that are going to increase the sales tax differential to 2 or 3 percent above a neighbouring province. I think it is extremely important that we find that out.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood):** Mr. Chairman, it's quite clear that this is a hypothetical debate and that this is in anticipation of changes in the Budget. Nobody around this table knows for sure which taxes are being brought in; what the percentages are;

whether there are going to be changes in the sales tax, income tax, property taxes or any other taxes; and certainly the Members of the Opposition haven't the faintest clue. To get all excited about what may occur, if in the event there will be a change in such and such taxes, is just absolutely and purely hypothetical. The debate is out of order. We could debate a lot of interesting questions. We could debate questions of what would happen if there was a third world war over the Falkland Islands or what would happen if Tina Turner came into this committee room now and started doing her act. I simply say, Mr. Chairman, that this is clearly, without question, a hypothetical question which the opposition is raising; it's out of order and it shouldn't be allowed.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, on the point of order. I would first of all like to compliment the Minister on the answers that she has given to date in this Committee. I know the debate has been far-reaching and we have had statements from her that gives the philosophy of the party and I agree with her that it's not going to be in agreement on this side.

The point that I brought up before, I brought it up the other day, that I felt sorry for the Minister and all of the Ministers of this present government to have to defend irresponsible promises made by their First Minister. I also say, Mr. Chairman, that I would say that the First Minister wasn't talking about a war in the Falkland Islands; he wasn't talking about United States taking over Canada; he sat on television and he has said, on several occasions, that there is a possibility of the sales tax being raised in this province. Mr. Chairman, if the First Minister knew anything about his job he wouldn't have talked about any part of the Budget ahead of time anyway. The fact is, he did, and it put this Minister in this position.

Now I believe that we should be able to continue it and I might say, Mr. Chairman, we might have been moved on by now if it hadn't been for the Minister of Resources who comes in with his chippy attitude to change the situation of a good relationship in this Committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I wouldn't want to rule the discussion of taxes out of order. I think we might make a bit more progress, at least proceed at a more rapid rate, if questions were more direct and more specific to the line items under consideration.

The Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo):** Mr. Chairman, in that case, I wonder, earlier in the Estimates debate — (Interjection) — Sorry, did the Member for St. Norbert . . .

**MR. G.W.J. (Gerry) MERCIER, (St. Norbert):** You've ruled the question in order? Could I have an answer to the question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I have not ruled it out of order. I'm just cautioning and hoping that people will restrict their comments a bit more precisely to the line items in the Estimates.

**MR. MERCIER:** Well, in view of the fact that it's not ruled out of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like an answer to it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** An answer to the question, would you repeat your question?

**MR. MERCIER:** The question was, does the Minister, in her capacity as Minister of Economic Development, responsible in this particular area for small business development, is she supportive of an increase in the sales tax or will she oppose an increase in the sales tax?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I believe that one is out of order. That would be a breach of Cabinet's privilege.

**MR. MERCIER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, then I would challenge your ruling.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is the ruling of the Chair sustained? All those in favor say Aye? All those opposed say Nay? The Ayes have it.

**MR. MERCIER:** A recorded vote, Mr. Chairman.

**A COUNTED VOTE** was taken, the result being as follows:

Yeas, 7; Nays, 6

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Ayes have it.

**MR. MERCIER:** The vote has to be taken in the Committee of the Whole.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** With all due respect to the Chair, I would like to suggest that when a recorded vote is called in Committee the vote is taken, recorded as a Committee of the Whole and we go into the House and vote and I would caution the Chairman to please check the rules on that point.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** If the Member for Sturgeon Creek will wait a minute we will check the rules.

Order please. I believe the correct procedure is that we have a voice vote and then a formal count in this room, if requested, and then a voice vote and a formal count in the House.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I request a voice vote and formal count in the House.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Does the member have support? (Agreed)

Call in the members.

(Adjournment to the House for a formal count of the Whole House)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The item under consideration is 2.(c)(1) Small Enterprise Development, Salaries. The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the item reads "provides services and support to small business through consulting assistance and incentive programs." I wonder if the Minister could outline any specific incentive programs for small business?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Madam Minister.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, under the Enterprise Manitoba Program we have the RSEI Grants, the Rural Small Enterprise Initiative Grants. These are for businesses expanding or modernizing.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has mentioned the RSEI Program which is in the next item. I'm aware that the small enterprise development group do administer part of the program and part of those salaries that are paid to the personnel in this particular department are supported by the Canada-Manitoba Agreement but, in other words, the incentive program referred to is the one that has been in place for well, four years since the agreement, is the one that's being referred to, there are no others?

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, I guess it depends a lot, Mr. Chairperson, on the definition of incentive. There are things like management counselling that's available which is publicly subsidized because it is an expenditure and it is an encouragement to small businesses to acquire the management skills that will enable them to perform better. It's an incentive of a different sort than a straight money grant.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, that's fine, Mr. Chairman, I was just trying to get straight in my mind the words "consulting assistance" is what the Minister spoke of and that the words "and incentive programs," I was interested in but, if it refers to the RSEI Program, I'm aware of that program.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass; 2.(d)(1).

Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I asked when we started these Estimates if we would be provided when we came to this section a rundown of the six sections of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement and the funds that would be allotted to each section this year.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I do have some forms for distribution. The seven programs are Industrial Development, Community Development, the Brandon Enterprise Development Centre, the Winnipeg Enterprise Development Centre, the Industrial Commercial Promotion Co-ordination and Assessment, the Rural Small Enterprise Incentive Program and the Industrial Infrastructure Program. There are also, under the Enterprise Manitoba, two additional programs; the Manitoba Research Council which has two technological centres connected with it, one that's industrial technology and the other food products development.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister, I believe two days ago, mentioned that there was some studies

going on with companies within the aerospace industry on feasibility of the advancement or the enlargement of the aerospace industry. Are there any other industrial development studies going on at the present time? I'm not asking the Minister to go through a complete list of them, she could probably supply that to me at another time, but any major studies in the industrial development area.

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, there are about eight such studies going on and the particular clients are confidential at this time.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned I believe three the other day. Is she saying - I believe it was three - the other five are confidential?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Has there been an effort made to do more studies in the Province of Manitoba with companies who are interested in coming here, or with companies that are presently here, from the point of view that the studies are probably the most important thing that we can do at this time to make sure that the businesses that come have had thorough examination and that they will be viable in Manitoba? Is there an effort being made to do more studies so that we will not have a situation of bankruptcies or receiverships in the future with businesses that develop in the province?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the feasibility study is a high priority of the program and I'm sure the honourable member well knows the components of those studies; they are very thorough. I think the only caution that we all must keep in mind is that we can study a company within the not, only normal parameters but a fairly wide range of economic fluctuation, but we couldn't guard against complete economic disaster in the country. We're in very depressed economic times now. Naturally, looking at new firms coming here we'd be able to take the current situation and up or down several points into the future but we couldn't guard against complete economic disaster. I'm sure the member realizes that.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Have there been any additional community development studies being done with communities in the province?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, there were eight communities that were studied or involved in projects in the 1981-82 year. Some of those projects are being completed now and we do respond to requests from additional communities. I hope to have in place during the year an increased capacity to reach out to communities and identify the kind of program that is available to them.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Have the communities, the eight that we're speaking of, have they elected to go through all three stages of the program?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I wonder if the member putting the question would care to clarify

what he means by all stages of the program.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** If my memory serves me correctly, they would make application for the program and we would go in and explain the whole program to them and there was basically three stages to the program. I would say that I believe some of them were in the second stage and if they had elected to carry on to complete the program I . . .

**MRS. SMITH:** Of the group of eight, I have information about four who have completed stage two and three, and two that are partly stage two and partly stage three. The other two, I guess, are completed.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the third item on the agreement MRC, the Canadian Food Products Development in Portage la Prairie. There was fairly large expenditures made to the extension of the building and the purchasing of the equipment. Is the activity in this particular area expanding or, in other words, has there been an outreach program to the food industry in the Province of Manitoba to let them know that the Portage Centre is there and to assist them in developing products out of Manitoba-grown produce? One of the problems we were finding is that it had just been opened a short while but the processors of food products in Manitoba weren't aware as they should be of the facilities that are in Portage la Prairie, and I know that there were discussion to find some way to make it more available to the Manitoba processors. Has that been done?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, to the end of March 31, 1982, Mr. Chairperson, there was a survey conducted with 100 firms in the food industry and that was to assess what their analytical testing requirements were. The survey also promoted the program of the Food Centre. In addition there were two seminars held at the Centre on sanitation and on quality control, both of which were very well attended. For the current year the goals of the Centre are on target in terms of activity. There is an expanding amount of activity and at the moment we are exceeding our revenue target. We're attempting to target our activity there more closely to what is marketable and also to increase the revenue that comes back to the Centre.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Can the Minister inform us how many personnel there are in that Centre at the present time.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the staff complement is at 10 at present.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Technology Centre is one that - well, I guess I could say that I've viewed and the previous government viewed - is one that would be of assistance to the manufacturers in the Province of Manitoba. It wouldn't be regarded as a place where research would be done, but it would be a place where companies who didn't have the funds available to them to set up their own particular type of testing and research, etc., or didn't have available to them the library and the technologies and the facilities of those eight labs out there. Is that the direction the Tech

Centre is taking at the present time? Is the Technology Centre working in that way and I might say, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, there was towards the end of last year, a presentation made to myself from the Board of the Tech Centre as to the direction that they should be taking. I wonder if the direction that has been decided upon is one of assistance in technology and not research?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the member is quite right that the sharpened focus of both the Tech Centres is to deal with the application of up-to-date technology to actual production situations. As well, it's a technological problem-solving centre for manufacturers, for food processors and the pure research is considered to be a responsibility of the universities or institutes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I wonder if the Minister could tell me here - I left it until this point specifically I think the answer could be given here - if the National Research Council is still moving along with their intentions to build a facility in Manitoba.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, we don't have any word of a decision, we've made our input to show that we're interested and support our bid for that centre to locate in Winnipeg but as yet there's been no decision in Ottawa.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I'm referring to the National Research Centre where there was a report done by a group from Manitoba and the National Research Centre, the report was submitted to the Federal Minister and at one time it was moving through Treasury Board in the Federal Government and there was a specific recommendation that there should be one built in Manitoba and at that time it was then referred to, I believe, possibly being put in the core area under the Core Area Program. Is it still intended to be part of the Core Area Program?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I think this is a question that we've dealt with in the House. The recommendation that Winnipeg would be a good location for a National Research Manufacturing Technology Centre, in the report a recommendation has been made, but decisions on buildings or centres such as this are made in a political way by the Federal Cabinet and that means, I would suspect that there are several other competing areas that would also like to have such a centre.

We have gone out of our way when we meet with Federal Ministers or Federal Representatives to keep the issue very much alive, leave no mistake in their minds that we would be very appreciative of having that centre located here, that we think it would fit well with our plans for development in the manufacturing area.

I think we must recognize that that decision being a political choice at the Federal Cabinet level, that they will be interested in what a report recommends but that they will make their decision with many many factors in mind. All we can do is I think, increase both the logic of our presentation or the frequency of it and do what we can to make it effective.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I didn't want to bring this in and I won't because it doesn't fit here. The Minister, I think, when she refers to the questions in the House that I was asking specifically of her and the Minister of Labour, had to do with the Aerospace Technology Training Centre which was a report commissioned by Mr. Axworthy by a group of people in the Aerospace industry which was led by General McKenzie, or who was General McKenzie, to make a report to him on where to put the Aerospace Technology Training Centre and it was recommended that it come to Manitoba. Since that time we've had problems with the Federal members from Quebec and I've been asking if it's going to come to Manitoba and the Minister has said there is not any decisions on that at the present time.

I'm referring to the National Research Council of Canada who came and worked with the officials from Manitoba to have a National Research Council establishment in the Province of Manitoba that would employ approximately 120 people or better and I believe the report stated that the Province of Manitoba would supply approximately 20 of the personnel to it but it would be operated as a National Research Council Centre as there is one in other parts of Canada.

The last discussions I had with the Federal Minister, Mr. Gray, regarding that as to the possibility of it being there, was that he was looking at Manitoba and possibly one other. But there was a definite recommendation it come to Manitoba and there was a recommendation by the Minister of Manpower from Manitoba that it be part of the core area plan and I'm referring specifically to the National Research Council one.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I apologize for confusing the two but the process for decision-making at the federal level is somewhat similar. There is the Aerospace Training Centre issue. There is also this Manufacturing Technology Centre. The same answer in a sense is appropriate, that we have made verbal and written representations to the Federal Ministers and we understand that it's now a decision that is made in the Federal Cabinet where they must decide whether, in fact, this will be an expenditure that they commit themselves to and if so, whether they put it here or elsewhere or, in fact, split it in two. We understand that the quiet negotiation route is the appropriate one on such a project.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Is it the intention of the Manitoba Government to supply the personnel that is recommended in the report if it comes to Manitoba? In other words, are we saying we want it in Manitoba on the basis of the recommendations of the report which would mean Manitoba would be supplying 20 personnel to work in that establishment?

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, Mr. Chairperson, our interest in having such a centre here is strong. The question of a specific agreement and delegation of responsibility would be at a later stage but it's not something we can prejudge. Our interest in manufacturing technology is high. It has a very important role to play in helping our local manufacturing modernize, become more



productive and stand some kind of competitive chance in that highly volatile and fast-growing field. So I would think it would be a high priority expenditure for us but it's quite premature for me to make any specific commitment.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could give us the figure on the number of people working at the Tech. Centre now?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, there are 18 full-time and 10 part-time.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Did she say 10 part-time?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, is the Brandon EDC presently full or has it got some capacity to take in some more small manufacturers with potential?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, at the Centre, the last report I had indicated that there were eight advanced factory space tenants.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I should know but, is there room for more? Is it full?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, it's full, Mr. Chairperson.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** In the EDC the program was to hopefully be able to turn — I guess turn them loose is a wrong expression — but to provide accommodation to these companies at a lower rate of rent until they got on their feet and operating properly, but the intent was to try to stay as close to two years as possible to be in those centres. Are we now getting to the point where there are some companies who would be ready to be asked to leave because they're on their feet and make room for others?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the honourable member is quite right that there have been a couple of graduates.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** And you are sticking, hopefully - and I know it's not possible to be completely accurate - to two years and then you should know whether they're going to make it or not.

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, that's the usual time frame. If they're ready ahead of time, fine. They go in at no rental for the first period of time and then a gradually increased rental.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Winnipeg EDC operates the same way. Is it full at the present time?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the Winnipeg EDC does operate in a similar fashion. It is currently 100-percent occupied. It has 11 modules in all. Six companies have graduated and all of them are still in business and some are doing exceptionally well.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Great. I can tell you the guy in Brandon that makes golf clubs makes good golf clubs

—(Interjection)— he built a club that got rid of my slice.

This is the promotion of the Enterprise Development Program. Am I correct?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, due to our unruly colleagues I didn't get the first part of the sentence.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, I might say they weren't as unruly as they were before, Mr. Chairman.

The Industrial Com Promo, this is the promotion part of the Enterprise Manitoba Program?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, this is the component through which we fund the Regional Development Corporations in the regions; they're the local organizations that assist in identifying industrial and commercial opportunities in the regions.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could give us the amount of money being paid to the Regional Development Corporations, because in the Speech from the Throne and I believe in her opening remarks, there was an indication that there would be more funding to Regional Development. Now, it might be in the Estimates under Regional Benefits but can she give me the amount of money each Regional Development Corporation will receive this year?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the honourable member is quite right. We did announce an increased funding and also a review of the Regional Development Corporations. We are meeting with them in about 10 days to announce the increase and to discuss with them the terms of the review. The increase will be for this year only in the form that we're proposing. The future form of funding will be determined as a result of the review process. We're finding that as some of the regions are quite active and they do find themselves strapped sometimes.

The more active ones find that the levels of expectation of all the municipal members go up. They sometimes end up in a Catch 22 unless they can provide the same level of increased service to a municipality; that municipality might not join and yet if they don't join they don't have the revenue to perform the service. So, we want to look at varieties of ways of funding them because we think developing this type of capacity in the individual communities is a very important part of economic development. That's often where the initial developments of a small processing or manufacturing industry can get going. The local people often provide the idea and the labour force. They may require some help with the management, the financing and the marketing. We've been delighted to see some real success stories coming out of the regions. At the same time we recognize that each region is quite different and therefore, we're going propose a more flexible approach to membership, to boundaries and to funding.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the funding appears here to be the same as it was last year. The Minister has said there's going to be an increase. Where does the increase show in the Estimates?

**MRS. SMITH:** Just a minute. Mr. Chairperson, the actual amount that appears in the Budget for last year was not spent; in fact, the expenditure level was closer to 280. We have proposed increases that take us up in the 380 region for this year and that gives us another \$120 to assist with the study and any contingencies that might arise during the year.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The study is going to cost \$120,000?

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, Mr. Chairperson, no. We have flexibility in this budget because our intent was to look at the RDC system and start to move towards improvement. It may if we can get agreement from the groups that we may be able to initiate somewhat richer funding before the end of the year. It would fall within the general purpose of the industrial and commercial promotion in the Enterprise Manitoba area. If the study is not complete and we're not ready to fund on a new basis before the end of the fiscal year, we will just let that money lapse for that year. The money in the Enterprise Manitoba Agreement doesn't lapse year by year in the way the provincial monies normally do. There's a total amount of money in the agreement and we have some flexibility in terms of just when we spend it.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Will all the RDC's receive the same amount of money?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, there will be an identical base amount and then there will be an additional amount for Parklands North and the Northlands on the basis of their travel requirements. NorMan, pardon me.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, in other words it hasn't changed. They will all receive the same amount of money. Parklands used to receive an extra amount of money and NorMan did for travelling expenses, if I'm not mistaken.

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, Mr. Chairperson, the pattern is the same, but we will consider some flexibility during the year. We're not proposing it at the beginning.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that we were looking at a situation of the Regional Development Corporation, because it hasn't changed, I believe, since 1972 and certainly there were some boundary problems which were brought to our attention by Parklands, and I think that should be looked at, but as far as the funding is concerned, I think that it should be very carefully watched that one does not receive more than the other. I know that Parklands had made requests for more money on the basis of their geographical situation, but I can assure you that their shortage of funds was not basically for that reason. They were not having the towns and municipalities in the area join; in fact, they were leaving. And I would say that probably the reason for that was they have the most incompetent manager of the bunch.

I would suggest that the directions to the Regional Development Corporations be one of not doing the research that is capable of being done by the depart-

ment, but working more closely with the communities to develop them.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I believe that there's an appropriate time and place to discuss the strengths or weaknesses of staff and I don't intend to use this time to evaluate the staff of our Regional Development centres. We are going to be carrying out a thorough review and study, and develop a different approach and I think that the issues that have been raised by the honourable member are better looked at in that context.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The co-ordination and assessments; there was one done on RSEI and I know there was one being started on another. How many assessments of the program are ongoing right now?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, evaluations are required in each program by the total agreement. The RSEI evaluation is complete; the industrial infrastructure one is almost complete. We have it, but it hasn't passed through DREE as yet. The contract for evaluating the Tech Centres has just been let, and the consultants to carry out the evaluation of the Enterprise Development Centres, are just being selected at the present time and the final project, the industrial sectors, the terms of reference of the evaluation are being established at present.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** On the RSEI Program to the end of September, 1981, there had been a total of 128 new companies established under the RSEI Program, small enterprise in rural Manitoba, and 62 companies that had received funding for expansion, for a total of 180 with the creation of what was estimated to be 620 jobs. Can the Minister tell me how many new ones have been approved since that time or approximately how many have been approved?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, as of March 31st, 1982, we've received 419 applications; made 228 offers of which 207 have been accepted, 19 declined; 135 applications were rejected and 44 applications were withdrawn. The total of number of jobs projected under the program is 675 for that year and the total capital investment projected from the programs that were approved is \$9,535,000.00. So that is cumulative for the total program, not just for the preceding year.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, that would appear to be 27 additional. But, Mr. Chairman, those are very impressive figures. I wonder if the First Minister still wants to call this a useless program? The program obviously has created a lot of employment in rural Manitoba. In 1977, there were 334 businesses in the province in rural Manitoba; 363 in '78; 453 in '79, and 519 in 1980. I don't know the figure for '81, but those figures have been moving up, but basically because of this program and I might say the excellent work of the staff that handles this program and for somebody to say irresponsibly that it's not a good program or is no good, should rethink his words at the present time.

Mr. Chairman, on the Industrial Infrastructure Program, the Minister has mentioned that the place the

province should . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister has suggested that having industry come to the province, we have to take into consideration there are other costs which could be infrastructure, and here we have a program that is designed to take care of infrastructure problems for the small towns and municipalities in the province who have the initiative to go out and promote their area to have industry come to it.

The reason why this program was suggested when the agreement was being negotiated, was that if they didn't have this type of support from the province and the Federal Government - which was what this program is, a joint venture or joint funding - they would not be able to go out and impress anybody that their area was good and encourage them to come.

This program is one that lets them go out and work at it very hard because they know they will not have to have a tax structure because of new industry that needs infrastructure, placed on the back of the taxpayer of their area. That was one of the reasons why a lot of communities were not as aggressive as they are at the present time to encourage industry.

The Minister says that there is a necessity for infrastructure when companies come to Manitoba and here we have a program that does just exactly that. I would suggest that the infrastructure that was placed in the seed plant in Harrowby was one of the reasons why we had the co-operation with the municipality of Russell to work very hard to get that established, otherwise they wouldn't have been as interested. I would suggest that the infrastructure program was one that gave Morden the opportunity to work very hard to get 3M. I know it would have been a benefit for Shell to go to Brandon. Mr. Chairman, the Minister was saying that these were problems when we attract industry and yet here we have a program to take care of those problems. Will the Minister be making presentation to the Federal Government to continue this program in a big way with even more funding?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the honourable member is quite right, that to be able to offer industrial infrastructure assistance to a municipality can really make the difference between them being able to accommodate a new industry and not. I have referred, in past comments, about the costs and benefits that need to be looked at when a new industry is coming and I did refer to infrastructure costs. The industrial infrastructure is one component and social infrastructure of schools, housing, hospital care and so on are other components.

In terms of making representations to the Federal Government to enlarge this very important project we do have considerable flexibility to move monies around within the program if one area is underspent and another has identified some opportunities and, as the programs come to a conclusion, there will be a fair amount of review and internal switching if that seems appropriate. I agree, it's one of the very interesting and exciting projects of the total program.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister has

mentioned previously in this Committee that there is intention for the government to look very seriously at where industries are located in the province. With this program in place, which gives the communities the opportunity to go out and work very hard to attract the industries, knowing that they will have this infrastructure program to help them, and if an industry, after being shown a specific area by the development officers, decide to go there because of the presentations made by the town, is it the intention of the government not to approve the infrastructure program if they do not believe that industry should go to that area?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the role I think of government, in terms of location of an industry, is to negotiate with a company and understand what the needs of that industry are and what the options are available to them. I think I referred to taking a positive stance in negotiations. That might mean that the government would have a preference for location but would not attempt, as is appropriate to any kind of negotiation, to dictate. It's a question of, perhaps, making more of a pitch for one area than another. The municipalities are not all equally strong in their ability to seek out opportunity; nor are they all equally strong in their ability to fund because, although this is an incentive program, it doesn't cover full costs. I think what our intention would be is just to throw a more active factor in, in terms of our negotiation, but not to play a role of enforcing. It's just if a different location made more sense, in terms of meeting an unemployment need and didn't significantly alter the economic situation for the company, then I think we would be prepared to negotiate fairly strongly. If there was a clear economic argument and no real economic alternative for a company to locate in a place where the unemployment was perhaps more pressing, then I think we would use our good judgment and not push. We, after all, want industries that are viable that can sustain themselves. These programs are incentive ones only; they're not ongoing support programs. So I think we will be very realistic and fair in our negotiations.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Minister has said she will approach it with caution but I think she would agree that if anybody had said to 3M that you have to go elsewhere, other than Morden, they would not have come to Manitoba, because Morden did an exceptionally good job to convince them that it was the area to go in. I think you would agree that when you have regional development corporations who are all working to develop their area and they do a job to convince somebody, that the government shouldn't change any one of those decisions because, if you do, you're only going to take the incentive away from those corporations of trying as hard as they have been trying in the past.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, my notion of negotiating is that you start from a position of what you would most like to see result and you listen to what the other party or parties would most like to see result and you work to the best possible consensus. It's not an either/or situation and I think there is a role for gov-

ernment to identify the public good and I don't find anything at all contradictory in the position of saying that the government would marshal all the reasonable arguments it could in favor of a location where, perhaps, the unemployment was high. That might not be the determining factor but I think it should at least be thrown into the mix, thrown into the discussion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Pembina.

**MR. ORCHARD:** I'm certainly pleased to see the Minister taking a somewhat different stance than what, on a couple of occasions, she indicated was a possible direction for the department and for her government in terms of economic development and the government's influence on economic development in the province. I refer specifically to a couple of opportunities the Minister has had to speak to, - if I might use the term - some of the movers and shakers Pembina Constituency and the sister Constituency of Rhineland where there was some concern by the people who have worked very diligently and very hard on behalf of the province to attract some industries that are of pretty significant benefit to all of Manitoba, particularly to the area they are located in, and I refer specifically to Tupperware as one and to 3M Company which just recently announced to locate in the province.

On a couple of previous occasions the Minister's indication in her speaking engagements was that clearly this government intended to take a quite active in determining where companies should locate. They were going to be the vehicle of economic decision and decide what area was going to be blessed with any new industry in the province. I must say that caused a certain amount of alarm amongst the people that have worked very, very hard to get industries to locate in their respective areas. That kind of an apprehension on the behalf of those municipal people and development corporation people does very little to engender their enthusiasm to present Manitoba as a positive place to invest, to any company outside the bounds of this province who may be looking a number of locations in which to undertake new investment and new ventures.

I'm pleased to see or hear tonight that the Minister isn't going to be as firm as what she may have alluded to on earlier occasions, as to her interference or her government's interference in where companies may potentially locate. I think it's no accident that, for instance, both Tupperware and 3M have chosen to locate in Morden and in the corridor between Winkler and Morden. They located there, and particularly 3M as I understand it, their alternate location was Cowansville, Quebec, and they moved to Morden because they were very impressed with the area, with the workforce, with the attitude of the people there, with their very enthusiastic presentation of the benefits of moving to southern Manitoba. I don't think that there's anyone who would disagree in the Department of Economic Development that the Morden-Winkler area has arrived with a certain critical mass, if you might call it that, of industrial development with an infrastructure there that makes it a prime location for future corporate locations for manufacturing, etc.

I repeat again, the officials that I talked to in the area

who had listened to the Minister on a couple of occasions were quite concerned whether the very many hours and weeks and months of work that they had collectively put in over the past four to five years to attract that critical mass of industry, might have been all for naught if the new government was going to decide that, for instance, the mining industry was too much a one-industry town in Flin Flon and Thompson and require someone like 3M to locate there to diversify the employment because, I repeat, those major companies are in Southern Manitoba because of a very excellent selling job of the advantages of locating there.

If a government suddenly came on the scene that would not work in co-operation with those efforts and would re-direct those efforts to other places in the province, it was a most discouraging prospect for some of those people. I'm certainly pleased to night that the Minister indicates that that's not the intention of hers, the Minister of Economic Development nor her government.

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, I think the problem seems to arise when someone suggests that government is going to be interested in, or involved in, or attempt to influence, that it is heard that the government is going to dictate. I don't think that that's the concept that I've ever voiced, although I can understand a municipality that's been used to the idea of government being neutral would see any move into more active a stance as somehow threatening. I think the point that the honourable member raises about a critical mass of industry in a town is when it makes good economic sense and, as I said, when we're making a judgment those are the kind of issues that will weigh heavily.

We are committed though, to taking a particular responsible attitude when there's public money being spent. If it's a question quite simply of a company being sought by a municipality and it choosing to locate there, there is no need for any other level of government to be involved. However, when there is a question of larger expenditure, either help to the company or industrial infrastructure, required then it is a matter of public interest. If money is spent there it is not spent somewhere else and it would be irresponsible of a public authority not to weigh the pros and cons.

Now, one of the economic problems that we have in Manitoba and in Canada is that if money decisions are left solely to marketplace factors, what we tend to get is resources and money draining out of the Northland and the rural areas into first the town, and then the city. Winnipeg grows often at the expense of the north and the rural areas and in turn Winnipeg often loses out as larger cities to the west of us or to the east of us grow. We are committed, I guess, federally and provincially to trying to achieve a more balanced regional development and that's true both within Manitoba as well as within Canada. The fact that development is occurring in Morden, and not all in Winnipeg or in Brandon or in Portage, depending where you want to look in the pecking order of sizes of cities I think makes good balanced regional development sense.

I think the member need not be nervous that somehow that area would not get a fair hearing. I think we all recognize the difficulty, if you like, of achieving

economic development in more remote areas but I guess I would put the question back to him - he needn't answer tonight but to think about. What is the future for the north part of Manitoba? Can some one-industry towns be saved as their depletable resource disappears? Are there alternative economic activities which can develop there or should they be helped to be developed there or should we just leave it completely to the ups and downs of the market system? There is no simple answers to that. We don't have quick and simple answers.

As I said before, I've lived in three mining towns and two of them are now ghost towns, so I know there's no easy solution to that. But I think the question of the pattern of development and the trends are ones that we must look at, it would be irresponsible of us not to look at them and to weigh that when we are negotiating with a firm that might come. But to think that because you are involved in that process somehow you're going to locate all of the companies in some uneconomic and remote area is carrying the concept to an extreme that we certainly don't intend and won't be following.

I move Committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise

### SUPPLY — HEALTH

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

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Before we begin the proceedings, I'd like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my right where we have 21 students of Grade 5 standing of the 104th Cub Pack. These students are under the direction of Mr. Tweed and the group comes from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

I'd like to welcome you here on behalf of all the members.

### SUPPLY - HEALTH (Cont'd)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Continuing with the Estimates of the Department of Health. Item No. 4, Mental Health Services, particularly Item No. 4.(d)(1), Salaries.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry):** Mr. Chairman, the list of changes in SMYs, staffing complements, that the Minister gave me at the outset of his Estimates indicates that the department is requesting 12 additional staff man years in Institutional Mental Health Services. Could he tell the committee where those additional SMYs will be assigned?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, there'll be five nurses at the Brandon Mental Health Centre, the Norwood Gardens, the Psycho-Geriatric Ward at the northern extremity of the Centre complex was closed in October, 1981, and the 76 residents moved to the main building; 52 to a new ward on the lower level of Parkland Building; and the remainder to new wards in

Valleyview Building. Staff from Norway Gardens were transferred with the patients but to more adequately staffed two new wards in separate buildings we felt that five additional nurses were needed.

Now, in Selkirk it's seven and that's all for the contingency. For the past number of years Selkirk Mental Health Centre had only 14 contingency staff man years for which to provide vacation and sick relief, one-to-one nursing when ordered, and to meet the various order emergencies that arise from time to time. Selkirk's in-patient population has been increasing and with the general increase has been an increased number who are hard to handle and a number who tend to be violent. The provision of an adequate level of staffing on each ward has been found to be the most effective way of managing these patients and ensuring that a sense of being safe for both patients and staff.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Does this mean, Mr. Chairman, that the total staff man years at Brandon will then be 636 and the total staff man years at Selkirk will be 481? Is that correct? The category that changes in Brandon is nursing; that would go from 322 staff man years to 327; the category that changes at Selkirk is contingency, that would go from 14 to 21, correct?

Mr. Chairman, the Salaries appropriation is approximately \$1 million higher in '82-83 than it was in '81-82. I would assume the 12 additional SMYs don't account for that whole difference. There would be some incremental impact, of course. Could the Minister just explain for the committee what the increase is attributed to?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the member is absolutely right. It is the new staff man years, seven and five and the increment, but the general increase as you probably know, would not be included in that at this time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there are a number of physical changes and improvements that are taking place both with respect to Brandon Mental Health Centre and Selkirk Mental Health Centre. I note that the Minister indicated in his announcement at the outset of his Estimates, that he's proceeding with a \$3.3 million upgrading of mental health centres in Selkirk and Brandon. At the time of the change of government, there was a \$5 million redevelopment plan under way for each of those two centres. I wonder if the Minister could explain the difference in designated expenditure? We're looking at \$3.3 million as against \$10 million for those two mental health centres.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I had to prepare a statement and I think the best way to do it is read it. I think that'll give all the information requested.

The capital construction project of the provincial mental health centres, the Department of Health has a multi-phased, long-term plan for the modernizing and upgrading of both the Brandon and Selkirk Mental Health Centres.

At Brandon Mental Health Centre design and construction of a new laundry facility and a new 100-bed unit will commence in 1982-83. Funds allocated for

these two projects in 1982-83, \$1,400,000 for the laundry building project and \$1 million for the new 100-bed unit will allow for the completion of design and the commencement of initial construction activities.

The new 100-bed unit is also expected to house the centre's entire dietary operation. Construction period for the laundry building and the new patient-care unit will be approximately two and two and one half years respectively. The appointment of consultants for these projects is currently being reviewed.

The next phase in the long term development plans for Brandon Mental Health Centre call for the relocation of out-patient community services now located in the Pine Ridge building, to downtown Brandon, and renovation at Pine Ridge to accommodate the administrative offices of the centre. Future phases call for the demolition of the Valley View Building and the construction of a second 100-bed unit which will also provide more spaces needed for recreational activities. This building will also house such services as the dental, laboratory and morgue facilities.

The final project in the series of plans for Brandon Mental Health Centre is the examination of the existing Parklands Building to determine whether this facility should be renovated or replaced to meet personal care home standards.

For Selkirk Mental Health Centre the approved long-range planning concepts call for the renovation or replacement of an existing facility referred to as B Unit to accommodate approximately 100 patients. This facility is not presently in use for patient care. Availability of these additional beds will relieve some of the current overcrowding in other buildings on the centre's grounds and will relieve some of the pressure for additional beds.

The second stage in the planning for Selkirk Mental Health Centre involves a review by government staff to ascertain whether it is economically feasible to proceed with renovation plans to modernize the infirmary unit in compliance with personal care home standards or whether new construction will be necessary. A reception building is also scheduled for program and fire safety upgrading. It has already been determined that this building can be economically upgraded to meet program requirements.

Funds allocated in 1982-83 for Selkirk Mental Health Centre will allow for the necessary feasibility and design activities to be concluded for each facility. Construction will not commence on any of the Selkirk projects before '82, '83, '84 providing this is approved and consultants to undertake the necessary feasibility and design work are currently under consideration. The specific '82-83 funding allocation for feasibility in design is \$100,000 for B Unit, \$170,000 for the infirmary and \$83,000 for the reception building.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I thank the Minister, Mr. Chairman, for providing me with a copy of that statement and that information. Can it be assumed, Mr. Chairman, that not withstanding the specific time frames that are identified in the Minister's statement with respect to individual components of the redevelopment projects at both facilities, that the government is continuing with a long-term redevelopment plan for both facilities that could well be a five-year plan. It could well

encompass a five-year period. I know there are specific references in his statement to two years and two-and-half years in 1983 and 1984 and that type of thing, but I would hope that this doesn't indicate that there has been any shortening or foreshortening of the extensive redevelopment of the two centres that is necessary and that was deemed something that would probably take some five years to complete.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the member is right. I think this might be the occasion though to explain, of course, that certain things are approved for planning only. I want this clearly understood that we recommend, and if we get the money for planning it's because you're serious, because you don't spend that kind of money, but nevertheless it has to receive approval by Cabinet before the construction starts. Right now the plans which we have in mind is to do exactly what the honourable member is stating, but the state economy, the construction industry and all that could be factors. There's a possibility that things could be compacted a bit, instead of five years to help with the economy, maybe four years, or the possibility if there is quite a bit of construction one year, I'd say in the private sector and so on, it could be stretched another year. We have to take those things into consideration. It's a very important thing for the economy of the province. I think it is dangerous if you build everything one year where you have to go and recruit specialists in the construction trade for one year and the next year you lose your own Manitobans who will go somewhere else, so we tried to even that up. But I'm not saying this is a way out, I want this clearly understood that we intend to, as Minister of Health especially, have the responsibility to provide the facilities and the service we need as soon as possible. That is what we intend to do.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to hear the Minister's confirmation of the fact and recognition of the fact there is a great deal to be done. Obviously, it's got to be staged with the considerations in mind that he mentioned. There is a great deal to be done and I would hope that the will and intention to recognize that is still there; I gather from the Minister's remarks that such is the case so that's good to hear.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to Brandon, if we can just deal with it separately for a moment, can the Minister advise me of where the situation stands at the present time with regard to Norwood Gardens in the Parklands Building. Norwood Gardens has been emptied of its residents, I understand that. Perhaps I'll have to ask the Minister for confirmation of that, but as I understand it, the intention was to demolish Norwood Gardens. —(Interjection)— It is demolished now, thank you. The residents of the centre who were housed in Norwood Gardens are now in renovated refurbished accommodations in the basement of the Parklands Building, is that correct?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I think that's what I read and I think that was one the reasons why we asked for five nurses because the patients were moved there.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So that renovation job on the basement of the Parklands Building has been completed

and that accommodation is suitable and in use in accordance with those plans. Mr. Chairman, there has been some considerable discussion with respect to a rationalization of both acute psychiatric services and out-patient services between the Brandon Mental Health Centre and Brandon General Hospital. Has there been a determination made as to whether the required facility for psychiatric services of that nature will be located on the campus of the Mental Health Centre or at the General Hospital, has that question been resolved yet?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, not yet. It's in the process of being resolved. Mr. McLean is meeting with the hospital and the Mental Institution and we should expect some correspondence from them fairly soon giving us their preference and their recommendation. We'll have to deal with them at that time. I don't think I'll have more information, but it would be under the Commission.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Could the Minister just either check with his own memory or with his officials and remind me of precisely what that unit is intended to be? Is this separate and distinct from the ongoing chronic care, long-stay care that is administered at the Mental Health Centre? This, as I recall, was to do with acute emergency out-patient psychiatric treatment. Is that an accurate recollection?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I understand it's dealing mostly with acute psychiatric patients; that, as I say, has not been resolved, but this is the . . .

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister made reference to demolition of the Valleyview Building and I'm just looking for the reference in here that I think he made, but I can't put my finger on it, to the plans for a psycho-geriatric facility at Brandon, a new psycho-geriatric facility at Brandon. Is that to be built on the site of the Valleyview Building? Is that part of the proposed construction on that site or is it going to be located somewhere else?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There'll be 100 beds being built. That has received approval to go to tender and then the brick facility will be demolished and then the intention, the plan, that hasn't been approved yet, the plan is to build another 100 bed, multi-purpose . . . on the same site.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is there any tie-in at this level, Mr. Chairman, with the proposed demolition or evacuation of the Salvation Army hostels in Brandon or is that specifically a personal care matter?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That will be dealt with either in our Capital program or certainly, if you don't find it there, under the Personal Care Home under the Commission Estimates.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the Brandon Mental Health Centre had a very active community mental health program in place and, hopefully, one can say that can be phrased in the present tense, that the Brandon Mental Health Centre has a very active

community mental health program operating from its facility's site. Could the Minister bring the committee up to date on the status of that program? Are there sufficient community health workers available or is the service being delivered directly out of the Mental Health Centre by Brandon Mental Health Centre staff? Where do we stand on that particular program?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, the hospital is still providing the Community Mental Health Programs to the City of Brandon.

I might as well inform the Committee right now that I'm quite concerned about Brandon because of the difficulty of recruiting. I think that we have nine positions that aren't filled and out of that there are four or five psychiatrists and the rest are GPs doing some of that work, so we're very concerned and we'll have to zero in on that problem very soon.

**MR. SHERMAN:** When the Minister says that he is quite concerned about Brandon, does he mean he is quite concerned about the Brandon Mental Health Centre or about the Community Mental Health Program operating out of the Brandon Mental Health Centre? Are we short of Community Mental Health workers?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mostly the Centre, but because of the staff I think it would reflect on both. If you haven't got the staff, you can't do what you'd like to do in the institution and then you're limited also for community services. The whole thing is in danger the way things are now because of the lack of personnel. I understand besides that, I had a chance to visit the hospital and they expressed their concern. I visited the establishment also and I understand that besides those that I stated, the vacancies, there are a few of them that are thinking of retiring very soon because of ill health and so on; it's not a good situation.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is the same administration and chief executive officer, etc., that was in place at Brandon six months ago, still in place there? For example, is Dr. Andy Moyes still there?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, the same Director, the same Medical Director.

**MR. SHERMAN:** The Minister reports that a number of the positions that would normally or desirably be filled by psychiatrists are being filled by GPs at the present time. Is there also a shortage of GPs functioning in that capacity?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, there are four or five psychiatrist positions to fill and the remaining of the nine, again four to five GPs. I think it's four psychiatrists and five GPs.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Four psychiatrists and five GPs vacant?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** We have the staff man year. It's just that we haven't been able to fill it, and that again is a bit of the same problem. I think the whole thing of psychiatry and staff is altogether with the discussion

that we're having with Dr. Kovacs, Dr. Prosen in the University and the Medical College and so on.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, that leads to an observation, a comment I guess, more of a comment than a question. The Minister is obviously going to have a difficult time setting up the Mental Health Review Board. Any government of the day would have a difficult time setting up the Mental Health Review Board. At least, where Brandon is concerned in that situation, notwithstanding the basic challenge of finding the psychiatrists and the personnel to man that review board, obviously there have to be the personnel in place at the Mental Health Centres to expedite the process of review and make it possible.

Under the circumstances, are there difficulties being encountered in terms of maintaining ongoing monitoring of the status of individual patients in Brandon? Are there patients in Brandon whose cases should be reviewed who perhaps might even be eligible for reclassification or discharge who are not able to achieve that situation because there isn't sufficient staff there to review their cases in a professional way?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, and to the member, this is what Dr. Tavenor's report should tell us. We'll know a little more when we get that report; that is exactly what is being studied now.

**MR. SHERMAN:** But there is a possibility then, Mr. Chairman, that there are patients in Brandon who could be eligible for discharge if there were sufficient staff to cope with the situation?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I hesitate to agree with that because it's a guess and that could be very serious. We're looking into it; we hope that's not the case. I think that is one of the things we are trying to maintain and I've been told not to worry, that even if we didn't proclaim that, the situation isn't bad, the people are protected. It might be better with a review board; they're always trying to improve, but I certainly wouldn't want to give the impression that there is a bunch of people who are locked up who shouldn't be and so on. I don't think that's the case but we certainly will find out; we want to ascertain to make sure and that will help us. I think I'm following exactly in the footsteps of the former Minister who was responsible for introducing the Act, and as soon as we can with the staff — it will be very costly as we know — we'll go ahead. In the meantime we're reviewing everything and I would imagine it will be phased in. Everyone who has requested through themselves or for family and so on, a review. That has been done to date, at least we can assure you of that.

**MR. SHERMAN:** What about the safety factor for patients, Mr. Chairman, are there staff shortages or vacancies at Brandon that imperil the safety and the well-being of residents and patients?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The safety, I think, would be additional staff especially that we've provided for a contingency in the nurses. I think that's the best bet when there's somebody there. I think that the safety will be improved. The welfare, well, you know, I

imagine that I'd have to answer "yes," that it's not the same or I wouldn't want to fill these positions if that was the case, but not as far if you're talking about welfare, the safety and the danger of injuring themselves and so on. I don't think that's a danger, especially with the new staff that we're going to have. I think that'll be all right.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Out of those 636 staff man years at Brandon — well, it's not fair to take 636 because five of them are new requests — out of the existing 631 staff man years at Brandon, how many vacancies would there have been on the 1st of April, 1982?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think it would be easier if the Member for Fort Garry took the sheet that I gave him earlier; then he'll have it right in front of him. I think that will be spelled. Is it spelled Brandon as such? It doesn't spell Brandon as such or what?

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, in Institutional Mental Health Services, we show 18 vacancies as of February 28, 1982, but I was wondering how many of them would be Brandon.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** We'll deduct, instead we'll subtract. I am told by Dr. Kovacs that his vacancy rate in Selkirk is 1.2 so, all the rest is in Brandon. 1.2 percent.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could we look at Selkirk for a moment in a similar context? Dr. Kovacs says that his vacancy rate at Selkirk is 1.2 percent which means that there are approximately 6 vacancies at Selkirk. What categories are those vacancies in?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mostly psychiatric nurses on staff.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mostly psychiatric nurses. Does Dr. Kovacs get all the psychiatrists that he wants?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the positions are filled but they're under filled. It could be somebody that's not as qualified as we'd like to have it. It could even be a psychiatric nurse in some instances. It's under filled but it's filled. So, we certainly are in the market for more psychiatrists.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So, Dr. Kovacs has some GPs and perhaps even some psychiatric nurses filling positions that all of us would desire could be filled by psychiatrists, is that right? How many psychiatrists has Dr. Kovacs got? How many specialists holding fellowships in psychiatry or full qualifications in psychiatry has Dr. Kovacs got?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Some very mean person wanted to know including or excluding the President of the MMA. I didn't say that. The psychiatrists, there's Dr. — I can't pronounce that — I won't give you any names. There's seven psychiatrists. Out of those, they're all noncertified.

**MR. SHERMAN:** They're all noncertified?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Right.



**MR. SHERMAN:** So, except for Dr. Kovacs there's nobody at Selkirk who did his residency or did a residency in psychiatry?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Let's see, I give you seven non-certified and then there's eight certified.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, that's better. Thank you.

I've just forgotten, Mr. Chairman, whether the Minister has already told me that the 1.2 percent vacancy rate at Selkirk is exclusively in the psychiatric area or are those vacancies distributed among the staff. Are there vacancies in other categories of staff?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, there are but the majority are psychiatric nurses. Now as far as the physician, the doctors, they're all filled but some of them as I explained are under filled, but the vacancies are mostly with psychiatric nurses but I can't confirm that. They're not all there; it's a general staff but not at the physician level.

Mr. Chairman, on the long-range development plan for Selkirk, the Minister has specified that the concept calls for the renovation or replacement of the B Building to accommodate approximately 100 patients. My recollection is that while the question mark remained over the status and future of the B Building that there was a determination to go ahead with regeneration and redevelopment of the infirmary. The Minister's statement doesn't make that absolutely clear, although certainly it refers to plans to proceed with the modernization of the infirmary. Could he elaborate on that point? I was under the impression that modernization of the infirmary at Selkirk was a step that had already been commenced.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The project certainly is still included in the five-year program for the integration of program and fire safety upgrading the infirmary and \$170,000 has been provided in 1982-83 for consulting services for the upgrading of the infirmary building. If possible, if it's approved after that, whatever comes out of the planning, start on renovation which will be dependent upon the finds of the consultant in the investigation. They're still in the plans, but right now funds have been approved only for the study and for the planning.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there were some difficulties in recent years with respect to some of the staffing components at Selkirk, particularly in the dietary component. I know that the previous government wrestled from time to time with employee difficulties having to do with union contracts and with recognition of particular services and functions and extra duties. At one point, a year or a year-and-a-half ago, it was a fairly serious matter. In fact, in deference to those persons who were involved I would rephrase my terminology, Mr. Chairman. It was a very serious matter; it was certainly serious to those who were involved. I wonder if the Minister could give the committee an update on that situation and offer any reassurance that some of those staff morale problems in Selkirk have been resolved.

I would like to say at this point that whatever difficulties existed there existed despite the very sincere

and conscientious efforts of Dr. Kovacs. It was a matter of some contention at personal interest levels perhaps that was very difficult to contain and I know that Dr. Kovacs was on top of the problem at all times, but nonetheless there was a difficulty there for him and for the department for some time. I would appreciate a comment from the Minister as to the present status with respect to that staffing morale problem.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to report to the member that the committee of staff labour and management that was set up under my friend's administration is working quite well and they've solved most of the problems and things are greatly improved. They are still meeting; it's not complete but it's been very successful.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, is there still a considerable traffic of discharges from the Selkirk Mental Health Centre into personal care beds in the Selkirk community? Does that continue to be a difficulty with respect to availabilities in personal care homes in Selkirk?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, it is and it always will be, but I think we've got it under control because in the guidelines that we set for beds per thousand per personal care home, we take that into consideration. It is a problem and it always will be, but it's not out of control.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is the new proprietary personal care home in Selkirk which contains 32 more beds than the old home that it replaced, Red River Place being the new home, is it required to meet certain guidelines with respect to ratios of its residents? Do a certain number of those 104 beds have to be held for discharges from the Mental Health Centre?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman, but I wonder if we could go into this a little more while all the staff of the Health Services Commission is here while we deal with personal care home. I think we could deal again if the member is not satisfied with the little information I can give him at this time, but I'm told that is not the case.

**MR. SHERMAN:** The reason I raised it at this time, Mr. Chairman, is simply to examine with the Minister the question of places to go for persons who are discharged from Mental Health Centres. I would appreciate reassurance that persons are not being kept in Selkirk Mental Health Centre simply because there is no place for them to go either in terms of group homes, facilities that are located for them through the homefinders service or personal care homes.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I want to make it quite clear that I am not objecting to the fact that it's being raised here, except the information that I can get is limited at this time. We could explore this long and as deeply as we can at this time, but I might have answers that I might not be able to give my honourable friend until we deal with the Manitoba Health Services Commission and then again we could be just as flexible when we get there and come back to this,

but the panelling is the same. Everybody that is admitted to a personal care home has to go through the same panelling in Selkirk like the rest of the province.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise the committee of where the new government stands on the concept of de-institutionalization insofar as mental health centres are concerned? Is there a philosophy or an intention or an initiative to empty Brandon and Selkirk and place as many of those residents in the community as possible?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that we all have to have that dream of trying to empty all the institutions, but if we are practical people in the field know that is impossible. I have made my mistakes in the past four or five or six years ago where we were all gung ho to close all these — we were going to close Brandon — about the time I became the Minister and in Selkirk. Then we realized we were doing that quite fast, but we forgot that the other end we weren't ready to accommodate these people. We didn't have all the proper staff and then, unfortunately, many of these patients would end up in the psychiatric wards of the General Hospital and that would back up.

So, that is a concern. We want to do it in an orderly way and we have to look at the financial situation also. There is so much we can do and this is one of the situations that there is no doubt those would be much more costly. Nevertheless, even if we had all the money in the world and we had all the staff in the world.

Mr. Chairman, would you please invite these people from the other committee to move back or sit down? I can't hear.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'm insulted, Mr. Chairman. These people come in here and disrupt this Committee like that. Mr. Chairman, what I was about to say is that no matter what, we will reduce it. But, there's always, my feeling anyway, from the expert advice that I've received in the past that there will always be a certain amount of people that will be better off in the institutions. So, we are not all one or the other. We have learned our lesson; We had to put on the brakes about six years ago or so and reverse our stand.

A very important thing I think that we've got to move with the people in the community. I think it's a certain education that the people, the same as we do with some people, the retarded children in certain schools; the community has to be ready and has to accept them or it makes it very difficult. I am sure the member knows there are conflicting points of view on that and there always will be, but the member asked me for the government's and my opinion and I have tried to give it to him as honestly as I could.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, I'm glad to hear that, Mr. Chairman. There is a conflicting point of view; that's true. There are certainly two schools of thought. I don't think one is exclusive or should be permitted to be exclusive of the other. I think all across North America in the late 1960s and early 1970s, we embraced the philosophy of de-institutionalization

and found out that the result in many cases was a person who was requiring some attention and some particular emotional support, isolated in a lonely room in a downtown rooming house and far worse off than he or she had been when they were with company and friends in a mental health centre.

What is happening, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the development of those community support systems? I appreciate that we're not talking about community mental health here. We dealt with it, but you can hardly separate community mental health from institutional mental health because both facilities maintain very active community outreach and community service programs and both, I presume, maintain home finders who are looking for suitable locations for patients who can be discharged into the community. Are there any bright signs on the horizon or any new techniques or any new difficulties being encountered in the process of trying to develop those community placements and community supports for persons who can be discharged?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think we've covered part of that. I think the information that I gave the committee and the member that we had \$125,000 for a new centre this year. As far as finding these homes, I think that we covered that in some of the new homes we had in the regional group, that we'll be doing that now. It's not an easy matter. I don't think I can report that there is any significant improvement over four or five months ago. It is a difficult thing and as the member knows also, there are so many people that are vying for these foster homes and volunteers and all these things now that it's not the easiest thing in the world to do.

#### CHAIRMAN'S RULING

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The Honourable Member for River East.

**MR. PHILEYLER (River East):** Mr. Chairman, the ruling by the Chair on a point of order in the section of the Committee of Supply meeting in Room 255 was challenged and sustained in a voiced and counted vote. This was appealed to the whole committee. Does the committee wish to sustain the Chairman's ruling?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is it the will of the committee to sustain the Chair? (Agreed) It is not unanimous, in my opinion, the "Ayes" have it.

**MR. RANSOM:** I request a formal vote, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Call in the members.

The committee will come to order. The question before the House is, does the committee wish to sustain the Chairman's ruling?

**A COUNTED VOTE** was taken, the result being as follows:

Yeas, 21; Nays, 19.

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

La Verendrye.

**MR. BANMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I was paired with the Honourable First Minister. Had I voted, I would have voted with my colleagues.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I declare the motion carried.

### SUPPLY — HEALTH (Cont'd)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The committee will come to order. Continuing before we were so rudely interrupted, Item No. 4.(d)(1), Salaries.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I just had a couple of other questions on this general subject, Mr. Chairman, and one them had to do with the Psychiatric Residency Program. Is that in place? There was an incentive program developed for residents in psychiatry which was intended to address the current shortage of psychiatrists and, particularly with respect to institutional psychiatry, and to address it as it applies to both Brandon and Selkirk. Could the Minister advise the Committee where that program stands?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, there had been a discussion with the Medical Director at Selkirk and the university and they wanted to send a psychiatrist for three months only. That wasn't acceptable to us; we felt that it should be for six months, so that didn't go any further, but that is under review now and the facilities are there. We would take them if they agree to go for six months but it would be difficult to take them just for three months. It wouldn't be worth it.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So the program is open and available to anybody at the Manitoba Medical School who wants to do his or her residency in psychiatry provided they'll go to Selkirk for six months. What about Brandon? Are you doing it at Brandon too?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That program is not in Brandon. I guess they'd be afraid to send them there; we'd never let them go. No, that doesn't exist in Brandon.

**MR. SHERMAN:** One other question, Mr. Chairman, going back to Brandon again for a moment. Also, there was an idea for a Respite Care Program at Brandon which was intended, I think, to accommodate patients who had been discharged into the community and had found it difficult to relate occupationally and socially and rather than having to come back into the institution, there was going to be a separate house maintained somewhere where they could go through an adjustment process. Is that contemplated in the immediate plans for Brandon?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There's nothing newer than we had last year, but there's still \$30,000 under Respite Care; the fund is there. So far, the same as last year but there's no improvement, nothing is changed over last year.

**MR. SHERMAN:** But has that respite house or respite care facility been found, been established? I think that

the intention was to find a house and staff it with a couple of foster or house parents that could be used for respite care for these people having difficulty making the transition.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** It was one of the options that wasn't accepted for this year, but it certainly will be under review for next year. We couldn't look at all these things in the couple of months that we had at the most. I'm not saying we'll have it next year, but it will be reviewed again.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister bring the committee up-to-date with respect to the populations of the in-patients and out-patients at both Brandon and Selkirk? Are they going up or are they going down or are they remaining fairly constant?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'll start with 1977, 78, 79, 80 and 81. Starting with Brandon, the in-patients, 571, 561, 574, 555, and 559; same years in the same sequence in Selkirk, 326, 354, 391, 370, 408, that was the in-patients.

Now the out-patients, starting with Brandon, starting with the year '77, 1,241, 1,443, 1,488, 1,618, 1,566; now Selkirk, 955, 1,769, 1,549, 1,235, 1,285.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I think that's all the questions I have on this appropriation, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

**MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland):** Mr. Chairman, the other day I asked a question and the Minister told me at that time to wait until some of these appropriations. I had not been aware of the fact that we had had a change, that Dr. Tavener no longer was the head of this particular department. Could the Minister tell me who is in charge of this department now?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to go in great length because that was covered already, but we have an acting person, that's Dr. Varsamis, at this time and we are trying to recruit to find a person. I'm sure that if he wants more information, his colleague from Fort Garry will give it to him or Hansard because we covered that quite extensively. Dr. Varsamis is acting at the time until the end of April and then we will have to either get a permanent, if we can, or somebody else to act in the meantime.

**MR. BROWN:** The Minister mentioned under the questioning by my colleague that there were a number of psychiatrists training in Manitoba at the present time and I understand from your answers that we're quite short on psychiatrists in Manitoba. Could the Minister tell me how many persons we have training as psychiatrists in Manitoba at the present time?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The training would be done in the teaching hospitals in the city, the Health Sciences Centre, the St. Boniface and roughly as close as I can tell you at this time, approximately 25.

**MR. BROWN:** How many positions are vacant at the present time? If they were all to stay in Manitoba,

would that fulfill all our requirements or would we still be short?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** We would fill the positions, but many of them are underfilled. We certainly wouldn't want to turn anyone away, I don't think. I think we would try to fill with more qualified people some positions that are underfilled, but we certainly would fill the positions with a body. That would be done now as far as if we can get all the qualified people. I don't imagine there would be too many that would have to leave the province.

**MR. BROWN:** At Eden Mental Health Centre in Winkler, there are a lot of out-patients. They have been working at some time trying to get a workshop where they could employ these people while they are waiting for a treatment or whatsoever, so that they could occupy them with — well give them something to do, something useful to do — and they have been trying to get a workshop. Can the Minister tell me, any where in the Estimates for this coming year, is there funding for a workshop such as this?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** If there is anything at all, my friend will have to consult with the Minister of Community Services. It would have to be in his Estimates and not mine.

**MR. BROWN:** Since Dr. Tavener no longer is with the department and since we have somebody that's looking after it from what I understand on an acting basis; he's not going to be the director, I wonder, can the Minister tell me at the present time who is doing the planning? Who is giving the leadership? Do we have a long range plan as far as mental health is concerned? One of the things that always bothers me is that Saskatchewan is being always held before our eyes as having an excellent mental health program and that we in Manitoba are somewhat behind of the planning, the direction that's given in Saskatchewan. I wonder, can the Minister tell me whether he is working on a long range plan?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't want to be difficult, but I sure the hell don't want to start all over again either. Most of these things were covered under other areas and I would suggest my honourable friend read Hansard and if he's not satisfied or something, he can always try to get the answers. Mind you, the staff won't be here, but when we deal with the Minister's Salary because this has been covered also whatever we have. I repeated that many times and we're looking at the whole situation.

First of all, we have to attract a replacement for Dr. Tavener full time and I think it's only normal that he would have to be very much involved in the planning. It makes it difficult without that person in place. We have had a very informal committee chaired by Dr. Prosen, who is working with the qualified people and the experts that we have, people in our department such as Dr. Kovacs and others, on a number of things and we're awaiting his recommendation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(d)(1)—pass; 4.(d)(2)—pass; 4.(d)(3) External Agencies.

The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure that my colleague, the Member for Rhineland of which constituency Winkler is a great centre, is satisfied with respect to the questions he may have had pertaining to the Eden Mental Health Centre.

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

**MR. BROWN:** I didn't really get my answer from the Minister. He said I would have to contact the Minister of Community Services in order to find out whether there was any funding for the workshop. I think the workshop at the present time is the major concern. Outside of that, things seem to be running quite well at Eden Mental and people seem to be relatively happy working there, but it is this workshop that's required, so I will have to contact the Minister of Community Services on that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(d)(3)—pass. That completes the items to be considered under Resolution No. 77. Therefore, be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$31,241,700 for Mental Health Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983.

Continuing with Item No. 5, The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, Resolution No. 78 — the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister may want to wait for just a moment or two while his officials from the Alcoholism Foundation join him in the committee.

**MR. BROWN:** I see that we are spending a million dollars more on this particular item than we did last year. Can the Minister tell me where this extra money is going to be spent?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I won't give him all the details because there are some wages and things like this, but the new programs that we've been given are mostly the new building, the old CNIB building, that has been purchased by the Foundation to transfer some of the programs there and some facilities that were obsolete and inadequate and also, we're reviewing some of the programs that will go in there. The programs that had been started or at least planned during the former administration, we are going ahead; we haven't made any change on that at all, except we want to review them before the final okay.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To begin with, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether he intends that the committee should deal with this appropriation and with this agency, the Alcoholism Foundation, on a generalized basis or whether he intends that we deal with it according to the specific divisions of the Foundation? There are four divisions of course; Provincial Administration, Prevention and Extension Services, Regional and Treatment Services and then External Agencies. Does he want to approach the subject from that point of view, dealing with them division by division?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that's an excellent suggestion, especially since this is something that is completely new to me. It would be much more helpful for me. I have met quite a few times with the Board and the Executive Director but I'm far from that knowledgeable yet. We intend, next Monday, to go and see the facilities. I didn't think we'd be in this so fast, but I'll do my best with the help of the people with me and I would like to accept the suggestion that we start with Provincial Administration, Prevention and Extension Services, Regional and Rehabilitation Services and the External Agencies. I can start, while I'm on my feet, in giving you the amount that will make up the \$7.114 million; Provincial Administration is 497.6.

**MR. SHERMAN:** 497.6.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Right. Prevention and Extension Services, 891.6.

**MR. SHERMAN:** 891.6.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Regional and Rehabilitation Services, \$4,185.6 million; External Agencies, \$1.7212 million for a total of \$7.296 million. Our share of that is \$7.114 million because there is \$181,000 that will be generated for the rental revenue from the rental of the building and some smaller donations and so on in contribution to the society. The share of the province will be 7.1142 million, and the cost of the total program will be \$7.296 million.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Total program costs will be 7.296 million and the difference is the rental from accommodation and facilities provided clients. Is that the difference?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I can give you exactly the makeup of that 181.8. There's 131.8 will be received in the CNIB; 25,000 for donations and bank interest and 25,000 of the 1981-82 surplus that is kept there and accumulated.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Recoverable from Canada shows in print as \$1,826,500.00. That would be the amount recoverable under the Regional and Rehabilitation Services Division, I presume. Is that right?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes. The amount is an estimate of the amount to be received under the Federal-Provincial Cost Sharing Agreement, Vocational Rehab and Disabled Persons, but the Foundation does not receive these funds. That will go directly in consolidated funds. So, it'll be recovered by the province, but the province would have to advance and I'm asking you to vote 7.1142 million.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Right, but that whole amount that's recoverable from Canada is recoverable under the Rehabilitation Services Division, I presume, the \$4,185. You don't get anything back on the other three divisions. No.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'm sorry, I gave the wrong information. Yes, that money, some of it comes from all the different divisions. I don't know if it's much of a

factor here. It is negotiated and, of course, we'd be advised by the Alcoholic Foundation to try to take advantage of all these programs, but then it will go directly to the province and it will be recovered by the consolidated fund. The money will go in the consolidated fund. The board though is working with us on that to take advantage of everything that we can get from the Federal Government.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, that's the point. Could I just ask, because that is the point, Mr. Chairman, is he getting back from Canada everything that he's supposed to be getting back? If we look at Regional and Rehabilitation Services, \$4,185,000 and we are getting 1.8 million back from the Federal Government, that's less than 50 percent. Well, under CAP or VRDP or whatever federal legislation it is that's supposed to be a cost-shared program, should we not be getting 50 percent?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'll certainly have to check that and I'd thank the member for bringing this to my attention. I think we're doing it, but we should double check especially in these days when Ottawa is not too generous. I'll put that in the four regions to make up that up that 1.826; 102.5 for administration; 182.5 for Prevention and Extension Services. Now most of it, of course, the Regional and Rehab and that's 1.131 million; External Agencies, 410.5.

I'll give you further by region now. That's the Regional and Rehab Services, that's the make up of that 1.131; Interlake, 31.6; Westman, 323.8; Norman 199.1 and Winnipeg 576.5 for central Winnipeggers.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** We'll certainly check on that if we get any more or not.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, I imagine that it probably breaks out that the only thing we get a recovery on is pure rehabilitation. So, I'm sure that it's probably close to accurate, but I just wouldn't want to see us missing out on any ten dollar bills that we should be getting.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated that the AFM is asking for an increase of 24 staff man years this year and he supplied me with a sheet that identifies four of them as being designated for the youth program; 14 for primary care and 6 for building operations for an increase of 24. What does that mean in relation to the total staffing complement? Are the other figures on the sheet that he has given me, do they represent the total SMY's? For example, the 1982-83 figure of 276, that's the total SMY complement of the AFM at the present time? Is that correct?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This will cover the extra 24 positions of the new staff that we're requesting and that of course covers — I think we're looking at the same sheet now — this 102.5; that's the staff. We also provided you with the staff for the agencies.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So, the 1981-82 establishment is 252 and we're asking for 24 new staff to make a total of 276, right? Well, where do these 24 fit in, in terms of

the divisions of the Foundation? They would not, understandably, fit into the Provincial Administration Division or the External Agencies Division I assume. Where do they fit in? How do they break down between Prevention and Extension and Regional and Rehabilitation Services?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** None of them are with the agencies and they're all regional; there's four. They would all be stationed in this Portage Avenue complex when that's finished. The Youth Program, there would be four; Primary Care, 14 and Building Operations, 6.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So, they all go into Regional Rehabilitation Services? Okay.

I just need a minute here, Mr. Chairman, because we're not working from the same kind of layout that we have for the rest of the department in the Estimates Book. Can the Minister give me the comparative adjusted votes for '81-82 for the four divisions? It's a little hard to grasp whatever individual increased appropriations are being pursued here. He has given me the appropriations being requested for '82-83 for the four divisions, but could he give me the comparative adjusted vote for those four divisions for '81-82?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't think there's such a thing as an adjusted vote; there's only been the vote. They are more independent then in part up to a certain point and this is what they were given at the start of the year that would sit. The only thing is, in the fund, they weren't given any other staff, no other staff were hired. The only thing, I understand, there were \$25,000 underspent and that was accumulated this year, and I already gave that information, but the cost and the staff would be the same as the former Minister has.

**MR. SHERMAN:** But if you take that \$6,128,400 for '81-82, Mr. Chairman, can the Minister or his officials tell me how much of that went on provincial administration, how much on prevention and extension, how much on regional and rehabilitation and how much on external agencies? He has given me those figures for '82-83; that was the essence of my question, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, while this information is being compiled, I think I found some more information that could complement the answer that I gave to the Member for Rhineland. It's more complete.

I'll start with the 1981-82 printed vote of 6,128,400; the revenue generated internally was 80.9; so therefore, the 1981-82 operating budget was 6,209,300; salary increase, merit, miscellaneous and so on, an additional 86,900; new and expanded programs at 1031 Portage Avenue complex, youth program, 56.6; primary care, 186.7; building operations, 281.3. Am I going too fast?

**MR. SHERMAN:** No.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Oh, just a minute, I'll do better than that. I'll give you a copy.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thanks very much.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Full year cost for activities starting '81-82 — I'd better read it to have it on the record so all the members would share with us. The reallocation program changes, 7.3; Northern Region Employee Assistance Program, alcohol treatment worker and training, 8.4; community mobilization projects, 9.4; price and workload increase on AFM operations, average 11 percent increases, 169.4; price and workload increase on external agencies, 15 percent for salaries, 10 percent for other, approximately 14 percent average for 211.7; certain external agencies at a 1980-81 surplus carry-over to augment the '81-82 funds provided by the foundation. Therefore, 35.5 is added to maintain their operations at the existing level. Cost of improved fringe benefits for external agencies, 33.5; 1981 operating budget, \$7,296,000, less revenue generated internally that we covered in detail, 181.8 for a printed vote of 7,114,200 with the understanding, of course, that part of that will go back to the consolidated fund.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I thank the Minister for that information.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I have the other information . . . I'll compare now the two in the four divisions last year and this year.

The administration last year was 463.5; we're asking for 497.6 . . .

**MR. SHERMAN:** 463.5.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Right, and we are asking for 497.6. Prevention and extension services, it was 849.8, and we're asking for 891.6; regional, last year, 3,455,500; this year, 4,185,600; external agencies, last year, 1,440,500; external agencies this year requested 1,721,200; operating budget last year, 6,209,300 less '80-81 surplus which was 80.9; the vote, 6,128,400.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Right. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, those figures were the ones I was looking for and they make it a lot easier. Obviously, they demonstrate there is no increased expenditure on the administration side. I know from the staffing patterns that the Minister supplied me with, there is no increase in staffing on administration, but I just wanted a comparative breakdown of budgetary figures. The difference between 463,000 and 497,000 would be, for the most part, made up of the incremental increases and ordinary cost price increases in the administration sector.

I just wanted to make sure that Mr. Cruickshank and Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Puchlik were maintaining their empire in the posture of a tight ship, Mr. Chairman. Those figures do bear that out. I suspected they were, but without the figures, it was impossible to tell.

What administrative changes have there been in the past six months, Mr. Chairman? Have there been changes at the administrative or executive level or at the board level?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The board level, there were three vacancies that were filled a couple of weeks ago. There was a Charlie Empson, Monseigneur Empson; I believe you know him.

**MR. SHERMAN:** But he's an addition, right? He is a new appointee?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** He's a new appointee. There were three vacancies and they were filled. The others are all the same, the same chairman, everything. There was a Mr. George Ritchot, Charles Empson and Mr. Thomas McNeil. The others are all the same.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Would one of the Minister's officials be able to just readily recall who the three people were whose departures created those three vacancies?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, one died; Mr. Frank Bens (phonetic) died. We don't recall the name, there was a lady from Brandon that became ill and then there was Mr. Doug Mackie that was replaced by one.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, there might have been one or two of those vacancies open for a while. Has the board named a member or a representative who would speak specifically to the issue of occupational health, occupational alcoholism. At one time consideration was being given by the Chairman, Mr. Miles, by Mr. Cruickshank, by the Minister of the day, myself and by the former Minister of Labour to appointing somebody to the Board who would be able to help initiate and liaise with occupational alcoholism treatment programs. Is that still being contemplated?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I am told that this hasn't be done. It has been and it still is being contemplated, but not a member as much as a committee that the chairman would like to name with a person from the board heading that committee which amounts to pretty well the same thing, that it would be a committee that would be named. That hasn't been done yet.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is the Board up to full strength, Mr. Chairman? Is there a vacancy to which a person of that type could be appointed?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** It's full strength now. We just filled the vacancies. I think there'll be some other vacancies fairly soon and we're going to review that. We didn't have that much time and this will be reviewed and we'll be discussing with the board the type of people in the representation we want. We want to make sure, I think that's in there, that there is Native representation and other people. We'll be discussing that with the present board and the Executive Director and my Deputy Minister fairly soon.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Are there any changes of personnel, Mr. Chairman? I understand that Mr. Jimmy Towle has retired after a relatively lengthy and certainly dedicated period of service to the Foundation. Are there any other changes of that kind?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Towle is retired, but only since the first of this month and the position will be filled, but it hasn't been filled yet. I understand there hasn't been any other changes or retirements.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Where does the Minister want to discuss the new facility, Mr. Chairman, under administration or under a different division? I'd just like to be brought up-to-date on the status of the former CNIB building, now the AFM building on Portage Avenue, where we stand with respect to the necessary renovations that were recognized as being required and the staffing of the facility, the designation of specific units of it for different types of service and that sort of thing.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I'll answer the first question. I would suggest that we discuss that under Regional and Rehabilitation Services. I wonder if we could proceed the same as we will, I would imagine and hope, for the Manitoba Health Services Commission as we did in former years, pass one line and then get rid of that line. So, we're still on Provincial Administration. If that's passed, we can go down and I think that would be the best way. It'll be a lot easier for me.

**MR. SHERMAN:** That's fine, Mr. Chairman, and certainly I would agree that's the way we should proceed. That was the reason for my question as to where we would discuss that facility. Presumably, the administration of the AFM has now been fully relocated into that new facility. Is that correct or are we still operating out of Dublin Avenue?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The full relocation from Dublin has not been made as yet, but I believe there are some personnel in the new facilities. There is just one program so far; there is the youth day program. Now, I think that there is still some work being done. Just a few more days and of course part of it is rented out, but so far there is only the youth day program.

**MR. SHERMAN:** When does the administration expect to complete its move to the new facility, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, 80 percent of the total staff who are now in Dublin will be moved by June and the training program, the remaining 20 percent, will stay behind for a year and then everybody will be in the new location. Mr. Chairman, while the member is looking for it, the reason for that is the CNIB. That'll bring revenue, of course, that the CNIB, the arrangement was they would stay for one year and then when they leave the training program, we'll replace them. That's the remaining 20 percent. That's the reason why they're not all moving in June.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I see. Mr. Chairman, the purchase of the former CNIB building and relocation of administration and directorship and programming headquarters and in fact some programming operations into the new AFM Building was supposed to be coupled at the same time with some action that was going to be taken with respect to three residences in the Fort Rouge area of Winnipeg: Stradbrook House, Nassau House and River House. Are there any changes in those plans? Are Stradbrooke, Nassau and River continuing to operate the way they did before and will they continue to do so when the move is complete?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think it might be easier — we have to allow some flexibility — if I read

the statement that's to be prepared on the CNIB because you can't divorce everything. I think you have to know. So, I will do so. The AFM Programs of the former CNIB building at Sherburn and Portage Avenue have been developed to recognize four basic needs:

1. To provide a new social setting, de-toxification or primary care treatment unit in the city. This is a non-medical unit which will take the pressure off hospital bed demand for those persons not requiring medical aid, in order to enter the longer term Alcoholic Treatment Programs. The new unit is set up to handle 20 beds. It will provide a comfortable home atmosphere to safely support and sustain persons while withdrawing from alcohol. A specially trained staff will be in place to assure the physical, mental and social needs of patients. Anyone requiring medical attention will be transferred to the Chemical Withdrawal Unit at the Health Sciences Centre. This primary care unit for alcoholism treatment has long been a need in the city and in the AFM Treatment Program.

2. To provide the province's first Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program for youth. The second new program at the Portage Avenue location is already started. It is the Youth Alcohol and Drug Program for persons up to and including age 18. The Youth Program started last August on an out-patient basis and has a case load of over 300 youngsters in treatment. Three types of services are provided; an intervention program for those youth who are drinking or consuming chemicals at risk, a treatment program for those persons who are already in the addiction process, a special information and support program for the parents of youngsters who are addicted. Now, in addition to the out-patient services to complete the Youth Program, ten beds will be made available for a three-week residential program for those youngsters who are addicted and require the time to recover in a group-support atmosphere.

3. To provide new facilities to replace two old treatment houses in the area of Nassau Street, which were proving to be inadequate. I think one of them is closed and the other one is still open. The CNIB building would also house 30 beds for male adult alcoholics who were formerly treated in houses on Nassau Street. This is not a new program, but rather replacement of old facilities which have become difficult and costly to maintain.

4. To amalgamate AFM management and education services with the treatment services within one complex. One other very important use of the new location is to bring the AFM management, education, training and library services into amalgamation with the treatment programs, thus eliminating many operational and management problems and providing greater public accessibility to the AFM library services of literature, films and tapes. The present location on Dublin Avenue had been seen as a serious handicap to providing services to the public.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for that overview statement and that information. Mr. Chairman, my only question arising out of that statement would just be a question asking confirmation of the Minister as to whether the first component to which he refers, the first objective

which he cited as being encompassed in the development of the new facility, is what we would familiarly refer to as the Detox Centre. Is that the component that is covered in Initiative No. 1, the Detoxification Centre?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I am sure that admission to the Detox Unit will be restricted to those cases requiring a limited amount of supportive services, care and counselling. Truly ill patients will continue to be medically assessed and no cases requiring services of the Chemical Withdrawal Unit at the Health Sciences Centre will be referred to their unit. AFM are hoping the Detox Unit will be complementary to the services presently in place and in some instances, expedite discharge of selected patients from the Acute Hospital or Chemical Withdrawal Unit. In order to clarify the exact role the AFM expect this detox centre to fulfill, we are anxious that the criteria for admission to the non-medical detox unit be specified. I therefore ask my medical consultants Dr. Kovacs and Dr. Johnson to meet with Dr. Jacyk and other members of their Medical Advisory Committee and staff. This meeting will take place on May the 5th.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that covers the Administration Division satisfactorily.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would remind the honourable members that the Estimates deal with this as one item, The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm satisfied this is a gentlemen's agreement that we have, a gentleman's agreement, I'm sorry.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** With the understanding there'll be no formal passing of the items as you proceed.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to attract your attention to the — I always say Radisson — anyway there's a member that wants to speak.

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

**MR. KOVNATS:** Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister, he made mention that the facility on Dublin was inadequate. Was the facility on Dublin designed to replace the distribution centre that was at 249 ½ Notre Dame, or is the facility at 249 ½ Notre Dame still in existence?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know about this Notre Dame building; nobody seemed to hear any information. But it's not that Dublin is not adequate; it's just to consolidate the programs which would make it easier and it's not a building that we own or that the Foundation own. They are just renting there, so this would consolidate, it would bring them closer to where the action is and make it . . .

**MR. KOVNATS:** If we could just pursue it a little bit further into the one on 249 ½ Notre Dame. Is that not part of the whole of the AFM picture? I know that they did have a distribution point there where they distrib-



uted film and things of that nature, and do we have a term lease on this facility? —(Interjection)— No, not on the CNIB, on the 249 ½ Notre Dame. Are they going to move the whole facility into one location is really what I am trying to get across.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, this was a facility that was taken over by the AFM and they've already moved from there last year, that has been done.

**MR. KOVNATS:** To the Honourable Minister, thank you. That's all I was really trying to establish.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Thank you for these questions. I'm learning all the time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, unless any of my colleagues or anyone else on the Committee has any further questions, I think that satisfactorily addresses the questions that I had, at any rate, with respect to the Provincial Administration Division, so I would like to turn to the Prevention and Extension Services Division with the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, under Prevention and Extension Services, the appropriation requested for 1982-83 is not substantially in excess of the vote for '81-82. The big increases in the request for the AFM come in the Regional and Rehabilitation Services and, to some extent, a limited extent in the External Agencies Division but on the basis of the breakdown the Minister gave me, it would appear that there's not much contemplated in the way of expansion or extension of this particular division having to do with Prevention and Extension Services. The increased appropriation is approximately \$42,000.00. There is no increase in staff-man-years requested, and I would ask the Minister whether the mathematics reflect the fact that the only increase being pursued in this division is the normal one having to cope with and deal with cost price increases and the inflationary factor?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the increase is 41.8; salary increase, merit, miscellaneous, it's only .7; the price and workload increase was 31.7; and full year cost for Community Mobilization Activities started last year is 9.4 for the total of 41.8.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Can the Minister indicate whether there have been any changes, refinements or modifications in the overall core of the Prevention and Extension Services spectrum? It consisted of programs like the Community Mobilization Program, Awareness Education Programs, Staff Development. What adjustments have been made for '82-83 in that core, if any?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Very little, Mr. Chairman. The staff man years are exactly the same. Now the Directorate Services, '81-82 was 100,200 and now it's 106,200; Community Mobilization, 472.6 now 496.9; Evaluation, 48.1, now 50; Research Project, 9.5 and now it's 5; Library Resources, 109.1, now it's 117.5; Training Unit, 110.3 and now 116; and I'll try to get the answer to the question that I am anticipating.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. Did

the Minister report to the committee on the participation in and level of success or level of acceptability of some of the key programs that come under the aegis of this division? I'm interested in particular in the Community Mobilization Program which was aimed at teacher training in substantial part and training for school guidance counsellors. Would the Minister or his officials have comparative figures for '81-82 in terms of participants in those programs as compared to '81, as compared to the previous year, or would he have even the total number of participants in the Community Mobilization Training Program in the year just ended?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, maybe I should make it quite clear at this time that I'm just being the mouthpiece here; I'm getting all the information from the foundation. Of course, in a complex thing like that, I'm very interested but with the few months that we've been there, I want to say again how little knowledge that I have, but I'll try to give the information to the former Minister who, I am sure, knows an awful lot more than I do on this.

The Community Mobilization, the number of participants for 1980 was 1,694; 1981, 1,424; and that was for the training program, including teacher training, school guidance counsellor training, parent training, Kids and Drugs, Native program training, employee assistance training.

The Education Awareness Program includes sessions provided for in 1980, 1,615; in 1981, 6,752. Now that's students-in-school programs, health professionals, parents, senior citizens, Native program education, other community service professionals. The library services, approximately 450 organizations utilize the lending library that is at schools, hospitals, public health, unions, Canadian Forces. The books and periodicals loaned in 1980, 1,300; 1981, 1,500; films, tapes loaned 2,000 in 1980; 3,100 in 1981. Pamphlet distribution, AFM pamphlets, 100,000 each year; great entertainers, 40,000 and in '81, 50,000.

The staffing is the same as last year, exactly the same as last year.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that information. Part of the division's responsibilities also had to do with staff development. There was a training unit in place that was responsible for that function, is that training unit and that staff development program still continuing?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, the training unit, the number of participants in 1980, 540; in '81, 1,545. The training included the Chemical Dependency and Prevention, Police Academy, Red River Community College, Women and Addictions, University of Manitoba. The staff development, 140 in 1980; 373 in 1981 and that includes core knowledge, communications, trainer of trainers, counselling alcoholic clients, problem solving.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Problem solving —(Interjection)— I don't have any record of problem solving. Mr. Chairman, where do the new initiatives in terms of youth programming and impaired drivers' programming come in, do they come in under Regional and Rehabil-

itation Services or Prevention and Extension Service?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The next item under Regional and Rehabilitation Service and I think it'll be under Winnipeg region or Central region.

**MR. SHERMAN:** There was consideration, Mr. Chairman, being given to a summer school on alcoholism studies, I think, in conjunction with the University of Manitoba based on the concern that there's very little reference to alcoholism in university curriculum. The theory was that graduates from many schools, many disciplines, many faculties at university will come into contact with persons suffering from alcohol-related or drug-related, chemical-related problems and illnesses in pursuit of their professional careers and that the foundation was therefore interested in working with the university to establish a course that would help familiarize those undergraduates and even graduates with the whole field of chemical dependency but certainly, in particular, the field and the problem of alcoholism. Is that contemplated in the foundation's program for the coming year?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This is only in the formation or organization stage at this time, Mr. Chairman. There has been a good rapport, good relationship with the university and the foundation. In fact, they've had a couple of meetings, I think a couple of weeks ago and they intend to meet again and they'll try to develop something but right now it's just at that stage.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister advise where the foundation stands with respect to needed alcohol treatment workers particularly in some rural communities of the province, or would he suggest that we should be dealing with that under the Regional and Rehabilitation Services Division? Perhaps that indeed is the correct place to deal with it but I put the question to him for clarification.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That'll be regional, I'm told, the next line.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, one other question that I would have in this area and that has to do with some of the ambitions and objectives of the foundation in the prevention and extension services field which relate to programs in junior high schools and correctional institutions, programs connected with or related to the Main Street Project, programs of that nature. Again, I would ask direction of the Chair or the Minister as to whether we should be dealing with them under Regional and Rehabilitation Services. I raise the question here because they are, at least in substantial form, prevention and extension programs. Should we be discussing them under this division?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Let's deal with this in Regional and Rehab, I think it might cover both but we'll try to do away with this line.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Okay.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, seeing that this is an arrangement between us, I'll wait until I hear from

the critic of the Opposition if he's satisfied to go on to the next line because there's only one left.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we can conclude our examination of prevention and extension services then at this juncture and move on to the next division of the Foundation which is Regional and Rehabilitation Services. This appropriation request, Mr. Chairman, is the major one and it always is with good reason. In the vote being requested for the AFM, we're looking at an increase this year in request of some \$700,000 over 1981-82 and a requested establishment increase of 24 SMYs. The breakdown with which the Minister provided the Committee indicates that of those 24 SMYs of new staff, six would be in building operations, 14 in primary care, and four in the youth program.

Could we start first with looking at the building operations aspect, Mr. Chairman. Are those staff being requested simply to complete the renovation of the new AFM building or are we looking at an increased establishment of personnel on an ongoing basis, relative to the new facility?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, the building operations were asking for an increase in the amount of 281.3 and a staff of six that are part of the 24 and that is the maintenance and the cook, the dietician and so on in the building. That, of course, is at the 1031 Portage Avenue complex.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So, they'll be there permanently.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, would it help if I started by giving the explanation of all the increase in there? The Salary increase would be merit, miscellaneous, as 73.8 and then at the new and expanded programs at 1031 Portage, the youth program will be 56.6 with four new staff man years. The primary care, 186.7 with 14 new staff man years. The building operation, I've already covered, 281.3 and six. The full year cost for activities starting in 1981, we have additional program changes, 7.3. The northern region employees assistant program, alcohol treatment worker and training, 8.4 and the price and work load increase, 116,000 for a total increase of 730.1 thousand and 24 staff man years.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister now review briefly for the committee the status of the renovation program at the new facility, the new AFM building? I believe there was provision made under the previous government for commitment of a sum close to \$600,000, approximately \$600,000, for expenditure in the 1981-82 fiscal year on necessary renovation and redesign and redevelopment of the interior of that main building to meet the programming and administrative needs that we've been discussing. Has that program been carried out? Has that money been expended?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, that fund of course will not be found in here. It was last year and it's practically finished. It's a question of days and I am told they've spent every nickel.

**MR. SHERMAN:** The Minister has said that the youth program is under way at the centre. Presumably, the youth program is the basic new programming initiative of the AFM for 1982-83. Is that correct? Most of the effort, most of the energy and in fact most of the available increase in funding, that is over and above the normal cost price increases, is geared to launch that initiative as the primary initiative for 1982-83?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, that's the case, Mr. Chairman. I want to make it clear that I've said the youth program had started, but that's the out-patient only. When it's completed in about June sometime, then you'll have the ten beds and the Detox, but also that'll be the program you're talking about.

Also, I can give you a little more on the purchase price for the building. It was 1.629 million and renovation was 706 for a total of 2.335 million and it's nearly finished and it's all spent.

**MR. SHERMAN:** How does the youth out-patient program work? Are the youth coming down there on referrals to the AFM or are you working through guidance counsellors at schools or what are the mechanics of the youth program? How do young people, who have the problem or the incipient problem, get into the youth program at the AFM.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, they're from referrals, but they come from a number of places; probation, schools, courts, juvenile courts and some parents sometimes.

**MR. SHERMAN:** When do they come down, Mr. Chairman? Do they come down after school or during the school day or weekends and what happens to them when they get down there? Are they treated by alcohol treatment workers or dealt with by counsellors or are they put through specific programs that would be similar to Detox or withdrawal programs? I understand, as the Minister has already pointed out, that the Detox part of the program isn't in place yet, but would there be programs that would represent partial detox or partial chemical withdrawal programs which they would undertake at that centre on an out-patient basis? What does the treatment of young people now coming into that outpatient stream consist of?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The program is usually a month, and it's a regular program of three times a week, usually from four to six. Of course, there's individual counselling also in certain cases, but it's a regular program. So many appear three times a week from four to six after school and the full program lasts a month.

**MR. SHERMAN:** How many counsellors or treatment workers would there be available to work with those young people?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I understand that there's four working now. There will be four coming later when the place is fully functioning to its capacity and the caseload at present is 300.

**MR. SHERMAN:** What does youth mean, anything from the age of 10 to the age of 18; what would be the rough general age parameters?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The average is 14, the maximum is usually 18. There's been the odd case of as young as 10.

**MR. SHERMAN:** The average age is 14, is that correct? Of that caseload of 300 if the average age is 14, I suppose one could assume that there were 150 between the ages of 14 and 18, and 150 between the ages of 10 and 14 mathematically speaking, but that isn't necessarily the case. Could the Minister or his officials suggest to the committee how many of that caseload of 300 would be, for example, in the age group 10 to 14?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, the average is 14. We know that they would be more between 14 and 18 but that's about as close as we can give you at this time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** But would there be a significant number of that 300 between the ages of 10 and 14?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Are there indications otherwise that there is a significant problem in the junior high school population which really does put us into the age group of 10 to 14? Junior high school not senior high school. —(Interjection)— Pardon? Well, 14 can be Grade 10 though. Well, let's say ages 12 to 14. Are there indications elsewhere that there is a significant junior high school problem, say ages 12 to 14?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I think we have identified, the main problem is around why we have used, maybe. We want to check the average age, but that answer was given because the feeling is that around Grade 9 and so on, there are quite a few that have been pretty severely afflicted at this time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Does the Foundation and do the directors of this program anticipate a higher average caseload than the one that exists at the present time? You've got a caseload of 300 right now but the program hasn't been in place for very long. Would you say that you expect a caseload substantially higher than that once the program comes into full acceptance?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** We would like to say no, but I think we have to admit that we're expecting more because there are two groups there, those that are already addicted and those that are drinking at schools at risk, that are in trouble at school and so on. There are the two groups, so, yes, we expect there'll be more than that.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Are these young people down there as a result of referrals by the police or under the Juvenile Delinquents Act or are they essentially social referrals?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think we've

covered that they would be from the parole, from the juvenile court, from the schools and from the parents, and you will get referrals from these four main groups.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Does this program, Mr. Chairman, deal with all chemical addiction, drug addiction, or just alcohol?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** As much as possible, both.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Both?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, drugs and liquor.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I think a long standing ambition of the administration of the AFM has been to launch a program of alcohol and drug education at an earlier school age than perhaps has been the conventional age accepted in the past. In the previous decades, I think most of us thought in terms of implementing such programs at the high school level where experts in their field would now say that we had to be into the junior high school population with programs of that kind. Does the Foundation envision this youth program as the source of some guidelines and conclusions that it can use for developing a program it can take into the schools and particularly into the junior high schools?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm informed that our education people are dealing with the Department of Education or the school division, I guess. This program, they're trying to improve and multiply the programs, would take place right in the schools and the education programs also.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is that aspect then of the foundations activities being developed essentially under the supervision of that education committee that was set up a couple of years ago consisting of people like Dr. Shirley Parker, etc. etc.?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Has that committee reported with respect to a package or kit to be introduced into the schools yet? They were looking at the former program which was entitled "Building the Pieces Together," and which had its devotees and also its detractors and attempting to develop a program that drew on many of the merits of that particular package, but also eliminated some of the more unacceptable parts of that package and incorporated other concepts and ideas which it was felt would provide a very much strengthened and much more acceptable, a much more effective education kit for teachers to use in high schools, in particular, and even in junior high schools and elementary schools in the alcohol education field. That was one of the primary responsibilities of that committee and I know they were working very conscientiously at producing that kind of a package and that kind of program. Has it reported with any such conclusions to the Minister or to the Foundation yet?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the information

that I have been given is that there's good cooperation with the school division and a brand new kit is being developed between the Foundation and the Department of Education and it's not ready yet, but that could be some time this year or next year. I'm sure the Minister of Education will want to tell you all about it when she . . .

**MR. SHERMAN:** That presumably will be offered to the school divisions. Is it something they'll be able to explore and take or reject on a voluntary basis I assume, is that correct?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The Foundation wants to make sure that it's the proper kit that will serve its purpose, so they don't want to be rushed into this; they're not dragging their feet, mind you. It'll have to be field tested and I'm told there is quite a bit of work to be done yet. Then if it works and if after the kind of pilot project or the test is positive, only then I guess it would be offered and the school boards would be encouraged to use the kit.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could we turn to the Impaired Drivers Program and ask the Minister for a brief report on that program which is apparently the second major initiative of the Foundation for the coming year? It's a program that deals essentially with second offenders. Is there a close-working liaison with the Motor Vehicle Branch in pursuit of the objective of any impaired driver program which is to remove danger from the roads and restore as much safety and responsibility as possible to vehicular traffic where alcohol is concerned? There's no question that a program of this kind is limited and crippled to a certain extent if it's only undertaken by the Alcoholism Foundation. There has to be a very close working liaison with the Motor Vehicle Branch and I would appreciate the Minister's updating the committee on that program.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This program has not been existing too long. It's more or less at the infancy; it is because of lack of staff at the present, they're dealing very closely with the Motor Vehicle Branch but only with second offenders. The only reason for that is lack of staff and it was only offered in Winnipeg and Brandon; now it's expanding I think in Dauphin, Thompson and The Pas but there is an awful lot to improve this program.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I'm not really sure what conclusions I can draw from the Minister's answer, Mr. Chairman, but I recognize that it's a massive responsibility to take over the Ministry of Health. He hasn't had an opportunity to examine all aspects of the department yet and certainly he hasn't had much opportunity to examine all aspects of the Alcoholism Foundation which is a major component of the department and which takes some time in order to be fully understood. So I hesitate to press him too relentlessly on some of the aspects of the AFM program. But I didn't get the impression from his answer that the impaired drivers program, the Second Offenders Program, was really off the ground yet and was really under way, nor did I understand clearly from his answer whether there is a

firm, official relationship that's been worked out between the AFM and the Motor Vehicle Branch in this area. I wonder if he could just tackle those two aspects of the question again for me.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I would like to make the following suggestion to my honourable friend. The information is not available at this time but this will be provided to me, and if it's all right with the member, the statement and the answer that I will have, I will give it to the committee when we deal with my salary about the best we can because this is not available at this time, at least in a form that I'd like to give my honourable friend.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Could I ask the Minister, and he could take it as notice if he wishes to check with his officials, whether some of the other options and ambitions of the AFM that have been studied and discussed in recent years are being pursued this year?

Some of the other objectives that certainly are in the AFM's mind and have been considered and discussed in the recent past covered programs such as a Client Follow-up Evaluation Program, the addition of a new careerist in alcohol treatment work in Northern Manitoba, some additional expenditure on halfway houses, some work with the province in connection with the Intoxicated Persons Detention Act, particularly at The Pas, some additional alcohol treatment workers and counsellors in rural areas of Manitoba, expansion of the program that's been in place for the last two years and has been highly successful at Headingley, and some initiatives that have been contemplated with respect to the Main Street Project.

Those are some of the initiatives that I know the AFM would like to undertake, and I would assume the Minister would like to undertake at some point in time. I can't tell precisely from the Estimates presentation, Mr. Chairman, whether any of those concepts or programs are included in the spectrum for this year.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I will accept these last things as a comment and advice from the member. This is not something that we dealt with; this is something that we have to choose with the CNIB or some of those other programs that are mentioned now. I certainly would hope that we would have a chance to look at these things for next year and be ready at Estimate time. If there isn't any increase, we'll have to look at that but this year the decision was, do we go ahead, do we keep on with CNIB, and I feel that we did quite well with the increase that we have, so we had to forget some of these options at this time. So I would choose to use this as advice from the member who is very knowledgeable in these options. I'll try to brush up and to understand better what these things are and would hope that next year then we could at least defend the reason why they are not there or if we have other programs that we feel should be prioritized, but I think that's about all I can do at this time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** That's certainly fair enough, Mr. Chairman, and I recognize that the Minister has a plate full, and in fact, one could devote a considerable lifetime to just working with the Alcoholism Foundation alone, notwithstanding all the other divisions of

the Department of Health.

I'd like to ask the Minister if everything is up to par and up to required and necessary levels at the Willard Monson House, the former All Care Resort Centre, now the Willard Monson House in Ste. Rose du Lac, which is another fine physical facility that was added to the AFM's facility and programing spectrum during the past year. I had some concern some months ago that we were having staffing difficulties at Willard Monson House, notwithstanding the fact there was an excellent director in charge and an excellent regional director in that area, there seemed to be some difficulty in maintaining the staff at the necessary complement in order to accommodate the number of patients in residence for which there is now capacity in that redeveloped centre. Where do we stand at Willard Monson House on staffing at the present time, is it sufficient or are they still encountering some difficulties?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the renovation is finished; we are very satisfied with the — well, I better not put myself on the spot — the Foundation is very satisfied at this stage. They have the same Regional Director, they have the proper staff. I think they've asked for clerical staff, secretarial help, and the Foundation is endeavouring to meet that need.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Are there any changes, Mr. Chairman, in the list of AFM centres in the province that operate rehabilitation and treatment programs? I know that there are some changes taking place and pending with respect to Nassau House and Stradbrook House, and we have already discussed those, but apart from those which are related to the development of the new centre at the new AFM building on the old CNIB site, are there any other changes in physical rehabilitation and treatment programming centres in Westman or Norman, Parklands or Interlake Regions or indeed in Winnipeg?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman, in the different regions there aren't any changes except the Stradbrook that we already covered and the movement to the old CNIB building. That is all, there's no other other changes in the regions or the province at all.

**MR. SHERMAN:** There's always been provision, Mr. Chairman, for alcohol treatment worker services in a number of northern and remote Manitoba communities. Well, I shouldn't say there always has been, but there recently has been, as a result of extending the alcohol treatment worker service into a number of areas where it was needed and where previously it had not been available. The Foundation had reached a point where it had full-time workers in Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gillam and Rosburn and part-time workers in Wabowden, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake, Pikwitonei, Snow Lake, Nelson House, Ilford, Cranberry Portage and South Indian Lake. Have we been able to maintain those alcohol treatment workers in those communities?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The only possible change, and I'd like to read the statement that has been prepared,

is a possibility of changes in the Thompson facilities. The government is currently reviewing an offer which has been made to the AFM from Inco Metals Company for the purchase of a three-storey 22,000 square foot building which is roughly estimated to be worth \$1 million for the purchase price of \$1.00. The AFM, as you know, is a privately constituted foundation and they were able to receive charitable donations where the government can't.

For many years, the situation in regards to space availability in Thompson has been preventing the effect of the delivery of many of the programs. The management and outpatient services are currently located in rented premises several blocks away from the main treatment centre known as Cameron Lodge. So at the present time, the AFM is faced with insufficient space as well as being split in two locations which presents several problems to management and operations.

The new building has been recently inspected by engineers and found to be in excellent condition requiring a minimum of redecoration to make it serviceable and at the present time, the department is working with the AFM in considering the Inco proposal. It appears that there will be several thousand square feet of space which the AFM itself would not be able to use and it is possible that other health services or other departments of Community Services could be housed in the same location. We will be concluding our investigation of the building and its use in the next couple of weeks and we'll be making our response to the AFM and Inco at that time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** That's an interesting possibility, indeed, Mr. Chairman. The problem, of course, with a lot of alcoholism programming and anti-alcoholism programming is the need for support services in the community after persons undertake the treatment programs, and I found this particularly vivid in some northern communities.

I recall a particular personal experience one day in Thompson where I had come out of the nonresidential treatment centre after talking to our AFM personnel there and a number of persons who were taking treatment there, and outside the building was a young Native Manitoban, a young Indian boy, and an older Indian man sort of leaning against the wall of the building and I struck up a conversation with the young man. He told me that he was 19 years old, he had come down from Shamattawa, he'd had a terrible alcohol problem, to take the treatment in Thompson and he felt that it had given him a new lease on life, that he had his problem under control and he was very grateful for what services had been provided him but he was now finished with the program. And I said, what are you going to do now? He said, well I don't know, there is really nothing I can do; I guess I'll go back to Shamattawa. That is a chronic and endemic problem in alcohol treatment.

Are there some support systems that we can be looking at, that the foundation itself is looking at, that would give people like that who had the initiative to come down and take those treatments and improve their lifestyles, some opportunities that will help to reinforce their new lifestyle rather than having to resort back again to the pressures, the peer pres-

ures, the environmental pressures and the like that are so defeating in those situations? Are there some positions in the AFM staffing complement and staffing establishment that could be looked at for possible reassignment or redirection to provide that kind of external social support for the treatment programs, not only in Thompson but in Winnipeg too, and elsewhere in the province to reinforce the excellent work that many of our rehabilitation and treatment centres are doing? A lot of times that work winds up being effort expended in a vacuum simply because there is not the necessary support service after it's concluded. Are there some adjustments in staffing patterns that the Foundation can make to try to reinforce that kind of service?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I've had meetings with some of the leaders of the Native population and there is no doubt that they face many problems. Now there's been a battle, of course, of who has the responsibility, the Federal Government or the Provincial Government. We feel that we must accept some of this responsibility. We've discussed that with the executive director and the chairman; we intend to do it again. We certainly will look at the makeup of the board to see that there's representation on that.

Now so far, I think that the main thrust in dealing with these people has been to try, and I think this is what they like also, to train some of their own leaders to work with them and then it's education and prevention. These have been the main thing, we're not going to right all the problems very, very fast. I think there is approximately 37 percent of the people that are taken care of by the Foundation who are in Winnipeg or in the rest of the province that are of Native origin, and I am told they feel that some of the programs could be improved. This was one of the first things that I have asked from the staff and the director of the Foundation and I am told that there is a good rapport, they are working together, and this is one thing that we wanted to insist on and they are aware of the problems and they wanted it to develop programs to work with them, but as I said mostly now it's in the training of their leaders and in prevention and education at this time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I know that one medium-range objective of the Foundation is a program that its officials have described as a Metis and Off-Reserve Native Treatment and Prevention Program. Obviously, it's not possible to do everything the same year. I would hope that it's a priority consideration for the Foundation and for the Minister in the future and not the too far distant future to initiate a program of that kind. I would ask the Minister if that continues to be a part of the thinking of the department.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, there's another case that I would like to take as a recommendation from the member and that we will look at and study to see when we prioritize for next years program.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I don't think I have any further questions on the Regional and Treatment Services Division of the AFM. We can move on to External Agencies and unless others have questions I think we can deal with this fairly briefly. The

Minister has given me a breakdown of the budgeting requests for '82-83 for each of the individual external agencies and their comparison with '81-82 and it doesn't give rise to a great many questions. I am glad to see that the government finds it possible to increase the grants in each case where these external agencies are concerned.

I do have just a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman. One is on the Churchill Health Centre where there have been difficulties from time to time with respect to the effectiveness and efficiency of the service that the centre is able to provide and deliver in the alcohol treatment field. Another would be with respect to the Main Street Project and just where we are headed in the AFM in the '82-83 vis-a-vis Main Street.

First, could I ask the Minister just to recap the situation at the Churchill Health Centre, the increase in the grant on a percentage basis is probably higher for the Churchill Health Centre than for any other agency, although the sum that we're looking at is not as great numerically. Does this reflect an intensification of alcohol problems in that part of the province?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, to help the committee and expedite that matter, I guess, if I could give some information and we can zero in if there's any other question. I'll try and cover most of them in a few words.

First of all, the Churchill Health Centre, the reason why there is such a change is that if they hadn't had the surplus last year, I'm told that the Churchill Health Centre Program would have cost 50,000 not 33,000 and now we're asking 56.8. The same staff in Fort Alexander at 36.1, a staff of 12, the same staff but 39.7; Kia Zan 131 to 153.2, the same staff; Main Street Project 485.1, same staff, 570.6. Here is the Main Street, for the other question of my honourable friend, Detox program at the house at 105 Gault Street, Winnipeg. The Foundation has agreed to guarantee a loan advance to the Main Street Project from the Toronto-Dominion Bank in the amount of \$50,000.00. Repayment of the loan will be over a seven-year period. In addition to the Detox Unit, Main Street Project operates a Crisis Intervention and Drop-in Centre on 281 James Avenue. Although the AFM does not directly fund this program, some Detox staff are associated with the James Avenue operation. So that is a fair increase from 485 to 570.6. Native Alcoholism Council, 118.8 to 144.9, same staff; Salvation Army, 139.8, 162.4, same staff of 23; The Pas Health Complex 378 to now 445.6, same staff; X-Kalay 118.6 to 148 with the same staff.

**MR. SHERMAN:** With respect to the Main Street Project, Mr. Chairman, I presume that the facility for which the government is guaranteeing a loan is a temporary project. Is that correct? A temporary facility and that there are ongoing discussions or ongoing considerations being given by the AFM to working with the City of Winnipeg and Native community and a number of social agencies with respect to developing a Detox Centre for the core area of Winnipeg. Is that still being contemplated and worked on?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Maybe I better get the information then on Main Street, this is an important project.

The Main Street Project is the largest single fund of external agencies that the AFM supports in the downtown section of the core area of the City. In addition, it also funds the Native Pritchard House Treatment Centre and the Salvation Army Harbour Light Program. The main functions of the Main Street Project, up to this time, have been the Crisis Centre and street patrol in the social setting Detox which is located on Gault Street; this operation handling the bulk of the load of the alcohol problem in the downtown section for many years. During the last two years, the Alcoholism Foundation Management and Board have been working with the Main Street Project, the City Welfare Department and the Provincial Corrections Department in an effort to try and devise improvements to the present method of handling the various alcohol-related problems in the area, for example, there has been a question of the funding arrangements between the city and the province where the Main Street Project is concerned. The two Boards, the AFM and the Main Street Project, are currently involved in discussions which will hopefully resolve the question. In the meantime they are also trying to look ahead into the future and make recommendations for trying to come up with a plan for the improvement of services.

As we all know the downtown area of all cities have these special difficulties in handling the problems associated with alcoholism, alcohol and drug abuse and alcohol and drug-related problems. So the AFM is bringing the various agencies, particularly the Main Street Project, together to try and offer focus for planning and provide a new thrust for the future. In any city there are always many different views as to what the problem is and what best methods can be implemented as a solution.

There is, at the present time, no conflict between these agencies with regard to the present relationships that exist. We expect that discussions will take place over the next few months which will bring to light some new ideas for solutions to the many complex problems in the area. In the meantime, the Main Street Project will continue to be funded at the same relative level that it always has been by the AFM, including allowances for inflation, and that organization will continue to provide the Crisis Intervention Service and the Detox facilities as they have done in the past. The total amount for the two services being provided by the AFM in 1982-83 is \$570,000,600.00.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I appreciate that information and I support the position and the attitude that it represents. I would like to commend the Alcoholism Foundation and the department for the work that is being done in the chemical addictions field in the province under the leadership of the Foundation and also congratulate them on the initiation of their priority '82-83 program, the Youth Program. I look forward to the inception in their programming spectrum of a number of other initiatives and options that I've mentioned tonight and that the Minister has taken for consideration and that the AFM itself, through its officials, have been anxious to pursue for some time, limited only by the fiscal limitations that we always face in these situations.

With those words and with an expression of some pride in the progress that the AFM has made in recent

years in which I feel I've had the privilege of playing some small part, I wish them good fortune on their '82-83 programs and especially, every success on the Youth Program because that attacks a problem and a challenge that is central to society and society's health, Mr. Chairman. I consider the programming and the efforts of the Alcoholism Foundation to be integral parts of our health programming sphere and fundamentally related to health care in Manitoba generally.

So I thank the administration of that Foundation for the leadership and effort it's made to date and feel that I can, with some confidence, assure the Minister that he has an excellent body of dedicated persons at the AFM working on these objectives in the interests of Manitobans, subject only to the amounts of reasonable funding support that he can obtain for them. He can be assured of some true progress in the field of chemical addiction and alcoholism and drug abuse control in the next few years. We've got the basis now with the new centre in the AFM building on Portage Avenue and I look forward to some very innovative and effective programs emanating from that centre in '82-83 and throughout the decade of the '80s.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There being no further items to be considered . . .

The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Before the members leave the Committee I'd like to inform them that no matter what happens in the House tomorrow, even if Committees are called, the Estimates of the Department of Health will only take place on Monday, the next session we are going to have on Monday. I will try to have the information that I said I would on the Foundation at that time before starting with the Dental Program and then after the Dental Program we'll go to the Commission. I move Committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Would you like to pass this item?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Oh, yes, I'm sorry.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There being no further questions under Item No. 5, the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,114,200 for Health, the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983—pass.

Committee rise