

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 21 May, 1985.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER** by Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, I want to table the Supplementary Information for Estimates review of the Department, 1985-86 Estimates.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Culture.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Ministerial Statement.

I'd like to make an announcement of another important contribution by the Manitoba Jobs Fund to the economic employment growth of this province.

Moments ago I had the pleasure of signing a development agreement with Vicon Canada, a subsidiary of Vicon B.V. of Holland, one of the world's leading short-line farm equipment manufacturers.

Vicon, you will remember, recently purchased the assets of Co-op Implements. The company has been investigating sites in Western Canada and has decided to locate their ag equipment manufacturing facilities here in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, Vicon will employ 130 Manitobans directly by 1989, and by relying heavily on other Manitoba companies to undertake sub-contracts, they will create an additional 300 local jobs and by maintaining Co-op Implements sales people, some 107 jobs which might have been lost will now be saved. That's a total of more than 530 permanent jobs, jobs which might have gone elsewhere, were it not for the Jobs Fund Development Agreement.

Through its decision to locate here, Vicon has shown confidence in the economy of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, the same confidence that Gravure Graphics of Winnipeg showed when it decided to sign a development agreement and to stay here and to expand, directly affecting more than 200 Manitoba jobs.

The Toro Company of Minneapolis also signed a development agreement and located a manufacturing plant in Steinbach, thus showing confidence in Manitoba.

The confidence these companies have shown in our province, Mr. Speaker, has resulted in some 755 permanent jobs and millions of dollars of investment in the Manitoba economy.

Statistics Canada says investors have confidence in Manitoba, with investment intentions this year expected to show the strongest overall increase in the country. The Royal Bank says confidence in the economy of

Manitoba will be reflected in the best investment increase in the west over the next decade.

This confidence in our province is well deserved, Mr. Speaker, and is a feeling which is being expressed by many, many Manitobans. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Vicon Canada to Manitoba. Their presence here will ensure that we will continue to be the key farm equipment manufacturing centre in Western Canada.

I'd also like to commend the officials of my department, Industry, Trade and Technology, as well as the Local of the United Steelworkers for their efforts to assist Vicon to locate its operation in Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We on this side of the House welcome this long-awaited announcement of the Honourable Minister that Vicon has purchased the assets of Co-op Implements.

Mr. Speaker, I'm quite concerned about the management of the affairs of our province. We just finished the examination of the spending Estimates of the Honourable Minister of Co-op Development. We didn't get the annual report until 2 o'clock of the afternoon of the day that we were to deal with those Estimates. I'd like to ask the Minister today, when this announcement was made, because I think it was made some time ago, and we in the opposition could have had an opportunity to examine it during the spending Estimates of the Minister of Co-op Development to find out what kind of money is involved in the deal, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome the announcement and it's too bad that we couldn't have had a chance to deal with the details of it during the examination of the Minister of Co-op Development's Estimates.

Thank you.

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

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have 24 students of Grade 11 standing from the Princess Elizabeth High School under the direction of Mr. Balkwill. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

There are 60 students of Grade 5 standing from the Southwood Elementary School in Steinbach. They are under the direction of Miss Paschke. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

On behalf of all of the members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

**ORAL QUESTIONS**  
**Vicon - cost to taxpayers**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. It flows from the statement that he just made in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the taxpayers of Manitoba will be interested to know just how many of their dollars were involved for the Minister to make that statement that he just made, through the Jobs Fund, as I understand it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member of Culture.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amount of the assistance that the Province of Manitoba is providing through the development agreement is a loan of \$400,000 to Vicon for the establishment of their plant. That loan will turn into a forgivable loan if they meet their employment targets during the next few years. If it isn't, the loan is repayable with full and retroactive interest.

There is a further provision of a \$600,000 forgivable loan based on additional expenditures in the area of research and development by the company into new product lines. That loan is contingent on matching by the Federal Government and is also contingent on the company meeting employment targets. If they do meet employment targets, then that loan will also be forgiven based on their meeting the employment targets and the employment creation here in the Province of Manitoba. If they don't, then the loans will be repaid with accumulated and retroactive interest.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the Province of Manitoba would rather we would not be in a situation as we are in this country, where various jurisdictions within Canada, various provinces compete with each other on these kinds of agreements, in fact, it's not only a Canadian situation or an in-Canada situation but one with respect to other parts of North America, states in the United States are very aggressive in their marketing efforts for new industries and provide a range of assistance. In fact, in this case, I know that the Province of Saskatchewan made a very substantial offer to Vicon to locate in the Province of Saskatchewan.

We have raised that; at the First Ministers' Conference, the Premier of this province raised the issue of interprovincial competition. I have raised it at meetings of Economic and Regional Development Ministers, suggesting that this kind of competition should not continue in the province. However, if other provinces are doing this, Mr. Speaker, it would be foolhardy for us in the Province of Manitoba to be uncompetitive vis-a-vis other provinces, and not to look at providing jobs for Manitobans and for young people in our province.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, ministerial statements are made to provide the House and the people of Manitoba with information. We note with interest that the single most important piece of information was singularly absent from this statement, the fact that Manitoba taxpayers are being asked to provide up to a million dollars, in this instance - all the more so when a simple

modification of the labour law could have prevented that.

My question to the Minister is, will the financial arrangements of the million-dollar exposure that taxpayers have in the retention of these jobs be tabled in this House?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Culture.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I regret that that particular information was not contained in the statement. I did provide it on question from the member. Notwithstanding that, I have indicated the arrangements, the terms that are part of that agreement, so if there is other information that the member requires, I'd be pleased to provide him with that.

He made some reference to labour laws. I recall that the Member for St. Norbert indicated that that company was going to move out of the Province of Manitoba because - the story in the Free Press said "Labour laws force factory to move." The truth of the matter is that they were able to come to a conclusion with their union with respect to labour law.

With respect to other provinces, unfortunately we are in this kind of competitive environment in this country, and the best Manitoba can do is to ensure that these kinds of incentives that ensure that Manitoba is competitive to other provinces are done in a way that ensures that there are employment targets, that there is job creation, that there are areas like affirmative action contained in those things so that they are of benefit to Manitobans in terms of jobs for people here in the Province of Manitoba.

As I said, we have raised it at the national level that we should look at this kind of competition that goes on between provinces and try to bring an end to it, Mr. Speaker, so that it would be a benefit for all Canadians.

**Livestock backup - U.S. tariffs**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the First Minister. In view of the fact that we have a major backup of livestock due to the imposition of unfair tariff barriers in some states in the United States, in view of the fact that he has reversed his position on free trade, what has he done to support Manitoba livestock producers to re-enter the markets in the United States that have been closed to us?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, in fact, if the honourable member was referring to the statement that was issued in Kelowna and the statement from Grande Prairie, he would realize his statement in regard to reversal of position is incorrect.

Mr. Speaker, insofar as the question of the livestock backup is concerned, we have not yet heard from the Federal Minister responsible for External Affairs and

Trade, Mr. Clark, who apparently had some meetings with his counterpart in Washington over the weekend. This is a matter in which the Federal Government is required, by way of its responsibility, to take a clear and strong position in regard to the utilization of non-tariff barriers, to the imposition of livestock into the United States.

I trust that Mr. Clark was able to ensure that he be heard in his discussions with Mr. Schultz over the weekend. Insofar as the province is concerned, we again urge the Federal Government to utilize its offices as the party responsible for dealing with matters such as this, to take a firm position.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I accepted the invitation from the Honourable Member for Lakeside on Friday to pursue this matter to the extent possible at the provincial level.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the First Minister, what has he done to communicate to the authorities in the United States, the Governor of the State of South Dakota, who has imposed one of the restrictions, what has he done? It doesn't bother him, Mr. Speaker, to mess around in Garrison and in nuclear resolutions, but what has this First Minister done? What communication has he, as the First Minister of this province, put forward to the Governor of the State of South Dakota on behalf of the producers of livestock in this province? What has he communicated to those individuals?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Member for Arthur wishes now that a Provincial Government subsume the responsibilities of its national government. That's basically what the Honourable Member for Arthur is suggesting. Mr. Speaker, it's clear . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please.  
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** The honourable member should be aware that this matter was raised by our staff and by ourselves when we were in Grande Prairie at the beginning of this week with federal officials. In fact, the federal officials of the Department of Agriculture were not aware that there was an embargo placed on Canadian hogs at the time that we raised this matter in Ottawa, and as a result, they started looking into the situation. We've raised this concern nationally and that is precisely where this problem should be handled. If the member is suggesting that we now circumvent the national authority in this country and then be accused of meddling in international affairs on behalf of a province, Mr. Speaker, I certainly am not prepared to do that.

But as the Premier suggested, he has offered, by the Western Premiers, to meet with the Governors of those states to discuss this matter at the governmental level, which would be an appropriate way, but really the forum for this is through our Department of External Affairs and the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa, who should be living up to the responsibility and dealing with this problem forthrightly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition forwarded a telex on behalf of the livestock producers last week to the Federal Government. The question is, what has this First Minister communicated and would he table any documents that he has to the Federal Government or the appropriate authorities in the United States, on behalf of the livestock producers, Mr. Speaker, who are losing thousands of dollars under this administration?

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please.  
The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that a matter that is so pertinent and important to all Manitobans such as the imposition of non-tariff restrictions along the U.S.-Canadian boundary, should be used by this member, Mr. Speaker, as an opportunity for political opportunism and for backbiting, insofar as the efforts to ensure that there is a resolution of this issue in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I look to the Minister responsible for External Affairs in Ottawa to assume that responsibility that is committed to that Minister by way of law. Mr. Speaker, that Minister met with his federal counterpart over the weekend, Mr. Speaker, we will find out and the Honourable Member for Arthur will find out whether or not the Federal Minister responsible for trade was successful or not within a very short period of time. And then, Mr. Speaker, we'll be able to ascertain what action is required on the part of the Provincial Government to again firmly urge the Federal Government to ensure that maximum pressure is brought to bear upon those responsible in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time for the honourable member to be grandstanding. It is a time him to be ensuring that the Federal Minister that is responsible lives up to his responsibilities.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. Why has he, as First Minister of the Province of Manitoba, not communicated to the Department of External Affairs and the Federal Government, the wishes of the Province of Manitoba on behalf of the livestock producers of this province? Why has he not communicated directly to him as the Premier of the province?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, again, the honourable member is not listening. I would ask the Minister of Agriculture to detail for the Honourable of Arthur who has not listened to the very clear undertakings by this government to ensure that the Federal Minister understands the responsibility for his portfolio in this regard.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should be aware as I indicated in my previous reply and I'll repeat it for him.

Our staff, the Department of Agriculture staff, were in Ottawa on Monday and raised this matter after they had spoken with me. — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, just let the honourable member wait for the reply before he opens his mouth, he might learn something. The staff raised this with the Federal Department of Agriculture, who were not aware of this situation as yet.

On Tuesday morning, Mr. Speaker, the Minister from Alberta and myself, were in direct communication with the Ottawa people with respect to this matter with the External Affairs office of the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, as a follow-up to that, this discussion was held. The Premiers of the four western provinces discussed this matter in context as well, Mr. Speaker, which should be pointed out with what the Federal Government has done with respect to beef imports into this country. The four western Premiers were very concerned that western interests are being sold out by our national government, by allowing additional imports of European beef into this country in exchange for tobacco, for blueberries and for maple syrup primarily as being imports. If the honourable member doesn't regard that as a major trade-off in terms of our western interests, I don't know what is, Mr. Speaker.

We have raised this matter and, in fact, we followed up with a further telex when we came back from our conference in Alberta to the Federal Government. So, Mr. Speaker, we have been in communication with the federal Ministers, with the hog board, with producers in an attempt to have the United States Government force those three American states to live up to their legal obligations and withdraw the ban that they've put in place.

### **Provincial parks - imposition of liquor ban**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Emerson.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the disruptive activities in some of our provincial parks during the weekend, is the Minister contemplating imposing liquor bans in some of our provincial parks?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that those occurrences were in national parks rather than provincial ones. Therefore, I really have no comment.

### **Provincial parks - patrolling of**

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. The Conservative Government initiated a park patrol program some years ago and it has been sadly deleted under this administration. Would the Minister consider updating that park patrol program that was initiated so that the provincial parks would be safe for all Manitobans?

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any changes with respect to enforcement policy in provincial

parks or campgrounds. There probably needs to be an enhancement of the effort but I don't think there has been any reduction.

### **Provincial election - calling of**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. In view of the fact that today is the last possible date for the calling of a June election

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I've been fortunate in getting my last pamphlet out under the wire. I'd like to know whether the First Minister will demonstrate some courage and give the people of Manitoba an opportunity to pass judgment on his government?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will certainly have to wait for a few hours, but I would suggest to the honourable member that it's important at this point insofar as continuing our programs to ensure that there be good government continued in the Province of Manitoba, that we complete our Session. The honourable member no doubt will have his opportunity probably sooner than later.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, is the Premier now indicating that Manitobans will not have to wait until his term runs out in 1986?

### **Forest fire - Porcupine Mountains**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral Questions.

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I direct my question to the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the fact that a forest fire has occurred in the Porcupine Mountains, I wonder if the Minister can bring us up to date in the House today as to the seriousness of this fire and whether it's under control.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if it is indeed a very serious fire in the sense that I have not been advised of it. I would assume that if it's something of standard proportions that doesn't require any additional initiative, I would have been so advised, so I presume it's in hand.

### **Mailing list, NDP - recipients of Jobs Fund funding**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I direct a new question then to the Premier and ask the Premier if he can advise the House if all those Manitoba businesses and non-profit groups which have received funding under the Jobs Fund are now on the mailing list of the New Democratic Party for financial contributions to the party.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** No, Mr. Speaker. No.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a further question to the Premier and ask how come the Swan River Curling Club has received a letter dated May 6th requesting funds for the business canvass of the New Democratic Party?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Questions should be on matters which are within the administrative competence of the government.

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** In view of the fact that the Swan River Curling Club just recently received a Jobs Fund grant, I wonder if the Premier could advise the House as to why they would receive a letter from the NDP requesting funds at this time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. That question also deals with a matter which is not within the administrative competence of the government.

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I'd ask the Premier if his government gave the address to the NDP so that they could request this contribution from the Swan River Curling Club?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the New Democratic Party is as non-discriminatory, insofar as their fund raising as the Conservative Party of Canada is, because only two weeks ago I received a self-sustaining Progressive Conservative membership card through the mail, so I assume that we are no better at discriminating than is the Conservative Party of Manitoba.

### **Manfor - tabling of Annual Report**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister responsible for Manfor, and ask when he will be able to table the Annual Report of Manitoba Forest Resources, which has been due since September 30th, which is some eight months ago since their year end?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Business Development.

**HON. J. STORIE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I indicated some time ago that the annual report is on its way and the printing — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, if the

honourable member would like an advance copy, I can give him a copy of it. I would prefer to wait and table the completed report in its final form, but if the member is concerned about having one before Manfor comes before a standing committee, I'm certainly willing to provide him with a copy.

### **Sherman Report - implementation of**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. D. SCOTT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Last week at the Health Ministers' Conference, they received a report by Bud Sherman on the privatizing of the administration of hospitals in Canada.

Does the Minister of Health in Manitoba have any plans to implement any of the suggestions of that report in regard to the privatizing of the administration of our public hospitals?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, it was on Friday morning, I think, that the Sherman Report was released publicly, without any recommendation from any level of government.

We certainly will look at it, but as of this time there's no intention of putting any of these suggestions into law or accepting any of them. I think our policy on health services is very clear and as much as possible we feel that this should be taken up by the public sector and not the private sector.

### **The Winnipeg Construction Wages Act - changes to**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I direct my question to the Minister of Labour and would ask him, since many small contractors in Winnipeg are now indicating that the present construction rate for unskilled and casual workers - the students and youth of this province - is really hindering job creation rather than helping it; in other words, companies are being forced to pay \$13.45 an hour for unskilled and student labour, is the Minister contemplating any changes to The Winnipeg Construction Wages Act, which would allow smaller construction companies to hire students at rates which they can afford and which are more competitive with what everybody else is paying?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is probably referring to a news item that appeared recently in the press, because the Greater Winnipeg Building Construction Wage Board has been, as it has in the past, holding hearings to hear views in respect to construction wages.

They're doing that and they'll be submitting their recommendations to me and thence government, and

I'll be interested in their observations. They're certainly hearing some significant statements by people in respect to that whole issue and I'll look forward to hearing their recommendations.

### **Careerstart Program - construction industry wages**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I direct a question to the Minister in charge of Careerstart. I wonder if the Minister could inform the House whether or not the Careerstart approvals to people within the Winnipeg small construction industry are predicated on the premise that the small contractors will have to pay the \$13.45 an hour before they can qualify for any grants under the Careerstart Program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Employment Services.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Mr. Speaker, any employer in the Province of Manitoba has to abide by the various laws and regulations that are in place.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Since the Minister of Labour now recognizes that the \$13.45 an hour for small businessmen and for paying that type of money for unskilled or youth employment is really hurting job creation in this province, and since the Winnipeg small construction contractors have indicated that this is the case, when does he expect the committee to report to him with regard to changes to this act?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, let me first correct the record.

The honourable member indicates that I recognize a significant problem in the extent of the wage being paid. I did not at all. I indicated that this Greater Winnipeg Building Construction Wages Board was hearing representations and I'll be pleased to receive their recommendations and deal with the report. Certainly, I don't think anyone would accuse people of making \$13.45 an hour as being excessively paid, and if that's the kind of message the honourable member is suggesting, I think that's an error.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we'll be interested to see what recommendations they make because there may well be some recommendations that we would want to look at, but I can't prejudge what recommendations they're going to make.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Mr. Speaker, since a 16- or 17-year-old student, unskilled, is now being - not because of his or her wants or needs - forced by the law to be paid \$13.45 an hour, which we all know is a very high wage for an unskilled student, when does the Minister expect the report so that some action can be taken on this problem, which is really taking jobs away from students in this province?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, I have to become somewhat annoyed. The honourable member knows

that not only in the lifetime of this government, but in the previous government the same board existed, composed of both business and labour and the recommendations that are extant today were a result of recommendations made by that board to this government and the previous government before it. Now to suggest that there's something wrong in the system and immediately there must be change is to really play loose with the facts.

Mr. Speaker, that board is charged with the responsibility of looking at the system, making recommendations, and we will look at the recommendations. I don't know the timing of those recommendations, but we will deal with them.

### **Workers Compensation Board - administrative cost increase**

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

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would direct my question to the First Minister.

Does the First Minister approve of the 150 percent increase in administrative costs of the Workers Compensation Board since 1981, the three-and-a-half years of the New Democratic Party Government?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The honourable member is seeking an opinion. Would he frame his question to seek information?

The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** To the First Minister also. Does the First Minister approve of the 150 percent administration cost increase of the Workers Compensation Board since 1981?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. That is the same question.

The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, may I just change the word "approve" to "support"?

Mr. Speaker, can the First Minister advise whether he supports the 150 percent increase in administrative costs since 1981 of the Workers Compensation Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The honourable member is still asking for an opinion. Would he ask for information?

The Honourable Member for Lakeside on a point of order.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, we have just dealt with the Estimates, the affairs of the Workers Compensation Board, and it was during those Estimates that the somewhat surprising information was elicited from the staff . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** What is the point of order?

**MR. H. ENNS:** . . . and the responsible Minister, that indeed a 150 percent increase in administration costs had occurred. Mr. Speaker, I think it's perfectly

legitimate for the Member for Niakwa to ask whether or not that kind of increase met with the approval of the First Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Order please. That is not a point of order. The honourable member was seeking an opinion. If he wishes to seek information, he should so frame his question.

The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** To the First Minister. How much have the administrative costs . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** . . . of the Workers Compensation Board been increased since 1981, the three-and-a-half years of the New Democratic Party Government?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member threw out a figure that would have to be confirmed. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say this, that I disapprove of the low level of service that was provided to injured workers during the period 1977-1981 by the Workers Compensation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I approve wholeheartedly and without any apology, the fact that we have provided for improved service to injured workers, injured in their places of work. Surely an obligation of our community is to ensure that injured workers are properly protected and properly compensated under those types of circumstances.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To the First Minister. We weren't talking about the injured workers, we were talking about the administrative costs of the Workers Compensation Board.

I would also direct this question to the First Minister. Will the First Minister approve of the Chairman of the Review Committee of The Workers' Compensation Act being chosen from industry and labour?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I think the honourable member is still seeking an opinion. Would he wish to rephrase his question to seek information? The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** To the First Minister. How will the Chairman of the Review Committee of The Workers' Compensation Act be chosen? Will it be from industry and will it be from labour, the chairman?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm somewhat surprised, if we've just gone through Estimates of the Workers Compensation Board and if the honourable member is now indicating he forgot to ask that question, maybe it would be better if the honourable member, having now thought of that question, asked the Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board for his response to that question. It would seem to me to be much more in order, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister for the Environment.

**HON. G. LECUYER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Seeing the member asked the same questions of me last week and I provided the answers in detail and at length, Mr. Speaker, I would have to imagine that he could not understand. I suggest that he read the reply in Hansard.

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

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The reason that the question was asked of the First Minister is that we had a different Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health for the first two years of the administration and we had a new Minister for the last one-and-a-half years; and that's why I pose the question to the First Minister.

If the First Minister does not care to answer the question, that's his prerogative.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That was not a point of order.

### **Winnipeg Child Protection Centre - lack of staff**

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

**MR. A. BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Community Services. However, before I ask the question, I would just like to express my thanks and appreciation for the many flowers, cards and get-well wishes that were sent during my recent stay in hospital by members from both sides and members of the press. I really appreciated them and I must say that I'm sure they helped me on my way to recovery. I am recuperating satisfactorily, although I'll be spending short days in the Legislature for another few weeks or so.

My question to the Minister of Community Services is this: can the Minister confirm that many sexually abused children cannot receive the care required because of lack of staff and lack of direction and lack of funding at the Winnipeg Child Protection Centre?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, before answering the question, I would like to specifically welcome the member back. I think he could tell by the spontaneity and volume of the applause that we are all most happy that he's making a recovery and look forward to many peaceful interchanges in the weeks ahead.

With regard to the specific question on child abuse, I've said on many occasions that there is no way by just building up the financial support at the Health Sciences Centre that we are going to be able to deal with the community-wide issue of child abuse. We must integrate the capacity to deal with the children and their families throughout the child and family support system.

The Child Protection Centre at the hospital has been in the front line and has, of necessity, been dealing

particularly with the emergency and the medical aspects of the problem; but the linkages with the total child and family service, the training of people, the reassignment which we have made in the past months from that system to support the services are in place. Mr. Speaker, it's going to take a while till we get all the components of the system fully co-ordinated, but I think that is the direction we must go in dealing with this problem which really is a very severe social problem and which calls for the co-operation of many groups in the community to deal with it.

**MR. A. BROWN:** My question is to the same Minister. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I appreciate the problem that the Minister is facing in this new program that was started awhile back, and I know that there have been very many more cases reported than was anticipated.

However, it has been brought to my attention that because of the lack of follow-up being done in these cases, in some instances the situation is aggravated rather than helped. It would be my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister would pay top priority to this situation so that we can help rather than aggravate this situation as it is now.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to just expand on the fact that . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. I heard a statement, I did not hear a question from the honourable member.

**MR. A. BROWN:** The question is this, Mr. Speaker: will the Minister spend more priority in the area of child abuse than she is spending at the present time in order for us to resolve some of these problem areas?

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, it really amuses but really more disturbs me that, whenever a problem comes up in this House the advice we get on this side of the House is to spend more money. Then on the following day, we are told that we're spending too much and we should cut back.

That aside, in this particular area, it's tempting to feel that spending more money alone will solve the problem, but one of the difficulties has been that there are not many trained people in the community who have insight and have the skills to deal with the problem. So it's the training and development of a system-wide ability to deal with the issue that we are giving high attention to. We have hired a person with specific responsibility for co-ordinating a program in child abuse; we have re-allocated staff from the Winnipeg area Child and Family Services to work specifically on the problem. Again, I'd be more than happy to deal with any particular problems that the member has identified to see whether, in fact, the system isn't working as has been recommended or whether there is a shortage in that particular area.

### **Chemical spill, Carman, Manitoba - report of RCMP**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Environment. This winter there was a chemical spill at Carman and the RCMP have recently concluded a study. Will the Minister be tabling that report in the Legislature?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

**HON. G. LECUYER:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I haven't yet had an opportunity to see that report. It is presently in the hands of staff and the Attorney-General's Department. I will make comment when I have seen that report.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister, will he be tabling the report when he gets it?

**HON. G. LECUYER:** I repeat, Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen the report, so it's difficult for me to say that I will table a report that I haven't yet seen. At this point in time, I see no reason why I wouldn't want to do so but, as I say, I will only make that commitment definitely once I have seen it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I would ask for leave of the House to return to Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports under Routine Proceedings.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed)

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS RETURN TO ORDER NO. 4**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to table Return to Order of the House No. 4, dated June 12, 1984, on motion of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Speaker, I believe there may be a predisposition to dispense with Private Members' Hour for purposes of Committee of Supply. If I have leave to do so, I would then move the Supply motion on that understanding.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is there leave to dispense with Private Members' Hour today? (Agreed)

The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



I wish to advise the House that we will be commencing the consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture here in the section sitting in the Chamber, and the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation in the section sitting in Room 255.

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

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture; and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

### **CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY**

#### **SUPPLY - CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos:** This section of the Committee of Supply shall be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. We shall begin with a statement from the Minister responsible for the department.

The Honourable Minister.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I welcome this opportunity to present my department's Estimates and to review the events and achievements of the past year on which these are based.

This administration, Mr. Chairman, is committed to ensuring that all Manitobans have the opportunity to participate in culture, heritage and recreation activities. Because of the variety of Manitoba's culture, these activities must reflect the diversity of needs and interests throughout the province.

As indicated in the Throne Speech, this year's major initiative is the drawing up of new Heritage legislation, one that strengthens the identification and preservation of our heritage and history.

My department has also introduced improved support programs for Manitoba's community museums so that their collections may be better preserved and interpreted for present and future generations. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that during the last Session, amendments were approved to The Museum and Miscellaneous Grants Act which had not been updated since its enactment in 1970.

The fundamental goal of heritage preservation is for everyone to have a better understanding of their past and of their identity. Our heritage and history do not simply belong to a few; they belong to all of us.

Mr. Chairman, 1985 marks the Centennial of Louis Riel's death, an event of special significance to Franco-Manitobans and Manitobans of Metis origin. "Le Comite du Centenaire Louis Riel 1985" through L'Union Nationale Metisse St. Joseph and the Manitoba Metis Federation will be involved in organizing and co-ordinating activities to commemorate the Centennial. The comite will serve as a promotions and publication body for the Francophone community, encouraging

Comites Culturels and others to plan activities, co-ordinating conferences, publications and festivals. The Manitoba Metis Federation will also be involved in exhibitions and similar cultural and educational events in order to permit maximum participation from all Manitobans. This will provide us with the opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the events surrounding the formation of the province and the role of Louis Riel as a founding father.

Our heritage, our cultural past, is also reflected in aspects of our lives such as our diverse religions and philosophies, our languages and the family traditions that shape our perceptions, attitudes and values.

Mr. Chairman, it is a priority of this administration to assist ethnocultural groups that are actively striving to preserve, develop and share their cultural identity with other Manitobans.

Manitoba took a unique step in the formation of the Manitoba Intercultural Council, the majority of whose members are elected by the ethnocultural community rather than appointed by government as they are in other provinces. The council is truly representative of that community and forms a partnership with government in developing initiatives to strengthen the position of ethnocultural groups. The council, now in its second year of operation, has met twice this year with Cabinet to discuss issues of mutual concern. Recommendations on matters ranging from human rights, education, media communications, culture, heritage and immigration settlement have been implemented to ensure that full participation in the political, social and economic life of our province can be realized.

My department's Estimates provide for continued assistance to the council's '85-'86 operations and the Ethnocultural Heritage Support programs. Recommendations made by the Council on Multicultural Grants and Linguistic Support have been accepted, with some slight changes and, as such, more closely reflect the needs of the community. The council is looking again at the department's Ethnocultural Heritage Support Programs to establish the best ways and means of meeting a demand that now exceeds the supply.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Chairman, that a study commissioned by the Manitoba Intercultural Council on "The Portrayal of Visible Minorities in TV Programming Originating from Manitoba, Other Canadian and United States Sources" reveals that Manitoba programming is more representative of visible minorities than national Canadian programming which, in turn, ranks higher than American programming.

A number of initiatives are planned in '85-'86, reflecting this administration's commitment to work with communities in achieving common goals.

A multicultural anthology search has been launched in co-operation with the Department of Education and the Secretary of State's Office. This project, designed to use the work of Manitoba writers in the province, will also add significantly to the multicultural resource materials available to schools.

A major accomplishment, following three years of negotiations and consultations, is the organization of the Federal/Provincial Conference of Ministers on Multiculturalism hosted in Winnipeg, between last May 13 and 15, 1985. This administration, Mr. Chairman,

wants to address without delay the true reality that confronts Canada today. We are a multilingual, multicultural and multiracial people; in turn, society and government must reflect this reality in their policies, programs and personnel. The Manitoba Intercultural Council has recommended topics for the conference calling for the definition of multiculturalism, and proposing the adoption of a multicultural act; in addition other areas of concern to the ethnocultural community regarding human rights, racism, and visible minorities portrayal have been included on the agenda.

As indicated in the Throne Speech, this administration will be introducing amending legislation that will allow the Manitoba Film Classification Board to license the distribution of home-use videotapes and to classify all such tapes prior to their sale, rental or distribution to the general public for home viewing. This measure will provide an important form of consumer information, which will enable Manitobans to assess the suitability of tapes for home viewing and will restrict access of underaged consumers on the same basis as theatre exhibition.

The Manitoba Film Classification Board will be taking all the necessary steps to ensure that the public and the industry are well aware and informed of new classification categories and that Manitobans are sensitized to their rights as consumers. My department's Estimates provide for increased support to the board's operations in view of this new service, one that will require time to prepare and deliver.

In the environment of government cuts to culture, Mr. Chairman, support to Manitoba major cultural and heritage institutions has been maintained. Continued operating support to the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, the Centennial Centre Corporation, the Museum of Man and Nature, the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre, the Brandon Centennial Auditorium and the Winnipeg Art Gallery underline this administration's commitment to culture and heritage initiatives in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Arts Council will continue to emphasize in 1985-86 assistance to small arts groups and arts service organizations, which foster the development of creative artists through organizational structures. Grants to individual artists will be maintained focusing more specifically on choreography and film-making; as well, managerial and administrative development for arts groups will continue to be an ongoing priority for the Arts Council. Two programs implemented last year: the Access Program, tailored to fulfill affirmative action policies and the Art Venture Program which assists innovative arts projects will receive more funding in 1985-86 to meet an increasing demand.

In this province we believe in the economic value of stimulating the cultural industry and its subsequent impact on our collective well-being. The creative arts are the generative force of the arts industry and they are something vital, necessary and mainstream. This administration is committed to cultural support, because it believes that education and the arts are the keys to the growth of Manitoba and Canada. Human creativity must be available to help us meet the challenge of planning our future. Culture is a learning experience and not simply a static circumstance or a purported national symbol.

My department is presently developing culture and heritage awards, an annual celebration which would

recognize the outstanding achievements and significant contributions of individuals and organizations in the artistic field. An extensive review is under way and we anticipate announcement in the near future detailing a formal program of recognition in artistic excellence.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation is exploring, at this time, participation in the creation of an automated union catalogue of Manitoba's public libraries. New equipment and a contract with the University of Toronto would enable rural libraries to use automation at the local level, maximizing their use of staff, and the timeliness of their service to the community. We are actively seeking ways to enhance individual and collective access to information resources in the most efficient way, and reduce the gap between library services available to Winnipeg residents and those living in rural and remote areas. Providing automation of cataloguing services is a step towards fulfilling that objective.

This year again, my department is providing capital grants to rural libraries, assisting them to improve their facilities. These grants have permitted rural libraries to avoid shutdowns and remain in operation without crippling maintenance costs. Libraries play a valuable role in the education and development, as well in the sheer enjoyment of people in the community. This administration wants to deliver services that Manitobans can equally benefit from.

Mr. Chairman, we all recognize the valuable contribution of volunteer organizations and the important role they play in enriching the lifestyle of Manitobans. This administration values the support of these and other endeavours with consultative services, leadership training opportunities for full-time volunteers and incentive grants. Programs of community activities are essential elements of life if people are to keep their sense of purpose and achieve happiness in a complex society. Volunteers are the focal point for the development and understanding of recreation, particularly at the local level. That is why, Mr. Chairman, my department has provided for increased activities in the area of volunteer board development.

We will raise the competency level of volunteer boards that relate to the department by providing courses to train people in workshops for volunteer boards, and providing support resource materials to be used by the trainers and the volunteer boards.

Cultural and leisure research for seniors is another area my department is involved in, an initiative that embraces our commitment to create an environment conducive to well-being for all Manitobans. To become better prepared for those who will be our seniors, we are presently researching the needs and interests of Manitobans age 65 and over. This project will help specialists in the field direct their programs in ways that better suit the needs of our present and future senior citizens.

In January, Mr. Chairman, the Communications Services Division was formed. By placing the Queen's Printer, Advertising Audit, Translation Services, and Information Services in a single administrative division, my department intends to bring about greater cost efficiencies in communication services and support to departments, agencies and Crown corporations. Attention is now being given to streamlining procedures for tendering and producing materials and for more

effective coordination of our public information programs.

Embracing the spirit of International Youth Year, branches within my department are developing activities with a youth focus. They range from recreation coordinator, play leadership, youth leadership training, to northern summer recreation activities and summer reading programs. Amongst our major initiatives, is the Northern Water Safety Program, which has offered swim instruction and water safety to residents of remote communities for a number of years. This program is well received and its popularity is growing, no less due to the cooperation and support from the community. It will focus this year on a Northern Native Leadership Program, promoting education as well as skill development. We want to train youth from northern communities to become qualified and in turn instruct the Northern Water Safety Program. Indeed, although approximately 7 percent of Manitoba's population lives north of the 53rd, over 36 percent of the drownings occur there.

Other initiatives are being developed and further announcements are planned in future weeks.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I wish to acknowledge the many individuals throughout Manitoba who direct their efforts and channel their creativity into the development of culture, heritage and recreation in our province. No matter what the economic circumstances, these activities continue to flourish because of the interest and cooperative efforts at the local level, a contribution that no doubt enriches all of our lives.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Minister.

As is customary, we shall now hear the reply from the main opposition critic, the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I have no statement to make; we'll just move right into the Estimates.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

At this point in time, we cordially invite members of the departmental staff to kindly take their respective places.

Mr. Minister.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I have some supplementary information which I'd like to provide members of the committee. One is an organizational chart and explanatory notes to that chart; the second set of documents is detailed grant listings for the fiscal year ending 1984 which are available for all grants that have been processed by the department. I'll have those circulated to the members, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Deferring the consideration of the Minister's Salary, which is Item No. 1(a), the committee shall begin its deliberation with Item No. 1(b)(1) Administration and Finance, Executive Support: Salaries; 1(b)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, there's little or no change in the Executive Support. I would just ask, with the size of this department, how many legislative

assistants and executive assistants does the Minister or his deputy have within this department?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** This area, there is a total of nine staff. I'll just maybe run through them for the member's information.

There are three in the Minister's office: One is a political assistant, a special assistant, that's one position; two administrative secretaries. In the Deputy Minister's office, there are four positions: Deputy Minister, an administrative officer, an administrative secretary and receptionist and there's an executive director's office, an executive director, and administrative secretary to the director. There's one so-called political assistant here.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass.  
1.(c)(1) Research and Planning: Salaries; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the Research and Planning, I believe we discussed this last year. I'm just wanting to ask if there's any real change, the Research and Planning. The Minister's statement discusses a lot of programs that are being administered by this department. Is this the department that does the research and the recommendations to the Minister regarding the programs that are handled by this column or this line?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** It's a research and planning unit for the whole department and its role is research and development of new policy, review of programming for policy compliance, and development and maintenance of strategic planning framework for the department.

There hasn't been any change in staffing or other items - there is a slight reduction in salary. That's because of a vacant position which is expected to be recruited at a lower salary than the previous incumbent.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** This would be the group that would send out the questionnaire, etc., on the discussion paper for new heritage legislation for Manitoba, or would be responsible for the planning on that? I believe you mentioned the legislation here.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No that was developed by the Historic Resources Branch itself, related to that specific piece of legislation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for River Heights.

**MR. W. STEEN:** Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, my question can be taken under planning or research. The Hudson's Bay Company on Main Street has a valuable library of western Canadian history, which I understand they are finding very expensive to keep up.

Has the Minister, through his office, had any communication with the Hudson's Bay Company of the Province of Manitoba, acquiring this valuable asset that I think should stay within Manitoba and not be moved to Toronto if that's where the Hudson's Bay Company has greater storage space and capacity, in which to handle this particular history that is so valuable?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** This question would be better asked under archives or libraries, but let me attempt

to answer the question at this point. If the member wants more detailed information I'd suggest that he wait until that point.

We have had considerable correspondence with the Hudson's Bay Company over the last number of years respecting a number of their activities. Because of the recent downturn in the economy that has impacted on Hudson's Bay Company, I guess to a greater extent than other companies, there has been some pulling back of a number of their activities, I guess in all areas of their operation, but specifically in some areas related to their own heritage collections.

As an example they stopped the ongoing operations of the Hudson's Bay record society some years ago, about a year-and-a-half ago. We had discussion with them and correspondence between the parent company and the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company and they indicated it wasn't because of their lessening of commitment in those areas, but one that they had to absorb cutbacks in all areas of their operations which also impacted on that.

In regard to the library, the public access has been limited to the library as a result of these cutbacks. There hasn't been any attempt at the present time or any information that we have that they intend to move that out of Manitoba. They have agreed that prior to making any decisions with respect to that library, that they would consult with us prior to any decisions being reached. So there is no intention to move that from Manitoba as far as we know; and we have an undertaking from them that they will notify us if they are contemplating any changes.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I'd just ask the Minister, I realize that I'm asking a very general question and he's giving me a general answer and I appreciate the fact that further down in his Estimates is where you get more detailed answers.

Have either the two universities located in Winnipeg made any overtures to the Minister to obtain this collection of history, if the Hudson's Bay Company makes it available through the province?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, there's been no requests from any of the three universities in Manitoba with respect to the . . .

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask about some areas of questioning. One is, where in the report would questions about the Playhouse Theatre and/or the Centennial Concert Hall fit under?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Under Cultural Resources or Grants Administration, Items 2.(b) or 2.(c).

**MR. R. DOERN:** And what about the program of supporting books and magazines?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There are a couple of areas that that relates to. One is to the Cultural Grants which go to the Manitoba Arts Council. The second area, and I think the area that the member is referring to specifically, relates to the ERDA Federal-Provincial

Agreement which provides for the joint Cultural Periodicals and Book Publishing Program which comes under the Manitoba Jobs Fund and that's where the direct delivery is. The administrative unit is the Cultural Industries which is located in the department, but we could deal with any questions related to that under the cultural area, what the actual funding of that is through the Jobs Fund.

**MR. R. DOERN:** You said it might be under the Jobs Fund, etc., but you also gave another area. Which resolution and number is that?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** 2.(b).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(c)(1) - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Pass.

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

1.(d)(1) Communication and Information Services: Salaries; 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, there's a very large increase in Other Expenditures under this line and I wonder if the Minister could explain the increase from \$6,000 to \$19,000.00. The salaries appear to have remained the same, which would indicate that the number of people is the same. What is the increase in the second line?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The increase is \$12,700, and \$10,000 of that is for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation Newsletter, which comes out on a quarterly basis. Those costs were transferred from other branches of the department. The additional \$2,700 is for word processing and some other minor cost increases.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Has the number of personnel remained the same?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, two - a director and administrative secretarial support.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Is the personnel that handles the new periodical - in other words, the same numbers are handling the new periodical as well?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** This is the periodical, the beige one that I see that comes out?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I think it's beige. I have copies . . .

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** I wondered which one it is, I think it's the same one . . .

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** It's the departmental newsletter. There's a copy.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Thank you.

Is there anybody supplying periodicals for this? I mean, it's a fairly extensive newsletter. Is there somebody that is supplying the articles or the periodicals for this magazine that is put in, and does this group that are handling it, do they analyze what will go in? I'm just wondering how it goes together.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** It's edited by the director of the branch and the response is from branches within the department, related agencies and community groups. Some of the articles are requested from branches; some are submitted by branches; the same with outside agencies. Sometimes there's a request for specific articles and in some cases there are articles just presented; the same with community organizations in the broad cultural field. If you look through the publication, you see a range of articles, some related to direct departmental initiatives, others to community. The editor does, I guess, what every other editor tries to do, ensure that there is a balance between the various components of the department, the cultural heritage aspect and the recreational aspect.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Mr. Chairman, who gets the Manitoba Cultural and Heritage periodical?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There's a mailing list of around 3,000; it includes all Manitoba schools, universities, all community organizations that relate to our department; that is, cultural organizations, recreation organizations in all parts of the province, all of the museums, heritage societies, and any individuals that request to be put on it.

We have requests from individuals from time to time who want to receive it and they receive it - recreation directors, any organization that relates to our department is on the mailing list.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)(1)—pass? The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Just before you pass it, I wonder before we go any further, just so we don't kind of miss where something should go - under the documents that the Minister just handed out with the numbers on it, like Film Classification Board, Film Appeal Board, Public Library Board - they're all under a section in the Estimates. There is one here, Documents Committee, what would that come under? Historic Sites Committee where would that come under, just so I'll have some . . .

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The Documents Committee is under the Archives, it's government record keeping, and the Historic Sites Advisory Board comes under the Historic Resources Branch, Branch No. 26.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Heritage Manitoba?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Heritage Manitoba would also come under the Historic Resources. It's not operating at the present time.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** The Intercultural Council would come . . .

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** It has its own . . .

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Is it there? Okay. Arts Council . . .

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Arts Council, and actually the rest can come under Grants Administration, which is 2.(b), 2.(b)(3) actually. The Public Library Advisory Board is not . . . but that could come under Public Library Services.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Okay, thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.  
1.(e)(1) Financial Services: Salaries; 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** This is just the auditing and financial service of the department, the personnel, etc?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** This is the financial services which looks at the overall management of financial planning and operations productivity throughout the department. They look after such things as the whole Estimates Review and budget-related submissions. They do the monitoring of the financial performance of the department. They look at the administrative feasibility of new programs, whether or not they can be implemented and at what cost, and developing the supporting financial and management needs. They look at areas like office automation, data processing, and look at overall operations. There's a director, two program analysts and one systems analyst, and one secretary in the department. The slight increase is related to merit increases in salary.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** They would be involved with research and planning advising on a financial basis; in other words, if there's a program presented, they would do the financial analysis for research and planning, or would they be the ones that would say whether we have it in the budget, or is it feasible financially, or what?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I guess all of those. They would certainly indicate whether or not it's within the budget. They would also look at putting costs to specific programs and developing the administrative mechanisms that are needed or put some value on them, or indicate what kind of systems would have to be in place to implement a specific policy or program.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** And there's no change in the personnel? No change?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, there are five positions, and there were five last year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(e)(1)—pass.  
1.(e)(2) - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I have a question, Mr. Chairman. Who in the department would be looking after the affirmative action that the government put into place?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** We're coming up to that under 1.(g)(1) Personnel Services.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.  
1.(f)(1) Administrative Services: Salaries; 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, there is no change in the dollars here in expenditure in Salaries and Other Expenditures. Administrative Services, I'm just not quite sure. You have Executive Support, you have Research and Planning, you have the Financial Services. What is the Administrative Services group?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** This is the branch that deals with the vouchering and the all of the specific accounting procedures, looking after submissions, Orders-in-Council, contracts, any kinds of agreements that are entered into between the department and agencies, vehicle assignment, administration, utilization, they look after physical asset reports and records.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Isn't that an overlapping with the . . . When you mentioned vouchers and that type of work, does that not interface or is that not the same as Financial Services, the payment of bills and vouchers, etc.?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Maybe it's the kinds of terms we use in defining. The Financial Services is the overall financial planning for the department, while the Administrative Services is more the administrative financial accounting, if you will, looking at the detailed vouchers and bill paying and authorization of all of those kind of things.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** If I may, Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister - he said there were five people in Financial Services?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes. There's a director, two program analysts and one systems analyst and one administrative secretary. I might just go on to the obvious next question. The staff in Administrative Services is six positions: one director, one accountant, and four clerks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(f)(1)—pass; 1.(f)(2)—pass.  
1.(g)(1) Personnel Services: Salaries; 1.(g)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Possibly the Minister could answer my questions. Who is in charge of affirmative action and what kind of things are they doing in this area in the department?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The affirmative action co-ordinator is the director of the branch. There is a committee established in accordance with the overall government policy. There is research under way at the present time. There is also a draft action plan being developed and it's anticipated that by the early fall of this year a formal program will be in place for the department.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(g)(1)—pass; 1.(g)(2)—pass. There will be no resolution on this item because of the Minister's Salary.

Item 2. Culture, Heritage and Recreation Programs, 2.(a)(1) Executive Administration: Salaries; 2.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask some questions. I don't know if this is the area or not but there has been some substantial funding of ethnic organizations. I think back to a year ago when, on one occasion, I believe the Minister provided \$50,000 cheques to two cultural organizations in this building.

Is this the area under which we can discuss this question?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The specific grants that the member is referring to - I'm just trying to find the actual spot - I believe it comes under Item No. 5, Expenditures Related to Capital. There is a Capital Grants program that has been in existence for a number of years and it's under that item - 5.(b) to be exact.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Perhaps the Minister could just clarify the occasion I'm thinking of, which was either 1983 or 1984 - I believe it was 1983 - he presented \$50,000 cheques. Were those capital cheques or were those cheques that were for ongoing expenses, etc.?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I don't know the specific occasion the member is referring to, but by the sound of what he's describing, if they were cheques or grants in the amount of \$50,000, they would probably relate to the Multicultural Capital Grants Program which provides capital grants for a maximum of \$50,000 to organizations that have, as their prime purpose, activities in the ethnic area. Those grants, that program, is a program that's contained under Item 5.(b).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(a)(1) - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, is there a separate deputy for this department under Executive Administration?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, there is an Assistant Deputy Minister that is over this whole area.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** And what is his staff there? It appears there's an increase in his staff.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There are three positions in this area. One is the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Tom Carson; there's the special advisor on Recreation, Mr. Al Miller, and there's an administrative secretary. The salary cost increase is related to merit increments and salary cost adjustments.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** If I'm following what the Minister presented to us, that line comes under - is 21, Cultural, Heritage and Recreation Division, Grants . . .

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, if I could clarify. This is the executive administration for all of this branch, that is the Assistant Deputy Minister that looks after all those areas that flow right through to the end, up and to including Item (g) which is Regional Services. The Deputy

Minister's responsibility is the Historic Resources Branch, the Public Library Services, Recreation Services, Cultural Resources, Grants Administration.

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

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Where would I find the grant - whatever kind of a grant, either cultural or otherwise - for the Piney Blueberry Festival which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, to my understanding?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** As indicated, when this question was raised in the Estimates the last three years I believe, there is no specific grant that's available for the Piney Blueberry Festival under this department. As a result of the question that was raised last year, staff did meet with them on a number of occasions, June 25th, August 23rd, August 27th, and September 17, 1984 and there was a meeting held as late as May 7th of this year to further look at plans for the festival and there was assistance given in the amount of \$400, to the 1984 festival.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** I just want to make sure. The Minister said there was assistance of \$400 for 1984. Has the Minister considered any assistance for 1985, this year, which will be the 25th year celebrating the Piney Blueberry Festival? I would suggest to the Minister at this time that an awful lot of blueberries have gone through the Community Centre at Piney and it's been well appreciated and I know that I made some commitment to see that the Minister was given some blueberry pie which is the tops in the whole province and maybe even throughout the world.

Has there been any commitment to the Piney Blueberry Festival this year for any assistance? — (Interjection) — Oh, and he'll be presented with ice cream on a plate - no problem that way at all. Has there been any commitment to them for this year, the 25th year of celebrating the Piney Blueberry Festival?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I have not made any commitment to them. The staff works with them and they have the discretion to provide assistance if it is deemed necessary. They met with them on May 7th and I presume if there was any assistance and if they qualified, it would be processed in the usual fashion.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** I just want to thank the Minister for his staff's co-operation last year and I would hope there would be the same sort of a commitment there. They're not looking for big dollars, that's not the thing, but I know that they're planning it. I was out in that area just over the weekend planting my garden - not blueberries - just checking for blueberries and it's not going to be a very good crop this year, at least not on my property, but I think that the people out there do appreciate the assistance that they've received from the Minister and would hope that, considering it's the 25th this year, there will be some additional assistance coming.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I am informed that they have applied for a Public Events Sponsorship Program grant and if they qualify for that under the terms of that grant program, they will indeed get assistance.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(a)(1)—pass; 2.(a)(2)—pass.  
2.(b)(1) - the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** The Grants Administration: Salaries, Other Expenditures and Grant Assistance. This department or the line (b) in the Estimates, are they the group that make the decisions as to who receives grants? Do they examine the applications? Are they the body that handles the grants for Cultural Resources, as well as Recreation Services?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The Member may recall that last year, as a result of reorganization, this unit was formed actually from a unit that existed in the former Department of Fitness, Recreation and Sport. At that time I indicated that some grants were being processed through the Grants Administration unit and that, in the future, more grants would be.

At the present time we've moved all of the grants of the department through this unit except for those that are administered through the Public Library Services - and I'm told that some other grants through the Regional Services Division are not done through the Grants Administration unit. That's line (g) in this section; but all other grants go through this branch.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** I didn't mention it, so it's the Regional Services, Library are the two that have grants that are approved that may not go through this particular section. I can see that, Regional Services

Just to follow up, Mr. Chairman, the Provincial Archives would receive their grants through this group, through this body.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The Provincial Archives is part of the department so there's no grant as such. There's just direct appropriation.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I've just had this given to me today. The first page, I see a total. The grants that are presented to us in this document today, is that other than the - like the Grant Assistance, that's \$6.9 million represents the grants that we have before us?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There are two sets of documents that I presented - I presume that both were passed out? - two separate listings of grants. There were two separate listings given to you. One was headed "Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Grant Listing - Departmental Appropriations." The other is "Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Grant Listing - Lottery Trust Fund." The ones that we're dealing with in Appropriation are the ones listed under that document that says "Departmental Appropriations." The specific line we are looking at, at the present moment, the Item (b)(3) equates to the heading on the inside page of the one that says, "Grant listing departmental appropriation," where it says, "Grants to major cultural organizations, 1983-84," and lists Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, Manitoba Arts Council. That is similar to the line we're dealing with here.

Again, if I could just clarify, that's operating grants. The capital are listed under Capital Grants.

I wonder if it would be helpful to the member if I provided the grants for those same organizations this year.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Yes, if the Minister would just list those, thank you.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre grant for this year is \$240,900; the Manitoba Arts Council grant this year is \$1,521,400; the Centennial Centre Corporation funding is now out of Lotteries which is not listed in Appropriation. The Museum of Man and Nature's grant is \$2,910,700; the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre is \$119,800; the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium is \$53,500; the Winnipeg Art Gallery is \$1,366,000.00.

In addition, there is the Heritage Conservation Service which is paid out to those two organizations and including the Archives. Its expenditure this year is \$88,300.00.

In addition, because of the transfer of the Centennial Centre Corporation grant into Lotteries, there are a number of other grants that have now moved into Appropriation that were formally funded out of Lotteries. Now I'll give a listing of those. I'm just seeing if I have a copy of it. It will make it easier rather than going through . . . Well, I guess the best way would be for me just to take you through them briefly. It will take a couple of minutes.

One is Grants to Provincial Recreation Organizations; the total of that is \$98,000.00. These are grants that were formerly in Lotteries and we moved them into Appropriation because they're ongoing grants and have been ongoing for a number of years.

Included in that are grants to the Canadian Hostelling Association; the Canadian Red Cross, Manitoba Division; the Girl Guides, Manitoba Council; the Manitoba Camping Association; the Manitoba Horseshoe Players Association; the Manitoba Naturalists Society; the Manitoba Parks and Recreation Association; Scouts Canada, Manitoba Council; and Twirl Manitoba.

These were all funded in previous years out of Lotteries, but because they're ongoing grants, they've been transferred into Appropriation. They're all being funded at the same level as last year.

The Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs, there's a grant of \$20,000, which is the same as last year. There are Provincial Heritage Recreation grants for a total of \$158,000 and they go to the Manitoba Historical Society, the St. Boniface Historical Society, the Western Canada Aviation Museum, Heritage Winnipeg.

Then there are the Museums grants which are grant assistance to the rural - well, the small museums. They used to be in Lotteries; they're not in Appropriation and they total this year \$325,000.00. So that makes the total under - oh I'm sorry two others - the Osborne Village Cultural Centre which is \$50,000, the same as last year but was funded out of Lotteries; and the Manitoba Intercultural Council, \$40,000, which is costs related to their biannual assembly to be held in September 1985. The total of all those grants is, as indicated, \$6,971,600.00.

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm looking now at the 1983-84 "Grants to Major Cultural Organizations." The Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, \$231,000 operating, \$40,000 capital. What was that \$40,000 capital for?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I'm informed that that was repairs to the heating system and roof.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Does the Federal Government make operating grants to the centre?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The centre is owned by the Province of Manitoba. It has its own act of Legislature; in essence, it is the property of the Province of Manitoba. These costs relate to the physical upkeep of the building and the operating costs. The Federal Government, as I understand it, provides programming costs for the operation of the centres in areas of programming for the centre. Our budget, in essence, pays for the capital improvements and the running of the centre.

**MR. R. DOERN:** When we're looking at these grants - I think the Minister gave a figure earlier of \$240,000 - was that for the present fiscal year and then \$231,000 for the previous fiscal year?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, the grant has been increased from \$231,600 to \$240,900, an increase of \$9,000.00.

**MR. R. DOERN:** So the Minister is telling me that that grant is for heat, light, water and janitorial services?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Basic operating costs of the centre, heat, light, utilities, core staff.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Then, over and above for programming or cultural or artistic purposes, how much does the province provide for that?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Nothing else goes to the CCFM for operating that I'm aware of or for any programming from the Province of Manitoba. The only other grants that would go would be through organizations that may use the premises like Cercle Moliere, the theatre company would get assistance from the Manitoba Arts Council or an organization like Les Danseurs de la Riviere-Rouge that perform there, they would be eligible for assistance, but there's no other provincial assistance that goes to the centre.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Does the Minister have a breakdown, to indirect grants to the centre, through the funding of organizations that use or access the centre - such as Cercle Moliere?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, I don't.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Is the Minister telling us that he doesn't provide funding for Cercle Moliere?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** That's not what I said. The question was, do I have a listing of grants to organizations that use the centre? No, I don't.



**MR. R. DOERN:** Can the Minister give us such a list? Is it just it's not convenient or is he telling us that his department doesn't, in fact, make these grants?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** One question at a time.  
The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** I'm just saying, is the answer that I'm getting that the Minister doesn't have a list because he doesn't have one handy? Is that the answer?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The answer is that we do not maintain a list of organizations that use that centre; nor do we have a list of the grants that are given to those organizations that use the centre. If the member requires that information, we would have to research it. I was merely indicating to him that there are organizations that I'm aware of that use the centre that are provided funds from other sources. I do not have that kind of comprehensive list. I did not say that the Province of Manitoba did not provide funds to Cercle Moliere, the Province of Manitoba directly does not provide any funds to Cercle Moliere; however, the Manitoba Arts Council does provide a grant to that theatre company as it does other professional theatre companies in Winnipeg.

I don't have that information available. We do not keep that kind of information in the department; it's never been asked for in terms of any of the cultural centres in the province.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Can the Minister indicate, out of the 1.3 million or 1.4 million that the Arts Council has, how much funding they provide to Cercle Moliere?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I don't have that figure readily available. I'll get a copy of the Annual Report of the Manitoba Arts Council and see what figure there is. I would think it is very small in terms of the Arts Council's overall budget.

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

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister - the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature has been increased to 2.9 million, approximately. The capital last year was 220,000. There was one section of the museum that was being developed over the period of a couple of years. What capital grants would they be - what would be authorized for this year?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** That is under the Capital Grants section. I believe it's - I'm sorry, I'll get the exact figure maybe when we get to it - Yes, it's listed under Capital Grants, that's Section 5. The figure that has been allocated there for capital purposes is \$100,000 and it relates to - their present capital program - I'm trying to think of the words to describe it - it's the area adjacent to the planetarium where they're building this new gallery, in essence, related to science and technology theme, called Touch the Universe. It's in the area adjacent to and around the planetarium. It's been in the development stage, I guess for two, three years. I think this is the middle year now.

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, on the Centennial Centre, again I'm looking here at '83-84, 1.2 million operating, 197,000 capital. One of the things that I think is sadly lacking in a centre which is really a multi-million dollar multi-purpose centre which is heavily used and enormously successful, is the fact that they lack a decent sign in front. Almost any cultural theatre of any kind has a sign. They have four or five little poster signs as you go by, but for a facility of that magnitude and importance, it seems only logical that there would be a large theatre marquee in the front so that anybody driving by would know what is on that day or that week or what is coming, but you don't. You go by a building; it's a building that's not really identified, there are little posters there so if you went by through the driveway at three miles an hour, you might be able to catch a glimpse of something.

Now, over the years, there has been consideration given to putting up a sign, and at this point in time it probably would cost a couple of hundred thousand dollars, and I was wondering whether the Provincial Government has anything in the works to correct that shortcoming?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I'm not aware of anything specific with respect to the Centennial Centre Corporation to deal with that but I will take the member's concern to the board of the corporation to see if they do have any plans with respect to improving the signage at the centre.

I might also add, the member earlier indicated he wanted to raise some questions with regard to the Playhouse. This might be an opportune or appropriate place to raise that question.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Just again, on the signage, if you could imagine a large commercial theatre that has a darkened front, it would seem to be a contradiction in terms, and that's basically what we have. We have a tremendous opportunity, the City Hall is there, you have all the traffic going down Main Street and into the North End, you have all the traffic going over the Disraeli from Elmwood, East Kildonan, North Kildonan, Transcona, and hundreds of thousands of people funneling by there on a daily basis, and people don't know from looking at the building what is going on and I think that it's time, some many years later, after the construction of the building, that that was corrected. I would hope that the Minister might explore that and perhaps see whether he can come up with the funding.

Just in regard to the Playhouse - the Playhouse is an old and honourable building and we've heard of plans, we've heard the Minister responsible for Lotteries comment with, I think, little enthusiasm about the project, but I'm asking the Minister of Cultural Affairs whether he is involved and whether he is willing to explore the possibility of putting some money into the Playhouse, which is an excellent theatre, but which has tremendous shortcomings. It's an old theatre and I've heard of some plans of a restaurant and a tunnel and a renovation and all the rest of it. Is the Minister now actively involved in considering some substantial improvements to the Playhouse?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There have been a number of proposals over the years with respect to the Playhouse.

There was some Provincial Government support through the Manitoba Jobs Fund and the NEED Program about two years ago to do some renovations with respect to the roof and other aspects of the centre. There was also a review done, in terms of the Arts Accommodation Study, under the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative as to whether or not that would fit into that particular thrust under the Core Area Initiative and it was one that was not accepted as the primary project under that program.

There is presently a proposal that has recently come out of the city for the Playhouse that is being reviewed, both by our department and the Department of Urban Affairs. Whether or not there's the funds to support that project . . . let me phrase it this way - there are no funds to support that project this year.

Whether or not, in terms of looking at future years and expenditures as they relate to major cultural institutions or as they relate to transfer payments to the City of Winnipeg, because that is a facility that's owned by the City of Winnipeg, then support to that project would have to be determined in relation to other priorities with respect to funding for the City of Winnipeg. If the city comes forward with a number of capital requests, including the Playhouse, including road repairs, including bridge construction, Rainbow Stage, other city-owned facilities and the upgrade or the major renovation of the Playhouse would have to be determined, in terms of those priorities.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, just one more question at this point. I don't know if this is the right area or not, but the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce near Portage and Main, a beautiful high ceiling building's been closed for years, eight or ten storeys high, with a - I forget what you call it - but they have a huge open area. There have been plans made over the years, a lot of proposals going back at least 10 years for that facility. Is there anything in the works to save that property, to renovate it and make use of it? I recall about 10 years ago plans for arts groups, for the ballet, etc., but we haven't heard anything recently.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There's been one specific proposal that's been raised in recent times with respect to that building and cultural uses, and that was a proposal, or is a proposal, from the Prairie Theatre Exchange to have that converted into theatre space for Prairie Theatre Exchange, but that is something that was reviewed, in terms of possible Core Area Initiative assistance and was not accepted; and I guess it's still on the table for future considerations.

I believe the price tag of that was well in excess of \$2 million or \$3 million for conversion of that space into a theatre, so it still is on the table but I don't know of anyone who's got those kind of funds to commit to it at this point in time.

I might just answer the previous question from the member with regard to Cercle Moliere. I just reviewed a copy of the last Annual Report of the Manitoba Arts Council which indicated in it that the grant from the Manitoba Arts Council to Cercle Moliere Inc. was \$50,000 for the fiscal year ending March, 1984.

**MR. R. DOERN:** On the Canadian Imperial Bank building, the Minister is involved in attempting to save

certain buildings and renovate certain buildings and make heritage, etc. Is this one of those buildings that is on that list?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The building has never been designated . . . we're off subject here, in terms of heritage properties, but that building has not been declared a provincial historic site by the province. It is designated by the City of Winnipeg as an historic site in the City of Winnipeg.

We work and encourage any owners of heritage buildings to look at either continued or alternate uses of those buildings and we would certainly assist any group or any organization to put that or any other building into active use.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Yes, I'd like to question, Mr. Chairman, about the Winnipeg International Children's Festival. What's the financial status with that festival?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The festival is going on the end of this May again. It is receiving a grant through the Lotteries of \$80,000 in fiscal 1985-86. I'm informed that the board has now put in place controls and accountability and have organized themselves to reduce their deficit and have come to an agreement, I believe, with their creditors. I know at one point we had heard that some creditors were concerned about getting bills paid, but I believe that they've come to terms with all their creditors.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** What percent increase would that be, this year from last?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The grant last year was \$78,215.87 with regard to their actual festival and a tour of rural Manitoba. \$70,000 was directly related to the festival itself and the additional \$8,215.87 was a tour that they had outside of Winnipeg. I don't know the actual percentage on that.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** In the grant listings, it's down as \$60,712.00.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** That's the previous year.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** That's the year before that?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** That's the year ending March 1984. We're now dealing with the year ending - I gave you the figures for March 1985 and the grant for the next year is for the year ending March 1986.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(b)(1) - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I just have one further question on that. Does the Minister have the exact deficit that the Children's Festival has?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** According to their financial statement, their deficit as of August 31st - I guess that is their year end - August 31, 1984 was \$60,483.00.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I just have the question about the - is this where I can ask about the Royal Winnipeg Ballet or is that the capital . . .

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, go ahead.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I understand that they're building from scratch - they're building a new building, not going into the school, Winnipeg No. 1 property now. I guess I'm just curious to know why they didn't end up going into one of the heritage buildings, more in the inner core area - and if the Minister has any comments on that?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** First of all, I gave the member incorrect information in terms of the Children's Festival, the deficit figure is \$85,068.00.

In terms of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the capital grant to the ballet was out of the Jobs Fund. Actually it was provided out of the Jobs Fund two years ago, but because they didn't commence it had to be carried over every year and revoted. It has now, I understand, been processed because they are actually starting construction.

Their original proposal, their preferred site was the Isbister School site which is owned by the Winnipeg School Division and in active and continually used as adult education in the downtown of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg School Division was not prepared to give up that building because they saw the need for ongoing use.

There was considerable discussion with the North of Portage Development Corporation to see if they could be located in the North of Portage area. Unfortunately those discussions did not conclude in any kind of arrangement between the North of Portage and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for a suitable site and suitable terms there, so they then had to look at an alternate site.

The site that they have chosen is still in the core of Winnipeg, albeit it's on the south side of Portage Avenue rather than on the north side, but in terms of the Jobs Fund grant that was given to them there were no conditions placed. Originally the conditions were placed that it be part of the North of Portage redevelopment that was being planned at that time. When that didn't work out, the province removed that condition from its grant and said as long as it's located within the core area boundaries that we weren't going to force them into a site specific or a building specific.

So the province put the condition that it had to be in the core and it is within the boundaries of the core of Winnipeg, but not on the north side but on the south side of Portage.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I guess my concern and my question was, we have heritage buildings in the downtown area and I was just wondering if there wasn't any pressure put on the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to renovate rather than build anew.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I think the ballet - and we could maybe get the information subsequent or get it from the ballet - they did do an extensive search for buildings. I think part of the problem that they ran into, as I

understand it, was the fact that because of the kind of facility they needed with rehearsal space it would be very difficult, if not impossible, in some of the older buildings to renovate in such a way to provide the kind of space they would need because of the kind of construction - you know, with pillars and those kinds of things, that they found it very difficult and very expensive to look at any specific heritage building. Even at the Isbister School site, if they were to get that, they would have to build on considerable space at that site in order to meet their needs.

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

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, this department also, Grants Administration, would be involved in the Lotteries Fund Grants as well, would they? The Minister mentioned they put it all under one roof and the administration would approve the Lotteries Fund Grants as well in this section?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, the Grants Administration administers the - and that's the other package that I presented to the member of the grants listing which are funded out of the Lotteries Trust Fund. They are not part of the appropriation. They're the portion of the revenue that has traditionally gone to the Departments of Culture, Heritage and Recreation from Lottery, but they do the actual administration of all of the - most of the programs.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Then can I ask - on Page 15 of your Lotteries Funds, we have a \$4,500 grant to the Manitoba Arts Festival and Syndicate. On Page 17 - of course it's obviously a different program - but we have \$30,000 to the Manitoba Arts Festival Inc., and then, of course, when we return - and it's under another section, I would imagine the provincial regional - but we look at the departmental funding and we find Associated Manitoba Arts Festival, \$20,000.00. So we have \$20,000, \$30,000, \$4,500.00 - we've got the total of \$35,000 and it's the same organization.

Now what is the reason for having these all - and I know that they're an organization applying for different programs, but is there not some way that they can be treated in such a way that when they apply, they say we need X number of dollars, and let them list them and let them look at them. But we have it under Lotteries and we have it under Departmental and they're in three different places. There may be more, I haven't . . .

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** First of all, the Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals is the umbrella or provincial organizations of all the music festivals that exist throughout the province and there are 48 of these organizations in all the rural communities or in many of the rural communities. So the funds that are provided out of appropriation are for their basic operating programs.

The support areas that are listed in the Lotteries are for either specific projects that they undertake on behalf of the rural communities or specific programs that they get into. We look at those on a project-by-project basis and provide their base operating support out of appropriation and look at special projects that they

may do in relation to the lottery revenues that may be available.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Now just so we're clear on this, looking at the report and then this report with the Lotteries Trust Fund, these are the different - and I don't want to take up the time of the committee and the Minister's time if we can just sort of get it clarified - looking at the report, we have the different programs.

So really, beginning with Community Cultural Councils Grants, that's a program; Co-ordinating Assistance Grants is a program; Municipal Grants, a program; Community Museums Grants, a program; Public Library Capital Grants. Here we have the Capital Grants and I imagine that's coming out of the Lotteries funds or the Jobs Fund. I don't know whether the Capital Grants for Libraries are listed under the Lotteries funds.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, they're Lotteries.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** They're not Jobs Fund; they're Lotteries funds.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Although Jobs Fund has provided support to Libraries, but there has been, for many years, a Public Library Capital Grants Program under Lotteries.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Okay. Then you have the Provincial Regional Organizations Grants; Skills Transfer. We discussed that last year as to that program. I believe that was new last year, wasn't it?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, it was revised last year.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Arts School Grants; Linguistic Support Grants. Well, as I said, these grants are listed according to the different programs within the department, which corresponds with your report.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, these are the detailed listings that obviously would double the report if we had to do that.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister - now, this is not a question regarding any of the grants but - I think he would realize that, when we got the report, the same as with the Small Business Development Grants, etc., they're all listed in there. I know there's a much larger number of grants in this department, but could it be possible to have these grants come with the report so we aren't shifting around at the present time? That's a slight criticism; I appreciate getting them, but I wonder if it would be possible in the future to have them, not necessarily with the report, but sort of delivered.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I agree.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** What are the criteria for receiving a Linguistic Support Grant? Can anybody come up with

an organization or do they have to have so many members or do they . . . just what is it exactly?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The program has specific guidelines which I believe were all distributed last year. I could read through them.

The program is to provide support to Manitoba non-profit community-based ethnocultural organizations for the teaching of ancestral language programs outside the public school system for school-age children beginning at the age of four and ending in Grade 12. It's not the intent of this program to duplicate a system provided by other Provincial Government departments. Applications must be submitted by non-profit community-based ethnocultural organizations who have operated a language program for at least one year. Then there's a level of assistance and there's an application procedure.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I understood that part of it. I'm just wondering, as I look down the list, and they have to be teaching it - do you look into it if there's one pupil or two or can anyone start a program?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I believe it's a base enrolment of 15 students and then the grant is based on a level of students, 15 to 50, 50 to 100 on a descending scale of assistance depending on the size.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** So, in essence, any group who wishes to teach, under your criteria, can come in. It doesn't matter if there are maybe two or three, say, Scottish or Irish or whatever there is - if they choose to have a program, it will get some sort of support.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** As I understand it, there has to be a minimum enrolment of 15 students, so that it is an actual operating school. These are after-four or weekend schools, but any ancestral languages are eligible to apply.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** In other words, any group can support, can start this type of a . . . if they get 15 students, they can get some money out of the government.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, this program has been in existence for - I don't know - about eight or nine years. There was a major revision to it last year, after consultation with the community.

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask some questions about the government's policy of funding books and magazines and other publications which I believe is under this area.

Just to make a few general comments and then to ask a few questions, there has been, I think, a controversy and somewhat of a shock on the part of the general public about some of the publications that the government is funding. Nobody is going to, I think, question - maybe there are some, but I don't think anybody's going to question the general principle of the program which is presumably to help struggling

publishers of magazines and books to publish and distribute their products. It's obviously well known that it is difficult to survive as a small provincial or Canadian publisher.

American magazines have tremendous circulations. We're flooded with paperbacks; we're flooded with magazines and in spite of all that we have still witnessed that in the last few years or decade there have been American magazines which have gone down the tube with circulations of five and six million because they weren't able to obtain the advertising, even though they had tremendous and impressive circulation statistics. So I just note in passing, though some may question the value of providing public support to publishers of magazines, books and periodicals, I don't; but I strongly question the judgment used by somebody or some body in your department in regard to two of these publications.

I will just mention Midcontinental in passing because I have not focused on them. All I can say is the efforts that they have produced which I have seen remind me very much of The Manitoban, the University of Manitoba student paper, when once a year some naughty students got together and cranked out some material that they themselves judged to be rather unsuitable and sort of pulled a fast one and got it out and then there'd always be some kind of a furor as a result and the Midcontinental issues that I have seen - and one article in particular reminded me of that - rather juvenile and may be of interest to a couple of dozen people who are friends and relatives of the people who crank it out. But in terms of the general public, of no interest whatsoever, and it would be very interesting to see their circulation statistics and to know what kind of support they would have on the open market.

Mr. Chairman, my concern is with HERizons which I think is an incredible publication, full of foul language, supporting the militant feminists, pro-lesbian, anti-male, anti-Catholic. — (Interjection) — Well, perhaps the Father has not had an opportunity to look at that publication, but if so, he might find that there is material for a number of sermons in there.

I think that this is an incredible situation where you have the public funding a magazine that then, in effect, is an insult to the people who are providing those funds. So you have taxpayers' money going to this publication, and then the publication takes that money and attacks men in our society, attacks ordinary women in our society from the militant feminist position, attacks Roman Catholics who are providing a good portion of that funding, and attacks normal people from a gay and lesbian perspective.

So here is a publication, getting money, which I say they are not entitled to. If this is a good publication, let them publish. Let them take their case to the public on their own merits, devoid of federal funding which is highly substantial. You have grants going to that publication in the past three years of over half a million dollars, but you have our friends in the Provincial Government, the Minister and his colleagues in the Department of Labour and his colleagues in Tourism, and so on, putting ads into the publication, which is indirect funding - maybe it's a technique for avoiding putting in direct grants, but it's as good as any kind of direct funding.

My first question is this. Given that the program had a good intent and I think made sense in principle, namely

that there are struggling publishers of magazines and books and periodicals in Manitoba and some of those I think are excellent. I don't regularly read Prairie Fire, but my impression is that it's excellent magazine. I do subscribe to Arts Manitoba, and although I don't read it from cover-to-cover, my impression is that it is an excellent magazine.

How do these magazines get on that list? Is there somebody there who is responsible for making that decision or did somebody just pump in an application form - ask for \$5,000 or \$10,000 or for a special grant in a letter that flew through the mail to the Minister - the Minister initialled it - sent it to somebody in the department who then stamped it and said, well let's give these people X dollars? Because I know the Minister gave \$10,000 for a special grant and in my judgment these publications are unworthy of public support. I want to ask the Minister, first of all, who made the decision? I assume it wasn't him, but maybe it was, but who made the decision to provide this funding?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The support for Manitoba-published books and cultural periodicals goes back a number of years. I haven't researched when the Manitoba Arts Council first started providing support to products, magazines, and books that were either written, and/or produced by Manitobans, but the practice of providing support to those publications through the Manitoba Arts Council goes back a good number of years.

One of the publications that the member referred to, Midcontinental, has been supported, to a small extent, by the Manitoba Arts Council for a number of years under their cultural periodical program. There hasn't been any direct government support as such from the department to that publication, other than whatever employment grants that they might be eligible for like Careerstart or those kind of programs, like any other organization in the province, but last year's support from the Manitoba Arts Council was in the amount of \$4,500.00.

They also received support from the Canada Council, so it's not only that the Manitoba Arts Council viewed it as a publication worthy of support, but the Canada Council, under its criteria and its programs, have found it worthy of some level of support.

In terms of HERizons, it has not received any support from the Arts Council because it is not an arts publication as such, rather it's a social commentary. The funding that the department provided for that publication was the special grant that the member made mention of, and that was for the cultural content in a special women's cultural issue which was a one-issue situation. The member did mention that they also received considerable federal funding and that's not something that I'm in a position to respond to, outside of to indicate that they have over the last number of years found considerable need for supporting that publication and have provided substantial federal support.

In terms of the specific program that the so-called controversy arose from was a program under the federal/provincial ERDA agreement, a federal and provincial government support program for cultural industries in the Province of Manitoba and is a joint

federal-provincial program. The specific component of cultural industries is administered by the province, on behalf of the Federal and Provincial Government.

The specific program of support to periodicals and books was something that was recommended out of a publishing policy work that was done a couple of years ago for the province with respect to cultural industries. The eligibility that was agreed to under the joint program, the federal-provincial program for support for periodicals, were that they were programs open to all Manitoba cultural periodicals, defined as literary arts criticism and social criticism periodicals that had to meet the following criteria: Principal ownership by Canadian citizens or landed immigrants domiciled in the Province of Manitoba; ongoing operation, having published at least one issue in the past two years and actively planning publication in the upcoming year; published not more than 12 times annually with a specific and defined mandate as their editorial policy; either the publication of original literary works of the publication and criticism in either the arts or social sphere. The majority of contributors were persons other than the principals and employees of the company. Copyright for all published materials reside with the author. The publishing activity proceeded at arm's length from any parent corporate or body. The editorial decision-making in the sole autonomous control of the editor or editorial board of the periodical.

That was the agreed-to criteria that was put in place after consultation with the publishing industry and as approved by the federal and provincial implementing jurisdiction. The program is funded on the provincial part through the federal/provincial ERDA Agreement with funds flowing from the Manitoba Jobs Fund to assist.

The idea behind the program was to ensure that there was greater Manitoba published materials placed in libraries in the province. As indicated, with respect to school libraries and public libraries, each library was allowed a maximum grant to purchase those publications from the list that they wanted in their libraries, and the decision rested with either the school librarian in the case of school libraries, or the public librarian in the public libraries, and would be governed by whatever policies are in place in those institutions for the purchase of materials. The grant would be awarded on the basis of them purchasing those programs.

The program has been very successful in terms of providing the libraries with the publications and books. The response was quite overwhelming and the support and the responses that we have received from the communities has been significant in endorsing the program and indeed asking for its extension into subsequent years, because the program was designed as a program to provide initial shot; in other words, to bring the publications into the libraries and into the schools, and was put in place in somewhat of a hurried fashion in order to get it up and running quickly. There is some suggestions by the publishers, by both school and public librarians, that the program ought to be continued in some form in the future. Those decisions will be made after consultation with the various people affected by the program, and would have to be done under the terms of the federal/provincial agreement and with agreement from the Federal Government.

I believe it was, and is, a good program in terms of providing greater opportunity. I don't know how one does what the member suggests in terms of dealing with specific content in a specific publication. I think that would get one into the position of deciding which is on a list that one individual, whether it's a minister or a staff person, believes ought to be supported; I think those decisions rest with the people that purchase those publications, or use them in libraries, or purchase them for use in libraries. It's no different than any other publication or any other book that is purchased.

The purpose behind the program was to provide an industrial support program for periodicals and books published in the Province of Manitoba, and I think it's been extremely well received, of extremely good benefit to the industry in the province. It is unfortunate that there was an indication, or some suggestion, that the books were actually approved for use, or the publications were approved for use in the school. That was an error in my department; one that I accepted responsibility for, and one that I indicated publicly was in error and ought not to have indicated that they were approved for use in schools, because that decision doesn't rest with my department, but that rests with the school division.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, again I ask the Minister, who in the department made the decision, some group, some body was sitting there - one or more people - receiving applications from publishers of magazines and books; somebody there had to decide which ones met the criteria and which didn't. Was that the Arts Council, or who within the department made those decisions?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The guidelines were approved by the federal/provincial management committee of the ERDA Agreement. Staff in the department were the ones that implemented that within the bounds of those criteria, so if a publication met the criteria under those guidelines that I read out, then they would approve the purchasing of those publications.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Can the Minister indicate whether any publishers of magazines in Manitoba were turned down?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** We're not aware of any publications that applied that were turned down for funding, but I'll take that specific question and will research the . . .

**MR. R. DOERN:** The point I'm making here, Mr. Chairman, is that somebody in the department - you know, if the Federal Government doesn't have any common sense, that's another question. I don't think the Minister of Immigration and Employment, Mr. Axworthy, demonstrated much of that, but somebody in our government, somebody in our department should have some idea of what might be acceptable to the public and what might not. So that, for example, I get the impression that there are some trendy people about who are just going to rubber stamp anything that comes in. You know, the question is, could somebody who publishes a girlie magazine or a bunch of child molesters get together and crank out some material and get a grant from the Manitoba Government? Are there any standards or minimums, or is there some sense . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** One question at a time. The member is asking three questions all at once.  
Mr. Minister.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** In answer to the first question; the answer is no, that kind of publication would not fit the criteria.

**MR. R. DOERN:** I want to know on what basis HERizons magazine, which is not acceptable to, I think, a large body of people in this province, did meet those criteria?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** As I indicated when I read through the detailed guidelines, publications that were dealing with social criticisms and social issues were eligible for funding, and that publication met that criteria. It also met the criteria with respect to ownership and publishing, the writers, etc.

**MR. R. DOERN:** I would ask the Minister whether he is familiar with HERizons magazine; whether he has read it, or subscribed to it, or examined it, before or after the recent controversy?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I have seen the publication for some time, I think, since it first came out a number of years ago. I don't read it cover to cover, but I look at it as I do a variety of publications.

**MR. R. DOERN:** The Minister indicated that the Canada Council provided funding for HERizons. Is this the case? Well, I thought that's what he just said, a few minutes ago.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I said the Midcontinental received funding from Canada Council.

**MR. R. DOERN:** And how much was that?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I believe the last reported year was \$6,000.00. That's a federal agency. HERizons, hasn't as yet received any funding; I understand they have applied and are under consideration. Their funding has come from other federal agencies, in fact, federal department.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Well, again, I would ask the Minister, the funding for HERizons, as I understand it, came from Mr. Axworthy under the guise of employment creation. On that basis, he's provided half a million dollars over the past three years and now the Minister's telling me that he, too, provides funding for HERizons under the Jobs Fund. Is that the case, that it's because of employment creation that he can provide funding for these publications?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, I did not say that. I said that Midcontinental received some employment grants under the Jobs Fund. I presume they are something like Careerstart, that other organizations are entitled to. HERizons did not receive any employment grants under the Jobs Fund that we're aware of.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Can the Minister indicate how much funding he provided for Midcontinental under the Jobs Fund?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The information that we have at present, and it wasn't provided by me, but it's provided through other departments like Employment Services, was about \$9,000.00. We're researching this information in response to an Order for Return that was filed asking for specific information.

**MR. R. DOERN:** So then I ask the Minister again, can somebody who starts a magazine that is not acceptable to large numbers of people, for example, a girlie magazine, a fascist magazine, a bunch of child molesters get together . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Theoretical.

**MR. R. DOERN:** . . . and go to the Minister and say, we would like a grant to get a publication going. Would they be eligible under the Jobs Fund?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** A hypothetical question.  
Mr. Minister.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I've already answered that question. The same answer applies to the same question, no.

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I have some questions yet. The Minister is not making his criteria clear because he's simply saying that if somebody has a publication, then their chances appear to be very good that they are eligible for a grant. He listed some criteria and he suggested that HERizons met those criteria; and I'm telling him that there are similar analogous publications that would probably meet those same criteria because he doesn't seem to have injected in there either some appreciation of the public sensibility or any moral dimension. He just has in there a list of objective criteria which seem to readily include, but not preclude, HERizons magazine. I'm suggesting to him that there are other publications that would be as offensive or more offensive to people that would probably meet those criteria as well.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I've indicated to the member that the kind of publications that he described would not fit the criteria of that program. If he is suggesting that a publication ought not to be supported because its content or the issues that that publication raises or the positions that may be advanced editorially or through columnists in a publication, that somehow because some segment of the publication may not agree with those positions, that that publication ought not to be supported in the same way other publications are, I would reject that, because then that would put the person - the government, for that matter, making those decisions - in a position of censoring material not related to community standards that exist with respect to pornography, with respect to violence, but to very subjective opinions on other social issues that are not of the nature that the member is describing.

I don't believe that's the role of government; I believe the role of government is to provide for the forum of

differing views within society, within the pluralistic society, whether or not it's done through programs of providing the opportunity or forums for the advancement of different ideas provided they're not focused on harm to other individuals, then I believe it is the responsibility of government to allow those views to flourish in a pluralistic society.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, then I hear the Minister saying, in effect, that he's prepared to fund any publication of any kind regardless of whether or not it is offensive to the majority of Manitobans.

I would then ask him this, I ask him this: In view of the fact that I think a large segment of the general public, including members of the opposition, including the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, including the St. James-Assiniboia School Division, including parent's associations in St. James, including a statement from Archbishop Exner that they find this publication offensive and unworthy of public funding, is the Minister prepared to consider those opinions, or just he just reject them out of hand?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I consider all opinions that are brought forward to me. There have been some opinions expressed in opposition to the program, in opposition to the specific support to one or two publications under that program. There have also been many organizations that have indicated support for that program; in terms of one of the organizations that the member indicated was in opposition to the program or to the funding of that specific publication - that is not true. The Manitoba Association of School Trustees indicated that they were concerned about the approval system with respect to materials in the school system. They were not in opposition to support of that particular publication and there was a subsequent letter from the Chairperson of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees that I received that clarified that point.

There are other groups that have written to us indicating support of that program including the support for the two publications which included the City of Winnipeg Library Board, the Manitoba Writers Guild, the Book and Periodical Development Council, the Manitoba Library Association, Manitoba Periodicals Association and a few hundred other individual letters that I've received indicated support, in some cases, generally for the program and some cases specifically for support for one or both of those publications that are under discussion.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Is the Minister then indicating that he will continue to fund officially - I shouldn't say officially - I should say directly fund or indirectly fund, through advertisements or special grants, HERizons and Midcontinental magazines?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I'm not certain what the member means by directly or indirectly. In terms of support through the Manitoba Arts Council, those decisions are made by the Manitoba Arts Council, which is a cultural agency that is at arm's length from government, one that is established purposely in that method, both provincially in fact in other provinces, and federally, and it's not my intention to indicate to them anything with respect to their support program for periodicals.

With respect to any other developments under the Federal-Provincial Publishing Program, any decisions there will be taken after consultation with the affected parties, including the Librarian Associations, the periodical publishers themselves; and under the approval process that's in place with respect to the Federal and Provincial Government, this is a joint Federal and Provincial Government program that needs approval by both governments before any programs are introduced or any programs are changed under that program.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister if he would clarify this letter that was sent from his department to the school libraries. This letter was signed by people in his department, sent out to the school librarians in Manitoba at the junior and senior high levels, and recommended the program, and then took the publicity blurbs from the various magazines as to what they contained, and then categorized them into suitable for Grades 7 to 9 and Grades 10 to 12.

Now since that time it seems like everybody's been running for cover. The Minister of Education left the Minister hanging out to dry on that issue, ran for cover and said that she had nothing to do with it, and that this was a Cultural Affairs initiative or "affair" as my colleague says. But the question is: Were these people mistaken? Did they not know what they were doing? Did they think they were speaking to somebody in the Department of Education?

The letter clearly stated, if I can just read a line here from the secret notes of my associate here, they said, I think somewhere in here, that they had received - here it is - they said, "Please note that each book title and cultural periodical has been assigned to recommended grade levels by Manitoba Education now." Did these people contact the Department of Education or did they think they contacted the Department of Education?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Wolseley on the same subject?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Can I answer the question?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The circumstances surrounding that letter were that the books that were put under the program were reviewed by the Department of Education. The books were looked at in terms of their possible inclusion in various levels, that is the book portion of the program. The periodicals were not approved nor reviewed specifically with the Department of Education and therein lies the problem.

The suggestion in that letter, that the periodicals were approved by the Department of Education was in error, was incorrect, should not have been included in that letter and that's what I have indicated on a number of occasions, publicly, that there should not have been any reference or any suggestion that there was approval by the Department of Education, by the Department of Culture, by anybody, with respect to the use of those publications in the grades that were suggested by the letter. That was incorrect and should not have taken place.



The descriptive comments were made by the publishers themselves, and I think in future that there should be some review of that to ensure that if there is the potential for any objectionable material, that that should be clearly stated in the descriptive review of that publication. But I indicated that was not recommended by Education. It should not have appeared that way. It was not recommended by our department. It was the listing of publications that were approved under both the public library and the school library program, if the public libraries chose to purchase those books, there should not have been any reference to that.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Is the Minister saying that this was a figment of the imagination of his employees or a fabrication? I mean the letter clearly states, it clearly states that they were assigned recommended grade levels by the department. Now were these people hallucinating or on what basis did they include that?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Let me try to answer it slowly so that the member could understand. I said there was two portions to the program: book purchases and periodicals. The book purchases and the recommended grade levels were reviewed by the Department of Education. The periodicals were not.

Unfortunately and regrettably and wrongly, the letter indicated that both of those were. So they were not a figment of somebody's imagination; they were not hallucinations. They were an error in writing up that letter. It should not have appeared that way.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Is the Minister telling me - this sounds like the government's classical typographical error that we've seen several instances of. I mean I'm simply saying, you're telling me that it's an error and it sounds as if the typist accidentally included that sentence. But if one reads the letter and then one looks - not only at the letter but the material that is contained with it - it goes on to describe the periodicals in their own words and then includes a recommended grade level, 10 to 12, 10 to 12 for both HERizons, Midcontinental, 6 to 12 for City magazine and on and on. Then who did in fact devise those appropriate grade levels? Was it the lady who wrote the letter or was it some other body?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** As I indicated, the way that that letter was written was a mistake. It was an error. The member doesn't seem to accept that people can make errors, that has been publicly acknowledged. As Minister I take responsibility for the errors that were made. It was clarified subsequent to it being raised. I indicated that that was an error.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, were the employees who made this error reprimanded?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I think I might conclude at that point by saying this to the Minister, that I think some of us in the opposition find the explanation implausible. Look at the material and find a letter which

says, we, the staff of the Cultural Affairs Department have spoken to our colleagues in the Department of Education and we have this program and we have asked them for their assistance to grade the various publications. Somebody in the department then examined the publications being more familiar with Literature and magazines and books and periodicals, and made a value judgment as to at what age level and what grade level this was appropriate. Then this was circulated to all the departments.

Mr. Chairman, we know exactly what happened. One of the librarians, and there's been a lot of talk about this issue, about let's not interfere with the judgment of librarians - I know about some of the judgments of librarians, because some of the librarians have taken these publications and thrown them in the garbage before this controversy occurred. It was a librarian that initially drew the matter to the attention of the Member for Morris. As a result, that was brought into the Legislature, a controversy erupted and everyone ran for cover.

The Minister of Education completely disowned any connection whatsoever with the program, said it was an error, said that she had nothing to do with the program, immediately ordered, in contradiction to what the Minister is suggesting, the taking out of Midcontinental from all the libraries in the province in the first hour. It only took her 60 minutes to determine that she would be able to make a judgment on that publication and order its withdrawal. She then said, on a number of occasions, that she was unfamiliar with HERizons magazine. Now I find that an absolutely incredible statement that was made by a colleague of the Minister, because I would say that most women, who consider themselves in the forefront of the women's movement, either regularly subscribe to it or have at least looked at it. Some have looked at it and probably dispatched it into the garbage where it belongs, but to say that she was unfamiliar and had never seen it, and hadn't read it, I find to be an incredible statement.

Now we go to the Minister of Cultural Affairs, he's left holding the bag. He's the guy who's going to take the rap here, because the Minister of Education says, "I want nothing to do with this program. We didn't have anything to do with it, we had no input, it's totally the responsibility of the Minister of Cultural Affairs."

Now the Minister of Cultural Affairs tells us that this letter was in error, that these people did not do what they said they did, that these people did not, in fact, talk to the Department of Education, and did not get their gradings from them.

Mr. Chairman, I find that difficult, if not impossible, to believe. I think what happened is very simple. The pressure went on, everybody ran for cover, and the pressure went on these very people within the Department of Cultural Affairs to adhere to the government line, and the government line is, we don't know what happened here, we had nothing to do with it, and you people somehow or other goofed, and made a mistake. Now we have people, I don't know these people - Carol Ann O'Brien and her colleague, Pat Blackburn, they're left holding the bag, they're taking the rap, because otherwise if they don't take the rap, then the Minister takes the rap, and the Minister of Education takes the rap, and the result is that it's much easier to make people down the line say and "admit"

that they made an error. I find that difficult, Mr. Chairman, if not impossible, to believe.

I think the facts of the matter are that somebody in Cultural Affairs showed very poor judgment and members of the Arts Council, and I think the Arts Council probably does an excellent job in general; but on this issue, they either were asleep, or they're going with the "trendy". Whatever is trendy, they're going with. So if HERizons is the trendiest journal published in Manitoba, then they're going with HERizons. They don't care whether or not people think it's a piece of garbage; they don't care whether it's an abuse of taxpayers' funds; they don't care whether they have had start-up grants which are going to continue forever, which is a peculiar form of a start-up grant; they are just going to go with the latest trendy nonsense.

So I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister, I think, has to take the responsibility here, and I think the Minister maybe should show some direction. I don't think anybody is saying to him - and I'm not saying to him - go out with an axe or go out and burn all these publications. I'm saying that there are publications in this province, there are publishers in this province who are publishing poetry, who are publishing novels, who are publishing other material, who are publishing magazines, who need help and have a product that is worthy of support.

The Minister is providing some support to some of those people, but at the same time, he is wasting taxpayers' dollars on what can only be described as garbage. The fact that it's printed in Manitoba doesn't mean that it should be supported. Garbage is garbage, whether it is supported in Manitoba, produced in New York, or turned out in somebody's cellar in Chicago.

I'm saying to the Minister that I think he should re-examine his program. If his guidelines are so broad that any publication of any kind will qualify for a Manitoba grant, then I think he should re-examine it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** A point of order being raised.

**MS. M. PHILLIPS:** Mr. Chairperson . . . is this the way the committee operates, for one member to dominate the committee hearings for a whole hour on one topic, without other people being able to make comments along the way? On the same topic?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** On the same topic, the practice that we have followed is to allow a certain line of questioning on a certain particular subject. If the subject is exhausted, then we go to another subject. If you want to jump into that subject, then so indicate that you want to speak on the same subject and then I will be at liberty to call.

**MS. M. PHILLIPS:** Well, I think there were two members of the committee who wanted to speak on this particular subject, and one person was allowed to dominate with his comments for a whole hour and I don't think that's fair. I think there should be some back and forth taking place.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I agree.

The hour being 5:30, the committee will take a recess. We will return at 8:00 p.m.

## SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** Committee, come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture. Does the Minister have an opening statement?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm pleased to make some general comments before we enter into the detailed discussion of our 1985-86 Estimates for the Department of Agriculture.

These Estimates represent a strong and continuing commitment to Manitoba's farm and agricultural economy. They reflect our sensitivity to needs of our farm community, which has been severely hit by the federal high interest rate policy, rising costs and low market prices.

At a time of fiscal restraint everywhere, my government has not only maintained, but it has increased its financial commitment to Manitoba farmers. We realize that if this sector is lost, Manitoba loses its most important source of value-added production and job creation in this province.

This increased commitment stems clearly from the fact that we care. We care about the economic fortunes of farm family and rural communities and we care about the need to rebuild the human base of rural Manitoba by ensuring that beginning and young farmers today become the solid economic and social base for agriculture tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman, the policy strategy and resulting programs implemented by my department therefore are shaped around four policy cornerstones to achieve these objectives. They are:

Comprehensive farm financial management and credit assistance. The major components of this thrust are intensive farm management counselling. A full 5,000 farmers have received this service over the past three years, many in conjunction with assistance under the Interest Rate Relief Program.

Farm business group training. Over 600 farmers are now enrolled in a two-year intensive management and accounting program through 40 business groups.

Beef consult. A management program focusing on beef producers to provide them with comprehensive management and production upgrading.

MACC credit assistance. A growing force in providing the credit that is tailored to the unique requirements of young and beginning farmers in their efforts to establish viable farm enterprises. Regular lending programs plus special programs such as loan guarantees, interest rate relief, and young farmer rebate account for loans to over 5,000 farmers.

Capital requirements have grown from \$40 million in 1983-84 to now over \$56 million. The most recent addition to this program complement is the \$20 million comprehensive refinancing program in which loans to eligible farmers will be provided at 9.75 percent for the first 100,000 for the first five years of the loan. This program represents one more major commitment by my government to ensure that the maximum number of young farmers in financial distress make it through these difficult economic times.

Mr. Chairman, our commitment in farm financing and management assistance is second to none among other provinces. My only regret is that it will never be enough. That is why I called for the same level of commitment from our Federal Government and the lenders to demonstrate similar flexibility and dedication to the cause of these farmers caught in unfortunate economic circumstances. That commitment did not come so we will have to do as much as we can on our own, knowing full well it will never be enough.

Be that as it may, we know that the best insurance that we can provide farmers against future difficulties is to equip them with good financial management and decision making skills, along with sensitive and flexible credit arrangements to enable them to build financially strong and viable family farms.

The second cornerstone - income stabilization. By protecting our hog and beef producers from capital market swings, we have accomplished a good deal over the last three years to place these commodities on a stable and financially sound base. It is a base on which Manitoba can build a viable and growing processing industry because it now has the security of supply that is so vital.

This budget reflects our continued commitment to these plans with the addition of some \$200,000 to the income insurance fund, bringing total anticipated expenditures to \$7.2 million for 1985-86. The last two years have been years of major improvement to the Manitoba Crop Insurance Program, a program which provides a significant financial underpinning to the entire farm economy because of the protection it provides against nature hazards.

Producers can now take advantage of higher coverage levels to ensure themselves against higher production costs. They have price options to suit their particular insurance needs and financial situation. More crops are being covered every year.

At the same time, we launched a Feed Security Program to ensure livestock producers against loss of forage crops. This year we'll see 22 rural municipalities insured, with 20 more planned for next year. Our long-term plan is to cover the entire province.

The third area - crop and livestock productivity improvements. A central activity of the department is designed to increase the efficiency of livestock and crop production throughout the province. On-farm demonstration projects and educational techniques of all forms are used to bridge the gap between research findings and practical application of new farm technology.

Added impetus to this effort will be provided through a new five-year Canada-Manitoba Agri-Food Agreement. \$38.3 million of new effort will be channelled into rural Manitoba for production development purposes.

What is unique about this agreement is that projects and programs were developed in close consultation with farmers and commodity organizations to ensure that the priority issues were fully addressed. What is also unique is that the demonstration and extension efforts will be targeted at the broad base of farmers with particular attention to marginal farmers who can benefit the most from improved production practices, thus fostering their improved viability.

The fourth area - soil and water management and conservation. A most important long-term thrust is to

maintain the natural productivity of our land and water resources. In addition to our ongoing efforts in this regard, a major portion of the Agri-Food Agreement is devoted to a joint comprehensive effort to accelerate soil and water conservation practices throughout the province.

An additional \$15 million will be committed to this long-term objective under the agreement. The strategy takes the form of both organized soil and water management projects on an area basis, as well as through the demonstration of conservation and soil improved practices on-farm throughout the province.

The time is long overdue for governments and farmers to start the long road of rehabilitating our soil and managing our water on a comprehensive basis. The expenditures provided in my department's Estimates represent our contribution to this accelerated effort on the part of all parties involved.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I have provided this committee with a quick overview of the objectives and the strategy which underline my department's 1985-86 Estimates. I now look forward to discussing them with members of this committee in detail.

Thank you.

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

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to say we welcome the opportunity to debate the policies and the expenditures of the Department of Agriculture as it's been administered by the New Democratic Party in this province. I guess to open up with, I may sound somewhat harsh, but I think that is the way a lot of the farm community feel toward the current Minister of Agriculture.

Their feelings have been somewhat, I think, abused. I think that this Minister has demonstrated an inability to cope with his portfolio, that the evidence is truly on the record that his actions have been more of political survival rather than survival of our family farm and our economic base that he's so anxious to talk about.

It is, Mr. Chairman, an opportunity for the Minister to again take a swipe at the Federal Government on one page of his opening statement by making reference to high interest rates, but I feel that he is unjustifiably doing so when in fact the calling for an 8 percent interest rate he, as Minister of Agriculture, immediately raised his to 13 percent the very day that he called for the Federal Government and the rest of society to introduce such interest rate loans. So his credibility, Mr. Chairman, has to be questioned and I'm sure that every farmer in Manitoba questions the credibility of such an individual who wants to play politics with their livelihoods. And I make that in all seriousness because, again, the opening reference to the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture is a slam at the Federal Government and their high interest rate policy.

On the next page, Mr. Chairman, we make a comment dealing with the management and credit assistance, which has been a long-term resource which the Department of Agriculture has carried out, a responsibility which hasn't changed. I don't see it as a new initiative. I see it as an ongoing responsibility that there is support there for the advice to assist in the management of in both financial and production practices of our farm community.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister makes reference to crop insurance and the fact that there are major changes being made. He should be a little nicer to the Federal Government because they are truly a 50 percent participant in the program and without their support and without their agreeing to this Minister of Agriculture would not be able to make the changes that were necessary. And again, the changes are ongoing and necessary and something that I cannot see as anything revolutionary.

I should, however, before getting more into the crop and production side of it, I would like to deal specifically for a minute or two with the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation which is the Minister's tool to support in some way the financial viability of some of our farms. He has indicated some time ago that there were going to be legislative changes to MACC and has introduced first reading. I would be interested to know when the bill would be distributed for second reading so that we, through Estimates, may be able to have the opportunity to discuss what financial implications may flow from the introduction of such legislated changes because I'm sure that there will be some. If there's a legislative change, allowing more people to participate, then there'll be some economic changes and would hope the Minister would be kind enough as to allow us to see it.

Mr. Chairman, I as well want to deal with some of the concerns that we have on the government's lack of action dealing with some of the trade barriers that are being set up in the U.S. In question period today, I was completely unsatisfied with the First Minister's lack of support for the Manitoba Beef Producers and the Manitoba Hog Producers who for weeks now have been faced with unfair tariff barriers in the United States.

The First Minister was unable in this Legislative Assembly to say that he had communicated directly with anyone at the Federal Government level or in the States. He, the First Minister of this province, has not sent one scrap of paper, one message showing the Federal Government or telling the Federal Government of his dissatisfaction with what is happening in the United States; and I ask the question, why, Mr. Chairman, why? The Minister of Agriculture's response to the First Minister's question was, well, I had my staff down working last Monday in Ottawa and it's the first time they were aware.

Well, I call on the First Minister of this province, not the staff of the Department of Agriculture. Yes, we need the staff of the Department of Agriculture to prepare information, backup material, but we need the First Minister of this province to speak out on behalf of our hog producers and our beef producers, Mr. Chairman. That's what his responsibility is, and if he doesn't get the message now, we'll continue to hound them on it, because the producers of this province deserve more from the First Minister of the Province of Manitoba; and then we have the Minister of Agriculture getting up and bragging about how important agriculture is. Well, show us how important agriculture is to the New Democratic Party if they really believe it. Demonstrate it; that's what we're calling him to do, demonstrate it, Mr. Chairman.

So I'm extremely disappointed in not only the Minister of Agriculture's performance, but the First Minister's support for the agricultural department. He talks about

crop and livestock productivity and prudence. Well, Mr. Chairman, yes, we need to have those kind of motherhood actions. We need those kinds of motherhood supports and we need to make sure there are sufficient funds. I'm not sure - and it's one of the things we'll be pointing out in detail during the Estimates - whether we're getting that kind of financial support in the Department of Agriculture or maybe we have a little more financial support when it comes to the administration of the Minister's office and the polishing of the Minister's image, as the rest of his government colleagues have been showing us during the Estimate process, that the priority, Mr. Chairman, in the Department of Agriculture is to improve the image of the Minister of Agriculture to the farm community and really the farm community comes second to this Minister and this government.

I'll make reference to that when we come to the crop insurance area where there has been special documentation, special newsletters sent out on behalf of the Minister and not to all the farmers who have traditionally got the reports from the crop insurance — (Interjection) — department.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, he says some went out. No, Mr. Chairman, he wants to play that kind of game. We will substantiate that he himself is the one that's the most important and not the farm community. That's what he's demonstrated.

Mr. Chairman, there is room for criticism and I make the comment dealing specifically with the point in his opening statement where he makes reference to the Feed Security Program. Well, I have no problem giving credit where credit is due because there are so few areas that this government can accept credit because there aren't many of them available or areas where we can give them credit. There is a little bit of credit coming to him for implementing it last year, but the criticism comes for the changes that he made. He changed the coverage of the Crop Security Program from the areas of the western region of the province that need it in the most severe way to areas which are in his own backyard in the Interlake.

I don't want the people of the Interlake to think that Jim Downey doesn't want them to have a Feed Security Program. Yes, I do want them to have it and I want them to have a Feed Security Program in that area as well as the western region. I stated that earlier, that's one commitment that our government in going to the people will put forward, that all the areas and all the farmers of Manitoba deserve a Feed Security Coverage Program under the Manitoba Crop Insurance Program. That, Mr. Chairman, is an election pledge and if the Minister wants to say that it is, then he can go out and campaign on my behalf because that's one of the commitments that we'll put in. We won't play politics with it, as he, as the Minister of Agriculture has done.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** It's there already.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, it is not there already. The Minister, from his seat, says it's there already. You cannot get the feed security coverage in the southwest corner of the province right today. You can't, Mr. Chairman, get it in the southwest area of the province where they paid upwards of \$100 a ton for their feed they had to transport in last year.

That's where this Minister doesn't understand what the problems of the farmers are. He's demonstrated that he isn't prepared to help the livestock producers with a grasshopper spraying program last year. He hires people to count the grasshoppers instead of killing them. I can't figure them out, Mr. Chairman. His priorities are extremely screwed up.

Mr. Chairman, I think it's important as well to point out the need for soil and water management conservation, absolutely. I couldn't give him more support than that. I think that we, as agricultural people, want to see that, but what happens, Mr. Chairman? He stands here again in his place saying one thing and doing another. I haven't heard his Minister of Natural Resources make any statements on major dam constructions for water conservation, to preserve the water to use in agriculture, or the production or processing of food. I haven't heard any major statements come from him or his Minister of Natural Resources.

Another commitment, Mr. Chairman, that we believe has to be carried out for the people of Manitoba and that's resource development for all of Manitoba; water development and soil development, yes. I believe strongly that the conservation districts in this province have to have a lot larger role to play, a lot more important role to play in the soil conservation projects that have to be carried out.

Mr. Chairman, I happen to live in an area of the province where we've seen over the past few years some serious soil drifting. And yes, Mr. Chairman, we have seen farms that have lost value. But, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe there's been any farm lose as much value from soil erosion or erosion from the elements as the value of our farms have lost under a New Democratic Government.

Last week, Mr. Chairman, there was a report prepared that Manitoba is second to Alberta in loss of farm value for their land and buildings. Yes, Mr. Chairman, Manitoba had a reasonably good crop last year. We had the eastern region of the province, and my colleague from Morris I'm sure can attest to it being a practising farmer, and many of my other colleagues who are from the eastern region of the province, and I would say that we had average to better-than-average crops in a lot of the areas of Manitoba and yet our land values are dropping, Mr. Chairman.

We have a recent concern brought forward to the farm community by the fact that this Minister has not made his policy clear when it comes to dealing with land that the banks have accumulated, again taken under a New Democratic administration because the farm community have seen record bankruptcies. Yes, that's under his administration, Mr. Chairman.

So what we heard last year coming from the Minister and his great objectives, that he wants to expand the production of agricultural commodities. Well we've seen the expansion of our hogs, and what has he done to help our hog producers? You know, Mr. Chairman, we have heard little in support of those individuals. Yes, he's introduced a stabilization program, but in the hog marketing report, Mr. Chairman, the expansion didn't come under the stabilization program. The expansion came from unstabilized producers. They were responding to a demand at an international market. So I think it's incumbent upon this Minister that last

year he wanted to expand the production of our commodities and they responded. I think it's incumbent upon this Minister to speak out on behalf of those individuals.

Several months ago we've seen that the Minister had five points he was bringing forward as a major thrust of the department. Now we see four, some of them have changed substantially. He's dropped some of the initiatives off. I don't know, Mr. Chairman, whether it's to better agriculture or to better the image of the New Democratic Party and the Agricultural Minister in the eyes of the farm community. Well, let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, he has failed in both areas.

He's failed to improve his image. He's failed to improve the status of our farm community. We see the farm values dropping, as was reported last week. We see record numbers of bankruptcies. — (Interjection) — Yes, Mr. Chairman, he says Alberta dropped the highest, but I think that's somewhat understandable when we see the draught and we see some of the other factors which increased farm values in Alberta.

But, Mr. Chairman, in Manitoba where there was a relatively good crop throughout the majority of the province — (Interjection) — Yes, the southwest area of the province was one of the few areas in the province that saw a lower production, and yet our values of our farms and our land are still going down, second to Alberta in all of Canada. That is a record that I don't think any member of this Legislative Assembly should be proud of.

The Minister of Agriculture, I therefore think, should ask the Premier to have himself removed. I'd be kind enough to make sure that he should offer his resignation. You know I think he should. I'll further add to the reasoning, Mr. Chairman, of why he should do that, because he is unable to cope with the difficulties.

We have difficulties in our dairy industry, Mr. Chairman, and what does he do? He says, well that was Downey's policies of the late 1970s. That was the reason for our dairy industry being in trouble. He hasn't substantiated it, Mr. Chairman. In fact I asked him to table a letter the other day, which he hasn't had the guts to table in this House, precisely stating what my policy was and what the directives were and it did allow the dairy industry of Manitoba to transfer partial quota.

Mr. Chairman, he talks about young and beginning farmers in his opening statement. Again so much hollow talk. I'll bet you that you couldn't go out and start a dairy farm under this Minister's administration. You couldn't buy five cows in the quota — (Interjection) — You couldn't buy 10 cows in the quota. You can't start into the laying of eggs with hens if you have to have more than 99, another policy that restricts any young farmer from getting into the production of eggs.

**A MEMBER:** My son can't have over 100 laying hens.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** You know, he talks about having young farmers to start farming. He talks about wanting people to get into the production of agricultural commodities. Well it's virtually impossible under a New Democratic administration to do so.

Mr. Chairman, there has to be a review of dairy policy and I call the agricultural committee to have the producers come forward. He talks and he's concerned

about the value on quota. I say this as a warning. I don't want the Minister to get upset when I make this comment, but again maybe it's another reason why he shouldn't take a careful look at the position that he holds, seeing that he produces a commodity that's produced under a quota system and may, through his policies, impose a value on quota which could put him in pretty direct conflict.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, he has to look pretty carefully because once you look at the whole dairy industry, then we have the broiler industry and the egg industry and all these other supply management industries that are going to be in the same circumstances.

So, Mr. Chairman, I want to, in my opening remarks, just again point out to the Minister that his credibility is finished with the farm community. The farm community is the big loser under the New Democratic Party and this Minister. He has been inconsistent with what he has been saying as far as finance policy is concerned. One day he's for debt moratorium; the next day he's not. One day he calls for lower interest rates; in the same day he raises his own to 13 percent. It's just unbelievable that the Minister will continue on in his portfolio and try and save face with the farm community.

I therefore, Mr. Chairman, in the Estimates of the department, will continue to point out to this Minister the difficulties that we have in supporting almost every one of the expenditures that he is carrying out because it is, in fact, not achieving the objectives that the Manitoba farm community wants.

Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 1.(b) - would the Minister like to bring in his staff?

Order please. Item 1.(b) Executive Support: (1) Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** In the Executive Support, what are the numbers of the individuals supporting the Minister's office now, his PAs and that type of position?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Seven staff, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Is that an increase, Mr. Chairman, over last year?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b)(1)—pass.  
1.(b)(2) - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, in both the (b)(2) and (b)(3), we're talking about Other Expenditures. What kind of expenditures is the Minister making reference to? What other projects has he carried out? And I'll ask the question of the two, (2) and (3), policy studies. Does he have any particular in-depth studies that he's doing, or who's doing them, and in what areas?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, some of the funding that's been used for the policy studies has been, for example, work on the Crow rate, farmlands protection, some of the work that went into the legislation on farmlands protection; on milk, the study by Paul Phillips

on milk and the dairy industry. It's up until he became Chair of the Milk Prices Review Commission.

I may as well give you the money associated with it. The Crow rate work, \$28,500; farmlands protection, \$21,500; milk study, \$15,300; there's some work being done on structural changes in farms, \$10,000; the Farm Financial Review Panels, we paid for the Farm Financial Review Panels out of this budget, \$12,000; livestock and ecological farming by I think it's Paul or Phil Robinson, for \$9,000; there's ongoing work on the lab totalling almost \$70,000, just under - \$67,500 . . .

**A MEMBER:** On what?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** . . . on the milk lab, work in the lab and results and studies in the milk lab. There are forage lease rentals, the committee that worked on the forage lease rentals, just under \$5,000; farm debts and farm rights as debtors, totalling just under \$30,000.00.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** That will be on the record, Mr. Chairman. I'll be able to get it, but I'd like to know all the individuals who carried out these studies and, as well, I'd like the Minister to table them.

Maybe he could make a little bit of more of a comment dealing with structural farm change. What was the Minister's objective in having that kind of a study done and what are his intentions? I, knowing the philosophical background of this particular Minister, could get somewhat concerned if he's planning to make some major structural change or encourage new structural changes.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the review was done of StatsCan details and surveys just to find out what actually has been happening in terms of farm sizes and changes in the farm industry, as numbers have been changing, what kind of changes actually have been taking place, what trends are taking place and what kind of land base, those kinds of overview, in terms of what's been happening to farms in general across Western Canada and in Manitoba, in particular, in terms of the farm area.

Now, some of the studies, for example, I gave the name of Mr. Robinson did the ecological farming. Some of the work is done internally in conjunction with the university. The milk study was done by Mr. Phillips; the lab work of almost \$70,000, that's done internally and in conjunction with Mr. Fred Wolfe from Alberta on the recording study; structural changes in farms was the Family Farm Foundation; Crown Land Review was with the committee that was structured; the Crow media work, that was internal, staff internally were involved; Farm Financial Review Panels that I mentioned were of course the panels and the expenses associated with it. That's basically - the debtors' rights was done by the Law Department of the University of Manitoba and our staff.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, the question was: will the Minister be making this work that has been done by his department, will he be providing it to the legislative committee so that we can have an opportunity to have a look at the results of the money that he's spent of the taxpayers of Manitoba?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, those studies that are formal studies, like the ecological farming by V. Scott and Mr. Robinson, are in the library. They're a public document. We have had requests to send copies out. We did not print many but we've made them available in the library so those studies are available.

Insofar as the milk study, that is basically internal to the staff, that is done on an ongoing basis for the department. Well, I guess the milk study by Mr. Phillips can be made available to the honourable members. It's in the library, publicly. The lab work, which is internal, relates to the legal matter that we're faced with, and it's been ongoing for a number of years with the Milk Producers Marketing Board, so that would not be available to honourable members.

The farmers' rights as debtors and that booklet, as the honourable member knows, has been released publicly and is available in ag rep offices throughout the province. I might say, Mr. Chairman, I'm particularly proud of the work that went in, in co-operation with the university and our staff, to basically put forward the first - I believe the first in this country - in layman's language of putting together the rights of farmers as they are involved in credit arrangements. I recommend it to all members to make themselves aware, on behalf of their constituents, although the colour of the document is probably part of my doing. I didn't like the pictures that came with it and I asked them to take a look at that and in the meantime it was ready to go to printers and, of course, rather than to put in those pictures there, I think it was a miscommunication on my part to my — (Interjection) — no, there were no pictures there, Harry.

**MR. H. ENNS:** . . . and you used to wear a mustache . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, I could never grow one, Harry. So I recommend that document highly to my honourable friends.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, the study on structural farm changes, has that information been made public and who carried out that study?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, no, it hasn't been made public. That study of statistical review, as I indicated earlier, was made by the Family Farm Foundation.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yes, but who actually carried out the work, Mr. Chairman? Who is the individual who did the work?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** The University of Saskatchewan. A professor from the University of Saskatchewan, Hartley Furtan, from the University of Saskatchewan conducted the study. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Water Corporation, Mr. Chairman. He's a university professor from Saskatchewan.

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

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to ask a supplementary question.

What type of analysis would be requested beyond the statistics that might be available within the census of Canada with respect to farm size? It's adequately covered in many respects. What were the terms of reference set down and what was the Minister hoping to find by way of conclusions or results from this study?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the statistics, as I understand them, give strictly numbers and it doesn't try to portray any trends of what has been happening and what is occurring in farm size; that's what we try to get from the information.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to accept that answer because that's not accurate. StatsCan statistics indicate the number of farmers and it also gives you the area of cultivatable land and, I mean, a simple mathematical operation will give you the answer. What more is he wanting? We all know that the sizes of the farms have increased since the last 40 years. What specific guidelines were put down to this professor in the University of Saskatchewan respective to farm size, what was the Minister hoping to find?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, rather than the honourable member making all kinds of assumptions, we'll get the study and we'll table it for the honourable member so he can see it for himself.

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

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, how was the work allocated by the Minister? Was it tendered for? Why would he have to go to Saskatchewan to find a qualified person to carry out work for the Department of Agriculture in Manitoba? Do we not have at the University of Manitoba, within the industry of Manitoba, within the consulting business of Manitoba in the Agriculture field, do they not have qualified people? Because I happen to personally know quite a few people, I am sure, that could have carried out the work, and my colleagues, I am sure, could have made recommendations. Why was the individual hired from Saskatchewan; what was the reason for going to Saskatchewan, and was the work tendered?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable gentleman is very qualified in the whole area. There has been extensive work done in the whole area of the structure of family farms by the foundation that he belongs, and we did contract with the honourable gentleman.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, I'm sure he's living quite well on the taxpayers' money of Manitoba. I would say that there are — (Interjection) — Well, the Member for Springfield says, \$10,000.00. Yes, that's awfully close to \$1,000 a month for 12 months of the year. I would think that would be a nice bit of money to have for some of the university people, or some of the industry people in the Province of Manitoba. The question is

**HON. B. URUSKI:** He has no expenses?

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, I guess not, at a \$1,000 a month, he's pretty well looked after.

Mr. Chairman, we'll judge the quality of the work when we see it, but I'm asking him, was there not a Manitoba person considered for the work that had to be carried out by the Department of Agriculture?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** I'm sure that many of the consultants were quite busy on the Hall Report and the like. Probably if one would have, in fact, gone ahead and did a detailed search of everyone that might be available it's possible, and I don't even want to deny that it's not possible that we couldn't have found one that may have been qualified as well from the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Chairman, the work that was done by the foundation in the family farm structure, and the work done by this professor was certainly one that his reputation, I believe, will stand alone. And, in fact, as I indicated to the honourable member, he presently sits on the Board of the Saskatchewan Water Corporation, works for the Tory Government in the Province of Saskatchewan.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** I agree that the amount of money may not be as great as what some other expenditures are with the department, but I am concerned as to why we wouldn't select Manitoba professional people to spend Manitoba taxpayers' money on, to carry out work that could be quite easily handled by them. I know numerous people, I am sure, who could have given the Minister the kind of report that he was looking for, and it would have been much handier to have them living right here in the City of Winnipeg.

**A MEMBER:** Did he hire his brother-in-law?

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, I don't know whether it was the Minister's brother-in-law, it may have been. One could always stress, because a lot of the staff that now work for the Department of Agriculture, there could be some connection there, some former work done by individuals within the staff.

You know, one might question there's a close connection between some of the staff of the Department of Agriculture and this individual in Saskatchewan. One could always put that on the record. If that's the case, and the Minister of Agriculture feels that it's former connections that he has, or his staff has, or individual who really recommended, or who hired the individual to carry out this work. It's really an interesting thing that we have to go to Saskatchewan now to hire people to do consulting work for the Department of Agriculture. Where did the recommendation come from, Mr. Chairman?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** The ones that I hear mentioned across the floor, I think at the time they were tied up on other matters, quite busy . . .

**A MEMBER:** Did you call them?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** I didn't call anybody, no, I didn't. But I believe that there were some calls made, because we did use, for example, Daryl Kraft at our conference on Land and Interest Rates when he wasn't busy, so this gentleman has been involved in land studies previously and so we used him at the time.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** The Minister isn't giving me much satisfaction in this area, Mr. Chairman.

I asked him who hired him, who recommended him and I haven't got that. I've asked him as to why he didn't hire a Manitoban to do it? He hasn't been able to give me a justifiable reason because he just admitted that he didn't contact anybody from Manitoba. — (Interjection) — He makes reference from his seat that his staff made the connection. Well, as I said earlier, probably what I'm saying is quite accurate, there could have been some former relationships between staff and members of Saskatchewan University and I have no problem with people knowing one another are carrying out work, but I would have suggested, if the Minister had been carrying out his own responsibilities as Minister, he would have made sure that Manitobans were given the opportunity first to carry out such work dealing with information needed by the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, I'm not against hiring outside consultants.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** That's nonsense that you're talking about.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** The Minister's getting a little upset. He should have been in control of his department. Mr. Chairman, what I'm suggesting is that we should have given Manitobans the first opportunity. I believe it's hiring without a contract, with anything else, a straight \$10,000 contract to do a job that had to be done for Manitobans, within the Department of Agriculture, and Manitobans didn't even get a chance. Manitobans didn't even get a chance to offer their services for that job. Is that right? I don't call that right, Mr. Chairman, I call that being unfair to the people of Manitoba who could carry out the work. And the Minister had better take hold of his department and run it himself, Mr. Chairman. — (Interjection) — I am not finished, Mr. Chairman.

I would hope that the Minister, in the studies that he is going to table for us, that he is able to justify what the information is that he is after, if it was his department that did it all, and he's not running his department, and he's satisfied, why doesn't he say so? Mr. Chairman, that's what I'm asking him, is why wasn't a Manitoban given the opportunity and, if they were given the opportunity, then his staff is sitting right in front of him, they can tell him that they searched Manitoba for an individual before going to Saskatchewan.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I gave the honourable member all the information that I had before me on the studies. With the exception of this one, all the other work has been done by either professors, students or others from the University of Manitoba. The honourable member, if he wants to make a case out of it, he can, Mr. Chairman.

An offer, as I indicated before, was made to several professors who we felt were qualified in this whole area, and they were busy at the time; that's what I am advised by my staff. It's true that I did not phone anyone. The suggestion came from the Member for Morris from his seat, and I said, no, I didn't call anybody because my relationships in terms of buddies in class and the like as is being suggested by honourable members, is not



there. I expect when studies are conducted, that we do make a review of who is available, and we conduct them.

But to suggest, Mr. Chairman, I take an affront to that. There are many studies that are being done by departments and governments. I am sure the honourable member, when he was in office, hired consultants from out of the province; like the Government of Saskatchewan used the MLA for Riel, for example, to do a study for the Government of Saskatchewan; or the Federal Government using the former Member for River Heights to do a study on privatization of hospitals.

Mr. Chairman, if that's what the honourable member is getting at, let him get down and say that that's what it is. I don't think that's what — (Interjection) — he's not? Well, okay, then we'll give him the study and he can make up his own mind.

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder, with the indulgence of the committee and the Minister, whether we could deal with the issue of a problem that has been cropping up, and it's rather an immediate problem. I wonder whether we could deal with the problems faced by the cream shippers at the present time under this category of Administration.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, Mr. Chairman. The debate dealing with the whole cream and milk area should be conducted under the Natural Products Marketing Council in the Estimates. If the honourable member wants me to find the particular area, I will find it for him, but I believe that all dealings with marketing boards and the like would be conducted under - and I will . . .

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** I know where that is. Mr. Chairman, if I might . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Under 6.(d), Mr. Chairman, on Page 17, Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister was not listening when I made my opening remarks, or when I raised the question, because under Administration we can cover pretty well everything, and under the report sent out, that is under there as well.

The reason why I asked if we can deal with it now, I have been meaning to raise it in question period for some time, but because the Estimates were coming up, I didn't touch on it. But it's a very immediate problem, and we could be well in these Estimates for a couple of weeks for that matter, and I wonder why the Minister is objecting. I have many questions under the Natural Products Marketing Board that I would want to deal with later. I just asked whether we can deal with the problem of the cream shippers at the present time now.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I don't object. But to have the detailed information that the honourable member might have, the staff are not here at the present time. We have the deputy, but for the detailed information dealing with the boards and the working

really should be discussed under the Natural Products Marketing Council and that's the only reason. We can conduct the entire department under Policy Studies if one wanted to debate the entire department, but I believe the discussion appropriately should be conducted in that area.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I guess we are still on (b)(2), is that correct?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, 1.(b)(2).

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yes. I make reference again to the study the Minister made reference to, the structural farm change. Has that information been released to anyone yet? Has that been released to anyone at all?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** I don't believe so, Mr. Chairman. We would have had the work done and we would have had it distributed internally to our staff.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** And when did the Minister say that it would be made available to us?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, if we can get a copy of that study, we can have it either later tonight or tomorrow.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister made reference to the Crow rate study for \$28,000, I believe it was. Is that information available to us as well? And what specifically was the Minister having studied or dealing with from that report?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the work on the Crow rate was part of the putting together of the media campaign on the Crow rate. We used some of the funding from the Department of Agriculture to deal with the media work on the Crow rate.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** So in other words the Minister is admitting that his government is now using Provincial Government funds for media campaigns. That's really what he said.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, on a policy issue as fundamental as the Crow rate, absolutely we will fight a political issue in defence of western grain producers. Especially, Mr. Chairman, what we are finding now is that the railways estimates of capitalization of infrastructure have been reduced from somewhere originally from \$16.5 billion down to \$11 billion, one has to question totally why the Crow rate in fact was removed. It was a facade. It's as clear as can be made for the honourable member. If he doesn't realize it, then maybe he should look at the numbers as to what has happened vis-a-vis the railways.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** So really there isn't a study prepared. This money, this \$28,000 was used as a public media campaign on behalf of the government of this Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, it did the background work, part of the media, and as well it was a joint effort between the Department of Transportation and the

Department of Agriculture. Our positions that were put forward to the Minister of Transportation, Jean-Luc Pepin, plus the media campaign, all this encompasses part of the funding. Part of the funding on that, as well, came from the Department of Transportation. It was a joint effort between both departments.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, that was last year's expenditure. You're now debating the Estimates coming up.

Has the Minister got money in the Estimates for continuing on that kind of work? Is that what he is telling us?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I was wondering when we'd get to this stage in terms of the whole area of policy studies in terms of what might be coming and that is the difficulty when you do set aside an amount of \$175,000.00. We actually this year spent only \$73,000 of the \$175,000 on policy studies.

One doesn't know what will come up in terms of what you will use the money for, but there is no doubt that there will be further work required dealing with the lab work - that's a major one. There is also work going to be going on into the whole area of the transportation and the method of payment, there is some work being done now and that will certainly be an issue. But I can see there is nothing definitive at the present time because one doesn't know specifically what will come up during the year.

Some of the work that is being done now in terms of the whole milk industry, there may be a requirement or a need to do further studies there. Some of the money from this budget could be used for those things.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicates that this is in a sense, a contingency fund for special problems that may arise in the areas of policy study. I can accept that. However . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, just before the honourable member continues, just for his information, the monies and the studies that I gave the honourable member has actually covered a two-year period. So some of the studies that we've talked about were done in 1983-84, but I've given them virtually everything that's gone on over the last two years. Some of that we may have rehashed last year, but the monies that I've put forward. This year the actual expenditures were only 73,000, the bulk of which, the lab was the big one. I combined it with 1983-84 to make up the amount of 70,000, but that's basically over the two-year period.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister, firstly, with respect to Crow rate studies, is there anything ongoing right now? Are there any paid-out consultants outside of the department who are drawing funds, anybody monitoring the developments within this whole area, or is the Minister and his department only reacting on an ad hoc basis when they feel it's necessary?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, not at the present time. There is work being done internally with our staff

and Transportation staff on the method of payment on the old transportation study. However, there are no outside consultants paid for by this department.

There have been discussions between the western provinces on some further work on railway costing, so there may be some direction taken on a joint basis, interprovincial basis, to hire consultants to do railway costing and present position papers, but that decision has not been made up to this point in time. That may be a consideration in the future.

**MR. C. MANNES:** The Minister made reference to the method of payment, the discussion that is before us in the agricultural community at this time. I would ask the Minister whether there is any agreement between prairie provinces with respect to how the payment should be brought forward, or whether there is any attempt at all to develop some type of unanimous approach in that respect.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** On that issue, Mr. Chairman, I think it's very difficult, as the issue unfolds, that there can be unanimity amongst all provinces. In fact, if the honourable member had read the Manitoba position to the Hull Report on method of payment, we did use the Alberta study that basically confirmed our fears that, should the payments be made direct to producers, the resulting effect on Manitoba citizens and producers would be abandonment of branch lines.

The Alberta study, done for the Alberta Government, which government does support payment of the Crow subsidy to producers, confirmed that there would be more money available to their producers by virtue that there would be greater branch line abandonment; less money going for branch line upgrading and maintenance, therefore, making more money available for Alberta producers. So on this issue, directly with Alberta and, of course, the Province of British Columbia, they do support very clearly the payment of the Crow benefit directly to producers.

Our neighbouring province of Saskatchewan, we're hopeful that they will, in fact, shift their position somewhat, because they're kind of on the picket fence, 50 percent this way, 50 percent that way, at least that's the way we read it. In fact, the Premier of Saskatchewan said, leave the difficult situation alone because we're not sure where we're going. We've said, 50 one way, 50 the other way, as Gilson has recommended.

Of course, these issues are being developed by the Department of Transportation, and we will be involved in that but, at the present time, there is no movement to hire consultants or the like.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Was this whole topic discussed at the Western Premiers Conference just last week?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, it was discussed. When the member says, "this whole topic," this matter was raised as one of the agenda items, along with the Transportation Act and a number of issues that were touched upon by the Premiers. But, in view of the fact that there was no unanimity amongst the provinces, the Premiers decided to leave that issue aside as part of their communique.

They did raise the issue of The Transportation Act and the lack of consultation and the need for greater

consultation at the national level. That was discussed, and part of the communique touched on those issues but, specifically, the issue that he mentions about the benefits, it was left aside in view of the fact that there is very much of a differing opinion amongst the provinces.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Scott:** The Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Before I pass over this particular subject, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister whether he could supply a copy to me that the government made, that he, as a Minister, made jointly, I believe with the Minister of Transportation, to the Hall Committee study. I don't believe members of the House, all members of the Legislature, received the government's position . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** We weren't sitting.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, I don't care if we were sitting or not, I would hope that he would give it to us.

I would just ask one question in respect to the Farm Debt Review panels. How many cases have they heard over the past year? How many of those have they had any success bringing about an amiable conclusion or solution between banker and borrower?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry that we did not provide copies of our paper that was jointly presented by the Minister of Transportation and myself for honourable members. We'll make sure that copies are made available to members on their side. We did send copies of our proposal to the Federal Government and to prairie grain organizations on changes to the Western Grain Stabilization Act, but we'll make sure that is available to the honourable member.

Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that, over the past year, there were 19 review panels held for farmers facing bankruptcy. Mr. Chairman, I am advised that about three-quarters of those that went before the review panels have had some success in that they are continuing to farm. But, as I indicated in previous years, the whole structure is as such and much of the mentality that is prevalent is that many and most people have had the reluctance to come forward and discuss the issue of problems with financing.

Most cases that we've had to face have been as a result of the farmers finding out that they have nowhere to turn, and then finally coming forward and saying, help me. It has been very frustrating, because many of those cases may have been able to be restructured in a better way than they were by the review panels. Unfortunately, we've had to admit that, in this whole process, much of the work of the review panels comes as a result of there being very little room to manoeuvre, as one would put it, in terms of the financial situation of those farmers.

But, nevertheless, about three-quarters of those are still farming, albeit some of them to a lesser degree have had to scale down, have had to sell off land. Some have had to liquidate some of the equipment, so it's been on a whole variety of situations.

But, while there have been successes of the review panels, nevertheless the whole process is not formalized

as we would like to have seen it in national legislation, and have the panels legislatively covered and mandated so that the process is the same right through this country when there is a financial difficulty.

We had hopes that the Federal Government would move with The Bankruptcy and Solvency Act, putting forward those changes to make that kind of a requirement right across this country and we don't know whether they will pursue it. The rumours we are getting, of course, are that they may not proceed with the legislation, they may send it to committee to study it even further; that is unfortunate. But we are doing some of our own work in this area.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b)(2)—pass; 1.(b)(3)—pass.

1.(c)(1) Communications Branch: Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, this is an area I want to spend a few minutes on and I would like the Minister to point out what the policies and what are the objectives of the Communications Branch? As I understand there had been some new directives; there have been some new people hired within the Communications Branch, and I would ask the Minister if it is now the policy of the government to use it as a political arm of the government, or the branch, or whether it's to distribute and to provide for the agricultural community, information which is dealing with production, dealing with what would be considered normal agricultural matters. Has the Minister given a directive to change the activities, or what are the current guidelines for the operations of the Communications Branch?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the role of the Communications Branch really has not changed in terms of its mandate. The role of the Communications Branch is to communicate programs and policies of the Provincial Government, as well as to provide technical information to the farm community.

The honourable member recalls that a number of positions were transferred a year ago to the reorganized Information Services Branch, which was centralized for the entire government, and a number of the positions within our Communications Branch were those which were transferred.

We did reorganize some of our staff in the Communications Branch. As the honourable member may recall the communicators who were located in the regions were, in fact, not responsible to the central agency in terms of the Director of Communications, they'd always played a completely separate role. As a result, there was not a very good co-ordination of direction within our own department and when the staff that we had in our Communications Branch were transferred to the central agency, we did have to reorganize ourselves internally to deal with that situation. As a result, we did centralize the functions of our Communications Branch and made the original people directly accountable to the head of the Communications Branch, and that is how we have operated this.

Really the mandate in terms of making sure that information flows to the farming community, and

information as timely as we can, that is the role of the Communications Branch.

Mr. Chairman, I will be quite candid with my honourable friend. When our programs and policies are communicated well by the Communications Branch, whether it's of my department or any department, and people know about those programs, it is the Minister of the Day who will get the credit, either good or bad, in terms of what the programs are, but they should be communicated.

I want to tell the honourable member that I am a selfish Minister, I want to look good. I want to make sure that my staff do a good job for me, and they communicate those programs well, because if they communicate them well then I know I can take some credit for an effective team. That's what I have attempted to build in the department, to have a team approach and using the tool of the Communications Branch to make sure that on all aspects that message is brought home, and that basically is how I have tried to operate, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** That's some of my concern, Mr. Chairman, that the Department of Agriculture, Communications Branch, are spending more of their time now trying to make the impossible happen, trying to make the Minister of Agriculture look good. I ask the Minister if that is why he fixed the hiring of his former Special Assistant to become the Assistant Director of the Communications Branch, a direct political appointment, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister on a point of order.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I ask the honourable member to withdraw that statement. If he has allegations to make about any member of my staff I want him to put them in this Chamber, otherwise, Mr. Chairman, I want him to withdraw.

Mr. Chairman, the position of the Assistant Director of the Communications Branch was and is a Civil Service competition and was handled through the Civil Service Branch of the Province of Manitoba, not a branch under my department. Mr. Chairman, if the member has proof let him put that proof down here that he there has been some wrongdoing in terms of the appointment of a staff person. Mr. Chairman, I ask him to table that information to the members of this House.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to have to table anything. I made the accusation and I am not apologizing. That the Minister of Agriculture has put in place a former politically appointed person to be the Assistant Director in the Department of Communications in his branch, and I don't have to withdraw anything and I am not going to because he rigged it, Mr. Chairman, and it was through his directive that she has that job.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of privilege.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has accused me of rigging a competition in this House. Mr. Chairman, I asked him, and I ask you, Sir, the position was an

internal bulletin; there were five applications received; there were five interviewed, Mr. Chairman. Of the five applications received, two applications were from outside the department.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should withdraw those statements. There was no move from my office and in fact, he is by these very allegations, by the very allegations that he makes has, in fact, drawn into question the entire Civil Service Commission who handled this bulletining and this job recruitment.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, then I would ask the Minister who the other applicants were and who sat on the Civil Service Commission when the hiring of that individual took place?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I am advise that there was a staff person from the Civil Service Commission, our Director of Personnel from our department, and the Director of Communications of our own department. If the honourable member heard me our Director of Personnel and our Director of Communications sat on the board, and the staff person from the Civil Service Commission.

So, Mr. Chairman, I ask the honourable member, again, to withdraw that allegation. Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty of answering the questions of who sat or who applied, and all the information, but I ask the honourable member to withdraw that allegation. If he does not have any method of substantiating the allegation that he has made at this point in time.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is extremely sensitive about this, extremely sensitive about this, and yet gives us all the more reason to think, and I am led to believe that there was influence that provided for the individual, who formally worked as a political assistant, directly hired politically by this Minister of Agriculture, and now directly employed under the Civil Service Commission, in the Civil Service, as Assistant Director to the Communications Director. Mr. Chairman, one can only think, particularly when the Minister just made the statement prior to this that he wanted an individual to improve his image because he's selfish and he's greedy. He just said that, Mr. Chairman; he admitted he's selfish and greedy and wanted to improve his image.

So how would you go about doing that? Would you go out on the street and hire someone who has never been near the Minister before, or would you go to the Minister's office and hire someone who has been directly employed by him in a political way. I leave that on the record for the public, for the committee to decide. Would he go and employ someone from outside the Assembly, or one of those other four or five applications, or would he pick someone from his office who worked directly with him, who answered his mail, who did everything on his behalf? He wants his image improved, so where would you go to do it? He wouldn't go and find a stranger off the street, would you? They didn't have a chance of a snowball in Hades, Mr. Chairman, of getting that job, but who - and I say this, I'll change this if he wants me to - it is very suspicious. It is very suspicious, Mr. Chairman, that this was handled properly; I'm very suspicious. I'll back off to that point,

that I'm very suspicious, after putting on the record what I put on, that this Minister was as straightforward as he should have been in the hiring of the assistant director in Communications.

Who was the former employee in that department? Who was the individual who was employed there before, and who is the employee who is now there, and who are the other applications, and who sat on the hiring of that job?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that the individual who got the job has a B.A. in Communication from Concordia University in Montreal. Mr. Chairman, does the honourable member really believe that because someone worked in a ministerial office that, all of a sudden, their role is subsumed in terms of their job background? That was the background of my Special Assistant, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I ask the honourable member, again - at least he's backed off and said that it's very suspicious. The role of the Communications Branch is to get the most effective information to the farmers of Manitoba, always has been. Mr. Chairman, if I happen to be the Minister of the Day in that department, that information is communicated well, I expect to look good in the communicating of that information. Surely the honourable member is not naive enough to think otherwise than that, that if the job is well done that he can't take some of that credit.

Mr. Chairman, the kind of innuendo that I've heard from this honourable member today can only, in fact, place into jeopardy the role of the Civil Service Commission in this whole process. Mr. Chairman, is he accusing the staff person from the Civil Service Commission, who signed his name on the document recommending this person, of being politically motivated? Is he accusing my director of personnel as being personally implicated as a political hat of me? Is he accusing the director of Communications of my department as being my political hat on the selection board? Is that what he's doing; is that in his argument?

Well, Mr. Chairman, those people have been there longer than I have. They were there when he was minister, Mr. Chairman. All of them were there who sat on this process. So, Mr. Chairman, let him not get up in this House and besmirch the integrity of the personnel director, the Director of Communications and the staff person from the Civil Service Commission because that's what he's doing in this House.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is extremely sensitive in this area, very sensitive. He gets up and he makes a speech in this House, in this committee, that he feels it's very important that he, as a Minister, have his image brought forward in the best possible light; that the policies of the NDP Government are brought forward in the best of light. Yes, that's his policy, that's his objective, Mr. Chairman, and then he comes forward and says, but I didn't hire my former special assistant who a political appointee, a political appointee by Order-in-Council, who got the job over four other people. Well that has nothing to do with putting my image forward, you know, that's just straightforward and fair.

Am I accusing the members who were sitting on the Civil Service Commission on that job allocation as being political? Was I accusing the members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture of being political? No, Mr. Chairman, I'm not accusing them of being political. I'm accusing this Minister of misusing and abusing his job as a Minister in carrying out the hiring in an unfair practice, not those people who were sitting on there, I'm accusing this Minister of the Crown of not acting fairly in the hiring of people, Mr. Chairman, that's what I'm accusing and that's who I'm accusing. I'm not accusing any of the other ones of being involved because he is the one who said he wanted his best image put forward; it is he who said he wanted to be looked after best, so he is going to make sure that individual who is hired is going to do the job that he is satisfied with. But let him deny that he had anything to do with it; let him deny it. He's not denying that he didn't have anything to do with it. It's all phony, Mr. Chairman, as he's the phoniest minister this province has ever seen. It's all on the record, it's there. Mr. Chairman, he still hasn't given me the names of the other individuals who applied for the job.

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** Order please.  
Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I have just been called a phoney. Mr. Chairman, the phoniness comes from the Honourable Member for Arthur who gets up in this Chamber with no facts, but innuendos, accusing the staff of the Civil Service Commission, the staff of my Personnel Branch and the staff of our Communications Branch, the Director of Communications, of being politically motivated. This position was handled through the Civil Service Commission in a normal manner. Mr. Chairman, this honourable member continues to get up in this House and make allegations that he cannot substantiate by trying to divert attention to myself. He is as phony as a \$3 bill, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. I thank the honourable minister for that explanation. It was more of a debate than a point of order.  
The Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask the Minister who the other people were who applied and what were their qualifications? I ask him that question; I, as well, ask him who sat on the hiring committee of his department. You know, I guess we all have to come into the real world sometime and I think that the Minister of Agriculture should come into the real world. He realizes that he's been caught. He's admitted it in this Assembly today, he's admitted that he is an influence in the hiring of an individual. I say, Mr. Chairman, that there has been a political person hired as the assistant director of his Department of Communications. Yes, Mr. Chairman, she was hired as a political person to be a special assistant.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of privilege.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Does the Minister have a substantive motion?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** The honourable member doesn't know his facts. Mr. Chairman, the honourable member just indicated that the individual who was hired was hired as a political person as a special assistant. Mr. Chairman, she was not; she was hired as a communicator to the Department of Communications. She was seconded from the Department of Communications to work in my office. Again, the honourable member doesn't know what he's talking about. Please correct your misinformation, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister, the position that the assistant director - the person who now has the job as assistant director in Communications Branch - was the job that she had in his department, in that capacity, is that not considered a political job?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the job that I brought the person in, seconded the person, certainly a special assistant's job in one department can be considered a political job, but, Mr. Chairman, should an individual who is seconded from a department be now brought into a position of a special assistant be now labelled as being a political person? There is a very major difference, Mr. Chairman, in terms of what the honourable member is putting before us.

On the one hand he says this is a political individual and this is a political position. Mr. Chairman, it is not. The individual was hired by the Communications Branch as a communications person because of her expertise. She has 14 years of experience in press, radio, advertising and public relations, Mr. Chairman, and she has, as I indicated before, a B.A. in Communications from Concordia University in Montreal.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** It's pretty good for a person to have as a hideaway, isn't it?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member can make all the allegations that he wants in terms of this position, but he doesn't know his facts and all he can do is go around and try to use a shotgun approach and hope that he can strike on something that, in fact, he will be right at least one time in his life, in terms of the information that he's presenting; that's really where it's at.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to the honourable member, the Department of Communications was reorganized - and I will repeat again for the honourable member as I indicated earlier - when we had lost a number of our staff to the centralized Communications Branch in the Information Services, and we used an existing position within the Communications Branch to create the position of an assistant director to make a closer link between the reporting of our staff and, in fact, the Information Services; and that was the way we handled the restructuring of our Communications Branch.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is sensitive. He has all this background information on the person they hired. I asked about the other individuals who had applied for the jobs, what were their backgrounds and why were they not considered for the job.

The other question I asked dealing with that is, who was on the committee that did the selecting? I'd like to know the individuals who sat on the committee, if he could, please?

He makes special reference to the reorganization. Now that even makes me more suspicious, Mr. Chairman, even more suspicious. The whole reorganization of the Communications Branch has been, more than ever, to try to dress up this Minister of Agriculture in his ambition to become even more high profile and better presented to the public.

They had to reorganize the Department of Communications. Now the director, who has been a long-time employee of the department, has sitting directly next to him an assistant director who came via the Minister's office.

Well, you know, there are some serious questions that have to be asked. Why weren't there other individuals within the Department of Communications qualified or capable of being brought into that position? I'm sure that the normal advancement of civil servants should have applied in this particular case. Was there someone within the department that couldn't have come forward and filled that assistant director's capacity? I'm sure there are directors in other areas.

And again, the Minister makes reference to the fact that through reorganizational change we now have the communicators in each of the regions answering to the central body, to the director and the new assistant director, just to make sure that the tentacles of the power of the Minister's office, or whatever, get out into the communication's branches within the regions of the province. That's his concern, he wants to make sure that everyone has a clear understanding of what the Minister wants and that everything the Minister does is directly related to him.

We have now changed the whole use, under this government, of the Communications Branch within the Department of Agriculture. We now, Mr. Chairman, have a very strong influence as far as the whole, or could have a very strong influence as far as the political element within the department is concerned. That's what the Minister was after and that's what he's accomplished, Mr. Chairman. And I ask the Minister for the information that he provided earlier.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I gave the honourable member the information of who actually sat on the committee, so I provided him that. I will check with the Civil Service Commission as to the procedures, and the Minister, as to whether it is in fact common practice to release the names who were interviewed for that position.

The honourable member knows that there were three people from within the Department of Agriculture that applied for the position, and two from outside the Department of Agriculture who applied for the position. I won't go any further than that. I will check with the Civil Service Commission whether the releasing of those names is in fact normal procedure. If it is, I have no difficulty in providing the names. The selection committee was the members that I mentioned to him before, the three individuals who sat on the selection committee were those.

As well, with respect to the reorganization, Mr. Chairman, the reorganization was handled through our

administration and through the Communications Branch itself. In fact, one of the major areas of co-ordination, or lack of it, was the whole role of the regional communication specialists. Their roles were not co-ordinated with the role of the central body and with the loss of the staff from the central organization it made it very much more appropriate and clear that we had to do a more effective job with less people.

Here's where I find the opposition argument the reverse of what they've been saying all these months. For months they've been saying that we're hiring more and more communicators, apple polishers, to get the image of this government up. Here's a department who has cut back in terms of the numbers of communications people because of the shift in roles, but we've tried to tighten up and in the tightening up we have done some restructuring. So I guess they shouldn't have it both ways and I guess we're not getting it both ways, we're getting it from both sides. On one side we're getting too many and when we reduce and restructure we're getting it, as well, because we are being too political.

So, Mr. Chairman, I can't win I guess, in this whole argument.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister about the other four individuals who had applied for the job. I haven't had any reference made to them at this particular point.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I gave the honourable member the answer. If it is normal procedure to release the names of those individuals applying for a job I will do so, but I will check with the Civil Service Commission.

I have no difficulty of releasing the name but I don't believe that it is normal practice. I indicated to the honourable member that three were from the Department of Agriculture and two were from outside the department.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I think it's clearly evident what the objective of this Minister and this government are trying to do and what they have done. This Minister was given the directive to get complete control of the Communications Branch, to have somewhat of a political involvement and a political directive, or overseeing of what's going on and the information that's going out. Admitted by him that it's his image that's the No. 1 thing, that it's clearly his priority, that what they have carried out in the hiring of an individual is clearly evident that there has been direct communication, direct contact with a political office. A person who's is now the assistant director has had direct political involvement with the Minister even though she wasn't hired in that way directly but eventually ended up in a political appointment in his office - very very obvious, Mr. Chairman, and we talk about apple polishing. This Minister is past the point of being polished; he's pretty near ready for apple cider. That's how close to being on the shady side that he is. He, Mr. Chairman, is awfully close to the apple cider stage, and that can't be polished.

Mr. Chairman, this Minister and this government again we have pointed out the kind of activities that they carry on. The trying to put in place of political people

within the system to try and put forward their image in the best way and not keeping the Manitoba taxpayer or the Manitoba farm community's interests at heart, No. 1. I chastise the Minister for it, and let the public make their decision as to whether or not that should be the way in which it's carried on.

I, Mr. Chairman, will proceed on to the next portion of the Estimates here.

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

1.(d)(1) Financial and Administrative Services: Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, are there any specific changes dealing with the Financial and Administrative Services? Are the staff numbers pretty much the same and those individuals who were involved in those areas? My colleague from Lakeside has asked, is this where we have the ability to impeach any of the individuals who now work in that department?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I want to say that the staff from our whole Financial and Administrative Services are second to none anywhere within government. I want to make that statement very clear to the honourable member.

I want to indicate that they are carrying on the arduous task that any financial manager has of trying to make sure that you do as much, in fact more, with the same amount of dollars or even less. I want to put it on the record very clearly that I certainly as Minister appreciate all branches but, in particular, this branch of doing a yeoman job in dealing with the financial and administration of this department.

The numbers of staff are the same as last year, 24 staff years in the department.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, in view of the fact that the Minister hasn't made any changes since he took office in this area, I have no difficulty in agreeing with him that probably that is accurate, the statement that he just made. They do have a very difficult task and carry out a difficult role.

Unless my colleagues have a question, we can pass this whole area.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass. 1.(e) Computer Services: (1) Salaries—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.

1.(f) Personnel Services: (1) Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, are there any changes in this particular part?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, Mr. Chairman, six staff years in the branch.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** This is dealing with all the internal workings of the department service?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The staffing positions are part of it, development and training, payroll. This is the whole full area of this branch within the department.

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

1.(g) Program Analysis: (1) Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, there seems to be a major reduction in the Salaries in this area. Does it mean that the Minister is not carrying out the same kind or amount of program analysis that been carried out in the past? Or has there been some major reorganization in this area?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, yes, there is a reduction of one staff year here in this branch. The work is continuing in terms of monitoring and program analysis, and it's an ongoing process in terms of program analysis in our department. As the member well knows, much of the changes that we've brought into play in Crown lands, in crop insurance, in vet services, much of the changes that we're seeing being made now or being implemented are as a result of some of the highlights in the program analysis and the reviews that we've undertaken between myself and the executive of our department on an ongoing basis as issues arise.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Is there less work to do here? Is that why they've reduced the numbers of people?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** We had a vacant position in the branch all along and it wasn't filled; that position was deleted. Basically the same amount of staff are in the department. However, it was decided not to fill that position. It had been vacant for a number of years.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** I guess we could deal probably with some of the programs, or could the Minister provide some of the detailed information of some of the activities that have been carried out, or the results of some of the program analysis that are available?

I'm thinking specifically, dealing with the beef cattle herd in Manitoba, the Minister and the government have, through stabilization, had the objective of trying to increase or maintain our beef cow numbers. As I understand it, we've seen a tremendous reduction in our beef cow herd and are continuing to see such losses. Does the Minister have any specific reports from the Program Analysis that could answer as to why the programs that he is administering and he's put in place are not working?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the work that the member alludes to on the beef herd can best be discussed and handled in our debate through the Policy and Economics Branch. The work that's being done by the program analysis group, I'll try and give the honourable member a bit of a focus on this branch.

The area of Program Analysis has been, in fact, focused in four major areas: Firstly, assisting individual staff in branches and regions or divisions to evaluate the effectiveness of departmental programs. Secondly, to co-operate and develop with the financial administrators, departmental directors and managers budget estimates, and review revenue expectations for Ministerial and Cabinet review. Thirdly, providing management with specific program activity reviews and recommendations. And fourthly, assisting the federal-

provincial co-ordinator in the development and implementation and evaluation of programs under the Agro-Man Agreement and the Agri-Food Agreement. Those are the four major areas that this branch has been involved in.

Some of the highlights in the last year has been an update of a summary of departmental policies and programs, terms of reference for evaluation of various projects under the Agro-Man Agreement, assisted in the ongoing development of the management system for the Agri-Food Development Agreement, assisted in the preparation of the Manitoba Water Services Board, Jobs Fund requirements for '85-86, and if the Honourable member recalls the policy changes in the Water Services Board formula and funding, some of those changes resulted because it took us a good part of a year on an ongoing basis of the review of the Manitoba Water Services Board to update our formula and make the changes. It was as a result of this review that we were able to implement policy changes in this whole area.

Assisted the financial administrator in the preparation and completion of the '85-86 Departmental Estimates for the Treasury Board and Cabinet Review; as well, prepared documents for Cabinet Review given the Departmental Overview and Budgetary Program objectives and results; assisted in the development of the Soil and Water Management Strategy Paper; co-ordinated the organization of producer and staff meetings with the Minister and executive and the monitoring and evaluation of the Agro-Man projects and the evaluation procedures for the Agri-Food Development Agreement.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's suggestion that there are probably more appropriate places to discuss the general livestock programs of the administration of this Minister. But surely when addressing the particular section which deals with those charged with the responsibility of analyzing the direction of a particular program and making recommendations, as the Minister just indicated, to himself and to Cabinet for further response, continued activity in a particular direction of a particular program, I would assume that this group of people who are doing it and are responsible for analyzing the direction of particular programs that the department is engaged in.

I want to speak just briefly about the — (Interjection) — well, the Minister shakes his head, but I'm wondering who is, for instance, providing the analysis, the management to him when he takes a Cabinet paper into Cabinet which calls for the continued support of the livestock industry, the beef industry, through the Beef Stabilization Program? I would assume that — (Interjection) — Pardon? Certainly.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** There is a bit of a split in terms of workload. The Economics Branch deals with the day-to-day liaison with the Manitoba Beef Commission because of the Commission, and that's the branch within government that actually does the analytical work and the back-up work for the Beef Commission and as a result prepares the documents that the member suggests in that area.

Because of the setting up of the Commission, we have used the Policy and Economics Branch as the



liaison, because they do liaise with all the boards and the quasi marketing board groups as the liaison division. The Program Analysis group deals with primarily the direct delivery departmental programs. That's how we kind of separate them internally; and that's why I shook my head the way I did, in terms of trying to advise the honourable member how we've dealt with the workload within the department.

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

2. Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation, (a) Administration - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** I would have thought the Minister might have had a little bit of a comment to make dealing with the numbers of participants in Crop Insurance. It's one of his major Initiatives that he talks about in his opening comments. He's made a lot to do about the Crop Insurance Program and the major changes that he's made. I would hope the Minister in the course of debating Manitoba Crop Insurance that at some point he will give us an indication as to what is happening.

I will, in my opening comments dealing with Crop Insurance, again chastize the Minister for his, again, political interference with the decisions made by Crop Insurance the fact that a Feed Security Program which has been offered to Manitoba farmers, has not been offered to all Manitoba farmers; that the Interlake where they were selling hay to our good farmers in the western region of the province last year were getting \$50, \$60, \$70 a ton for their — (Interjection) — That's right.

They were able to get a Feed Security Program; they could get a tremendous price for their feed, selling it to the region of the province where they were in a drought condition. And, Mr. Chairman, why wouldn't the Minister of Agriculture say the western region of the province had had a pretty hard time. And he said, yes, parts of the western region will get support. The Municipality of Wallace — (Interjection) — and I'm pleased that some of those municipalities got it. But, Mr. Chairman, what about the Municipalities of Edward; what about the Municipalities of Albert; what about the Municipalities of Brenda?

Mr. Chairman, what about those communities that had a shortage of beef and should be provided the program that would give them some assistance? And I compliment the Minister for moving on it, that in fact it is being put in place. But why is he discriminating against those people who most need it, Mr. Chairman? Is it because the people down there have found out that they didn't vote in the particular way in which this government thinks they should, is that what he's trying to do? Is he punishing them? I would hope not, Mr. Chairman. I would think the Minister would not be of that mind.

But I'm concerned, because if he were basing it on need, why wouldn't he place it where the grasshoppers were the heaviest last year; where his department says there's going to be a tremendous outbreak again this year? Why wouldn't he have looked at that kind of advice and say, yes, the whole area of western Manitoba need it. There are areas in the Interlake that have a problem with flooding and a difficulty with feed supplies. Yes, there's some areas that need it. But no, Mr. Chairman, he didn't proceed.

Now, maybe it was a Federal Government decision - he blames everything else on the Federal Government - maybe the Federal Government came along and said, well, we can't allow it to be in the western region of the province or here. Was it the Minister of Agriculture that actually directed it to his own riding, or was it in fact to my colleague from Interlake? And I'm pleased that he did. But I ask the question, why doesn't every farmer in Manitoba have that program this year? Why isn't it available to every farmer? I have many more questions that I'll be asking in this area. My colleague has a quick question here.

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

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm waiting for the Chair to recognize me.

I thought you said Lakeside, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Does the Minister have some opening remarks?

Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I did have some and the honourable member got up before I did and I wanted to again, but before I go into — (Interjection) — No, no, no. He's had one misinformation and he's put another bit of misinformation on the record again regarding the Feed Security Program, Mr. Chairman.

I guess it's nothing new for the honourable member. I'm just a little concerned as to where the honourable member gets his information. What I heard from the honourable member clearly now points out a pretty severe condemnation of his Federal Minister of Agriculture because, Mr. Chairman, the program can only be established on the basis of doing preparatory work one year in advance to get the details of crop production, or hay — (Interjection) — production in a . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please, order please.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Again the honourable member, as I indicated, doesn't get his facts straight and doesn't know his information.

Mr. Chairman, when we realized we were into a drought situation, we had already had the commitments for the expansion from seven municipalities to 22 for this year. That commitment was there from the Federal Government, and the sharing and the premiums were there.

We felt that in order to deal with the drought situation, we should include all the municipalities in the drought area. We asked for an additional amount of money to do the research and development work that would have to be undertaken in order to include those areas as part of the package.

Mr. Chairman . . .

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Do you think I could believe that argument?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I don't care whether the honourable member believes it or doesn't believe it. The fact of the matter is he doesn't know what he

is talking about. This isn't the first situation that he's come up with that he doesn't know and doesn't have his facts straight.

Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government, because they cost-share in the premiums and in the developmental costs, had indicated to us that they were not prepared to extend the program beyond the 22 municipalities which we will have in place for this coming year. It was seven the first year and an additional 15 coming up.

Mr. Chairman, if we were discriminating against anyone when we signed the drought agreement, one could have said to those producers in the areas, because there are some municipalities within the drought area that were covered, and they were covered basically, as I understand, the corporation indicated they picked seven municipalities across the whole province based on cattle numbers, for no other reason.

In fact, the honourable member, from his seat, the Member for Lakeside, made the comment that Interlake municipalities were the ones that got the program because there are two sitting NDP members. Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that two of those municipalities are right within his own constituency - Coldwell and St. Laurent - not because they are NDP, but because the cattle numbers are there, as well as the Municipality of Eriksdale. Those three areas were used as the pilot in the first year because of the cattle numbers, Mr. Chairman.

Brokenhead Municipality in the eastern region has fairly large cattle herds. Mr. Chairman, the Rural Municipalities of Rosburn, South Norfolk and Wallace were also the other municipalities that were chosen by the corporation in terms of doing pilots where the largest cattle numbers were, and on a regional distribution, to try and have an effective coverage.

This year we are moving an additional 15 municipalities into the program, and based on cattle numbers again. Now we'll go with Grahamdale, Siglunes, both large - they happen to be in my area; that's true for this year - but they are also one of the largest cow-calf herds anywhere in the province.

Then you move into Rockwood, which is in the honourable member's riding, or part of Rockwood is - the Member for Lakeside; Armstrong, which part of Armstrong is in the Member for Lakeside's constituency; Woodlands is also in the Member for Lakeside's constituency.

Then we go to Hanover, which is in the Member for La Verendrye's constituency; then we go to Stuartburn, which is also in the Member for Emerson's constituency; Grey - I don't know where the R.M. of Grey is - somewhere in the southwest; Portage la Prairie, Argyle, Westbourne, Woodnorth, Sifton, Dauphin and Alonsa. Those are the municipalities that were picked on to try and get a coverage across the province but, basically, with fairly large cattle numbers.

We did attempt to take those 13 - I think it was 13 - municipalities in the drought area that were there and bring them into the program because, Mr. Chairman, as I started speaking before, we could have discriminated against those farmers who are in the drought area. We could have said, because you are in the insurance program on livestock feed security, maybe you shouldn't be getting benefits under the drought program because you will be getting double benefits. But we said, no, we should **not** discriminate against

those farmers who had the ability to join an insurance program. It's true; those farmers did receive double the benefits in the drought program.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** What about the other ones that were in the drought area?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the member is right. The other areas were in the drought area, and we attempted to get them extended beyond the 22 municipalities for this year. I guess I can't win with the honourable member. First, he doesn't get his facts right; and, secondly, then he tries to manipulate those facts to make the case even worse.

But, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments respecting the crop insurance program. As you know, we had a number of changes made to the program for 1985. These changes were preceded by a discussion with Manitoba farmers, Mr. Chairman, very much a consultative process. We had, I believe it was 11 meetings rurally just over one year ago. We held meetings throughout every region in the province. Manitoba farmers were consulted on what changes they thought should be made, and I am pleased to say that our proposals, modified by the suggestions and comments of Manitoba farmers, are now a reality.

The most significant change was to increase the bushel coverage levels for all crops, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that the value of coverage has increased substantially; I would say dramatically. It has moved from \$355 million of coverage in '84 to \$430 million in 1985, which is a massive move in terms of level of coverage. This was important as a means of making the program more relevant.

There was a feeling that our coverages didn't adequately take present day technology into account. Coverage levels for wheat went up in the range of three to four bushels per acre for most farmers. Coverage for barley went up in the range of seven to eight bushels per acre. These are significant increases as it means that farmers will have significantly more protection than previously with cash investments in the range of \$80 per acre. It's important that farmers be able to protect that investment.

Also changed was the system of premium discounts. We think that the new system is much more equitable. A maximum 25 percent surcharge and discount will replace the previous 50 percent discount. This means that new producers who start with the program will have no discount or surcharge. Their own experience with the program will determine if they are surcharged or earn a discount. These changes have been very well received by the Manitoba farmers.

Mr. Chairman, let me summarize for the honourable members the results. Mr. Chairman, just for the honourable member's information on the matter of discounts, every contract holder was surcharged 11 percent on his premiums in order to allow the 50 percent discount to the numbers of farmers who received a discount. So that if you are a new farmer coming into the program, you, in fact, paid 11 percent more on your premiums to pay for the discounts to other individuals. Now we have nullified that whole area.

First of all, existing contract holders, the number of farmers moving their insurance to the maximum level

is 3,900 farmers. This means that in 1985 approximately 62 percent of insured farmers will be insured at the maximum level compared with 30 percent in 1984, a doubling in terms of the number of farmers insuring at the maximum level.

The number of crops added to existing contracts - 3,400 crops. Farmers who weren't insured previously have also responded well. A total of 1,360 farmers have taken out new contracts in 1985, Mr. Chairman, a very satisfying result to make changes during these times. The response indicates clearly that farmers wanted changes and that they are responding to these changes.

The new program offers more coverage at higher premiums. In spite of the increased cost, many farmers have moved to the highest insurance option. A total of 62 percent will be insured at the maximum level in 1985. Less than 5 percent will be at the lowest insurance option. This indicates that Manitoba farmers recognize the need for insurance and are prepared to pay for it.

The livestock, as I indicated, we discussed the Livestock Feed Security Program, but I want to give some information for the honourable members. The Livestock Feed Security Program was also new in 1984; it proved to be quite successful and is being expanded. Twenty-two municipalities will be covered in 1985, and we plan to cover an additional 20 to 26 municipalities in 1986. That's our design.

It is designed to replace ad hoc emergency assistance which has proved to be difficult to administer and often arbitrary and unfair to farmers. I am pleased that members opposite see the merit of this new program, and have argued that we expand the program as quickly as possible to cover the entire province. This certainly is our objective, as I indicated earlier, and we will proceed as quickly as we can. I'm advised that over 82,000 cattle will be insured under the program in 1985. This is just over 50 percent of the eligible cattle in the R.M.s covered by the program. So we'll be covering a large number of animals under the program.

I would also like to comment briefly on our success in streamlining the delivery of the Crop Insurance Program. A program of administrative change is currently under way and some success is already evident. For example, in 1984, the number of days needed to pay claims was reduced, on the average, by 16.5 days. This meant that farmers got their cheques faster and with fewer delays. More changes have been identified which will further reduce the time needed to pay claims by a further 10 to 12 days. Costs have also been kept under control and the average cost to adjust a claim was reduced from \$57 per claim in 1983 to \$53 per claim in 1984.

Mr. Chairman, I hope the information I have provided to the honourable members will be helpful to them.

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

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to indicate that, for whatever reasons, I can recall perhaps the first time in my political life that I was pleased to have as neighbouring MLAs two NDP Cabinet Ministers so that, indeed, the Interlake was among the first to be chosen as a pilot project for the Forage Insurance Program and I declare my self-interest. I, myself, am a subscriber under that program and I can tell the

Minister, I think it's a worthwhile program. I think that I am fortunate we have that program and I only hope, Mr. Chairman, that in due course it'll be extended to the southwest which has traditionally been one of the prime cattle countries of the province, certainly in terms of quality, and also, Mr. Chairman, historically a part of our province which has perhaps fought more vociferously with the elements of weather - of drought, of grasshoppers now coming upon them - and I will do all I can, I say to my colleague, the Member for Arthur, to persuade this Minister to see that the southwest gets included in that area.

The fact that the Interlake, or Ste. Rose, where another NDP Minister has sat, or Dauphin, or that area has been included in the first pilot area of this program. The Minister says his hands were tied, he couldn't expand the program further. I suppose, Mr. Chairman, I've been around here long enough to know that decisions have to be made, from time to time, and that they are sometimes coloured.

Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with the Honourable Minister - and I compliment him - that by and large the changes made to the Crop Insurance Program generally have, at least in my area, been well received and it is true that a number of farmers who have traditionally - I shouldn't say traditionally, but in the past number of years - not availed themselves of this protection have decided, under the changes, modifications have been made, to re-enter the Crop Insurance Program, and I think that's a good thing, partly, Mr. Chairman - and this is somewhat surprising because this government doesn't always operate that way, ideologically speaking - because of the introduction of the discount structure in the Crop Insurance which acknowledges those who husband their land in a way that, by and large, guarantees good crop production, and they are prepared to penalize new entries. The Minister just said so, by an 11 percent surcharge, to make it possible for the discounts to be spread out . . .

**A MEMBER:** It's a substitute program.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Well, then I misunderstood the Minister. I thought that was what he was talking about.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I regret that I may have misinformed the honourable member.

**A MEMBER:** First entries are surcharged.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** That was under the old program. It was under the existing program that was there before that all existing entrants were surcharged 11 percent. They are not now; we changed that, that was under the old program. It's just the opposite of what the honourable member . . . and I regret that I may not have been very clear in my remarks on that. So I just want to clarify that point and I'll let the honourable member continue.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to, if the honourable member has concluded, just to make a few comments on his remarks to indicate that we view - and we always have viewed - crop insurance, especially to the grain industry, as one of the major cornerstones of financial stability

to the farm community. I regret that honourable members may - and maybe I am oversensitive on this issue - make light of the issue of the Feed Security Program indicating, well that you could have moved on this program unilaterally.

Mr. Chairman, the members know that this program is cost shared like the Crop Insurance Program 50-50, in terms of the premium structure, with the Federal Government. Farmers pay half of the premiums, the Federal Government pays half of the premiums, and the province pays the entire administrative costs of the program. That is the sharing and we did, in fact, put forward an expansion to cover that whole block of municipalities in the southwest corner, but there would have had to have been an expenditure - and I'm going from memory - but somewhere in the neighbourhood of I believe \$100,000 of administrative costs to do the additional preparatory work to make sure that the data, in order to be able to establish the premiums, had to be done. We asked for sharing in this escalation because we would have had to bring on more people. — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, we did ask for sharing. It's \$200,000, not \$100,000.00. Our cost would have been \$100,000, Mr. Chairman. We were prepared to move that along and, Mr. Chairman, that would have meant, on behalf of the Federal Government, of course, an increase in the amount of money that they were to put forward in terms of premiums over and above the 22 municipalities that they are going to put forward, and they did not agree with us on the expansion of the program to include these areas.

As a result, we're proceeding, and we're moving ahead. Those areas will be included on an ongoing basis and, as I indicated to the honourable member, an additional between 20 and 26 municipalities, by normal agreement, will be put into place for the 1986 crop year. So we will have, by that time, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 42 to 48 municipalities with the majority of cattle numbers in the province, and that will be by normal program expansion.

**MR. H. ENNS:** The Minister indicated what it would have cost the province, to cover the administration charges for that southwest block of municipalities, can he indicate what he's projecting his administration costs for the 22 or 26 municipalities that are currently being covered by the program, what is that costing administratively to the province?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have the figures - I wonder if there's someone from crop insurance - No, there's no one from Crop Insurance here to answer. The Livestock Feed Security Program provides for 20 additional municipalities in 1986 at roughly a cost of \$200,000 - \$190,000 is what their estimate is for the 20 municipalities.

There was a slightly higher cost to bring in those other municipalities because we would have had to hire more people to do the research work and the like, but it was estimated at around \$200,000.00.

Now, I don't have the costs of the administration program for - just a minute here - Mr. Chairman, I'm looking through my notes here, and I have no breakdown for the actual cost of administering that program as it stands now. But we'll make a note of it

and we'll try and have that information for the honourable member before our Estimates are over if we can, to get a breakdown exactly what the administrative costs are of running the livestock Feed Security Program.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't want to prolong discussion on it for my part on this issue but it's a demonstration that we have here, that ought to be noted, of misplaced priorities. I have complimented the Minister on this program. The Minister is obviously pleased and proud of this program, as I believe he ought to be.

But what are we talking about? We're talking about several hundred thousand dollars in providing a valuable protection program to the needed primary producers in the Province of Manitoba. How often have we asked questions in this Chamber about the priority of spending \$800,000 advertising this new program or the soon-to-start up construction of Limestone; \$2 million used in advertising the program of the Jobs Fund, to put up all the green and white signs across this province; the hiring of 86 new public relations people in the entire apparatus of government.

I am simply saying to the Minister through you, Mr. Chairman, that here for want of \$100,000 an entire region of the southwest is denied a valuable program that both opposition and government agree is a worthwhile delivery program, a service program, a protection program. But we are too busy, Mr. Chairman, or this government is too busy in promoting themselves and promoting the P.R., and doing it in a costly manner.

Now, Mr. Chairman, all governments have advertised. The previous government had advertised. But Mr. Chairman, we are in a period of restraint. This government is asking various public sectors, such as hospitals, personal care homes to live with 2 percent or zero budget increases.

We have an example right here in the committee right now where a region of the province could be afforded a program that all sides are prepared to acknowledge is a good program. The Minister acknowledges it's a good program. The Minister acknowledges that it's his will to include the other municipalities into this program.

I'm telling him from a practical point of view, as a rancher, that it is a good program, a worthwhile program, and thank him for having the Interlake among the first areas of the province to be included in that program. But it's ironic, Mr. Chairman, that this Minister has to say that for want of \$100,000 - Mr. Chairman, just don't run the Limestone ad for a couple of nights on television - and hundreds of farmers would have protection. Just budget less. Go to his colleague, the Minister responsible for the Jobs Fund and say look, instead of spending \$2 million on red and white signs across this province that advertise - I won't criticize - laudable projects like painting the community hall, putting a new roof on a curling rink. They're all good ventures, great, and we all need them.

But, Mr. Chairman, surely this Minister has some responsibility, some feeling, particularly at a time when our most important industry is pressed as hard as it is pressed, seemingly from all sides, beef imports from the European common market, from restrictions to the

south, and goodness knows that's added to the problems that farm producers always face, whether it's drought, whether it's grasshoppers or too much rain.

I couldn't help take the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, when for want of \$100,000, this Minister acknowledged that he was unable to provide a valuable service which the opposition agrees with, which the Minister says he wants to do, and I'm simply saying to the Minister to flex his muscle around the Cabinet tables a little harder and get the \$100,000.00.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, let's just put the facts where they really belong. That's not the issue, Mr. Chairman, as the honourable member wants to suggest. The issue is not whether or not we put \$100,000 more on the table. That's not the issue at all.

**A MEMBER:** Yes, it is.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, it isn't. It has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable member forgets that half of those increased premiums have to be paid by Ottawa, and it has to be their will. Mr. Chairman, if in fact Ottawa is ready to go, we would have put in many more changes in the Crop Insurance Program that would have meant more to the farmers of this province, but that's not the case.

The fact of the matter is, this is the extent of the commitment today and there is no further commitment in terms of an expansion of the program this year. That's really what is at the heart of the issue. It is not the sake of just an additional \$100,000.00. There is an additional commitment, an ongoing commitment of premiums.

Mr. Chairman, it's not only the southwestern part that is hurt bad in terms of the drought, and they have been hurt bad. The Honourable Member for Swan River will get up and say, look, why can't my area be included in that program? We were flooded out and although there was hay, there would have been losses there. An area within Fisher and Bifrost Municipalities would have had the same area where they had been flooded out, where in hay crops in different years there have been losses there as well.

So both on the drought side and on the wet side, there are problems. The question is, can we go ahead? Mr. Chairman, I just don't want the record to show that there was only an allegation by honourable members that somehow we willingly said we weren't prepared to put up \$100,000 to make the program go. That's not the case, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Yes, just to pursue this a little further. The Minister has indicated there will be another 21 or 22 municipalities coming on stream next year?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, there will be 22 this year, 15 more than the seven. So it will be a total of 22 for 1985. For 1986, the corporation is looking at an additional 20 to 26 municipalities.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** The establishment of the 22 to 26 that are going to come on stream for the year 1986,

has the department just picked them to some degree, or are the municipalities in a position where they can lobby the government to be enrolled under that program?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the corporation generally has attempted to do a census in terms of the Beef Commission, and like the numbers of cattle in those municipalities through our department. That decision generally rests with the board of directors of the Crop Insurance Corporation in negotiations with the Federal Government as to the extent and the number of funding for their share of the premiums.

I mean every municipality with cattle would like to lobby in terms of having their municipalities in. We would have liked to have all the municipalities in the southwest corner then they could have had a double benefit this year. They would have had support under the Drought Program and they would have had the insurance program, but that was not to be.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** I just want to maybe support the comments of the Member for Lakeside on this program. What has happened out there now is certain municipalities have qualified and certain have not in certain areas. As a result, one neighbour on one side of the road qualifies now because it's the municipal line. He might have had 20 cows or whatever the case may be. The neighbour across the road has 150 cows and he's more dependent on this kind of a program and doesn't qualify — (Interjection) — pardon me?

**A MEMBER:** Don't you remember the Drought Program?

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Oh yes. But I'm just saying to the Minister, there are problems there right now, especially if we're going to have a bad year where the corporation is going to be paying out money. The Minister is going to be getting a lot of heat on this matter.

I think the opposition has been very responsible in supporting the thing, because it is a good program. The fact that we do this trial and error bit, and we're going to expand it each year a little bit more, I think that's going to create a lot of problems, instead of taking it and maybe blanketing it at this stage of the game. The Minister says, well, the federal participation is, and I hope I did not misunderstand, the federal participation is only for this year, and then it isn't?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, it's an ongoing thing, half the premiums.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** So the Federal Government decides how many municipalities are going to be involved this year, or who makes that ultimate decision?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, that decision lies with my department and with the Crop Insurance Corporation.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Then all the more reason, why is the Minister being cautious about just saying, well we're going to do it piecemeal and see how this thing works. But the Federal Government is committed to do the province for that matter.

Why would this Minister then indicate that he is not prepared to go on with this program and expand it and do it piecemeal again? Certainly, the money part of it is not the major thing then, is it? Or is that where the \$100,000 came in that my colleague from Lakeside was concerned about? Because the Federal Government is prepared to cost-share, so it's only this Minister that is stopping the rest of the province from getting the benefits out of that insurance program. — (Interjection) — Right.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased. Let me put a challenge to the honourable members.

If the Federal Government says go, we are going to put up the money; it's go right now.

**MR. H. ENNS:** I'll talk to Brian.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** You talk to Brian tonight and we'll see what the budget is on Thursday. We'll see by the budget.

Mr. Chairman, last November, a \$8 million cutback; this year, a \$60 million cutback. Let's have the program go; we want a federal commitment and let's go.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Chairman, I was under the impression that there was no restriction from the Federal Government. Now the Minister is saying, well, if the Federal Government says go, that he will go.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** It's absolutely.

**A MEMBER:** Ask Harry.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Have I got that? I am just trying to establish this in my mind.

So it is the Federal Government that is holding it back at the present time?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'll repeat for the honourable member again. We attempted to include the municipalities in the drought area under the program, and we attempted to get the cost-sharing to have those municipalities in and, as well, the needed additional administrative costs that it would have taken to get them on stream because we were behind. You have to work a year ahead; we were not ahead. We would have had to hire more people, and we asked for not only the premium cost but a portion of the administrative costs on the program. We did not receive concurrence on that. So we are going to expand it on an ongoing basis. We feel we can negotiate between 20 and 26 municipalities. We don't know; it will depend on the Federal Government. We will be ready with that many municipalities.

But I throw the challenge to the honourable members: If they want to go, let's go.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I hope I can be of some assistance in this whole area.

What it truly is, is this Minister's lack of ability to deal with his portfolio and provide the service that is available. It is the Provincial Government that provides the money for the administration of crop insurance. He said it was \$100,000 to \$200,000 administrative costs

to get the program ready to go into a community. Not once have we heard that the Federal Government has said that there isn't 50 percent of the premiums available. We haven't been told by the Federal Government that half the premiums aren't available.

The stopping block is this Minister in his desire to provide expense money for the administration of crop insurance to provide the service to the rest of the community. That is how I have listened to the Minister describe it; that is how I understand it.

Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister should not throw the challenge to us but throw the challenge to the Crop Insurance Corporation and say to them he wants to provide the service for all of Manitoba farmers, because that's what our election commitment is right now by the Progressive Conservative Party.

I said it earlier and I will say it again: It is our commitment to all the farmers of Manitoba that we will provide feed security to all the regions of the Province of Manitoba, Mr. Chairman. I have said it before and I will say it again, Mr. Chairman. I make no bones about our commitment to the farm community.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Talk about . . . nonsense.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, the Minister says "nonsense." I have said it before and I will say it again: Our commitment is to provide feed security for all the farmers of Manitoba. We aren't going to draw lines that are going to discriminate against farmers when it comes to drought programs as this Minister has done, Mr. Chairman.

This Minister of Agriculture, when it came to flood support for the farmers of the Swan River area, where did they draw the line, Mr. Chairman? Not where the local municipalities drew the line, but where this Minister wanted the line drawn. In his own region, Mr. Chairman, he discriminated against farmers who needed support in the drought area of western Manitoba. It was his decision that discriminated against the farmers from getting support. Yes, Mr. Chairman, and it's now his decision that is stopping the farmers from all of Manitoba from getting the feed security program. Yes! Not the Federal Government; we haven't heard the Federal Government say once that they weren't prepared to provide half the premiums. I have never heard the Federal Government once renege on providing half the premiums for crop insurance.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** . . . you don't know what you are talking about.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yes, I do know what I am talking about. It's the administrative cost that is prohibiting the farmers from getting it. And, as my colleague from Lakeside said, it's this Minister's priority to spend provincial taxpayers' money to provide advertising for him and his government and not provide feed security service to the farmers of this province. That's where the blame lies and that's where we are going to continue to put it, Mr. Chairman. If he would administrate his program properly, then, in fact, the farmers would be availed of a program again which we support in this Chamber.

Mr. Chairman, let the record be very clear that we, as an opposition in this Chamber, are quite prepared

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to go to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and insist that he provide the funds that are necessary to make this program available to all the constituents and not draw imaginary lines because . . .

Mr. Chairman, I have some more questions dealing with the crop insurance area of the Estimates, and I

am sure my colleague from Swan River has indicated as well. I think it's important as well to note that the Minister found fit . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The hour is 5:30 p.m., time for the dinner recess. I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8:00 p.m. tonight.