

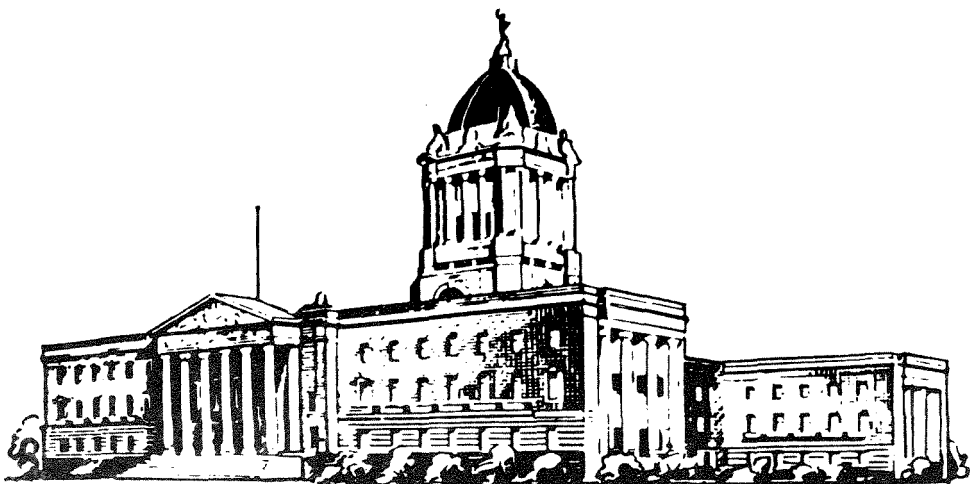


First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, September 26, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Supplementary Estimates for the Department of Highways and Transportation.

I would also like to table the Department of Highways and Transportation Highway Construction Program for this year.

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report of The Manitoba Energy Authority for the year ended March 31, 1988.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding to oral questions, I would like to draw Honourable Members' attention to the gallery and to the translation booth, where we have 11 residents and staff of the Rosewood Lodge from the Stonewall and District Health Centre, under the direction of Marie O'Neill and Marguerite Bond. This centre is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns). On behalf of all Honourable Members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

National Park Proposal Churchill

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). We were all delighted, as I am sure all Manitobans were, to hear that negotiations for a national park have commenced, that national park to be located in Churchill. I think we all recognize that the wildlife in northern Manitoba is a sight to behold and is indeed claimed by all naturalists worldwide.

While we are pleased at the prospect of this potential park, we do think it is indeed regrettable that such an announcement would take place in the Province of Saskatchewan while the federal Minister was campaigning in that particular province. The federal Minister's statement coincides, unfortunately, with the news report that on the eastern fringe of our province, Shoal Lake, a proposed mining operation is threatening Winnipeg's water supply—first Rafferty, now Churchill and Shoal Lake. Is the First Minister ever involved in decisions affecting this province, or is he content to

just sit back and allow this province to be governed from outside? Is this the new approach to federal-provincial relations we can anticipate under this Government?

* (1335)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I regret that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has not had a happy weekend. She is unhappy when there is no announcement of good things coming for Manitoba. She is unhappy when there is an announcement of potentially good things happening for Manitoba.

The fact of the matter is that negotiation with respect to the establishment of a national park was as a result of suggestions made by my Ministers to the federal Government. The federal Government has responded, indicating that they are happy to participate with us towards the establishment of a national park in that area of our province, in Churchill. She knows full well that we had the ship of people come in from the United States who are naturalists, who are environmentalists, who felt there was tremendous potential in Churchill for this kind of development. We are delighted that the federal Government has indicated a commitment to furthering these discussions and perhaps to eventually establishing such a facility.

Now with respect to the establishment of a gold mine in Shoal Lake, it is regrettable but, of course, I can understand the lack of experience and understanding by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) and her colleagues. This is a matter that has been on the books since at least the early 1980s. In 1981, as a result of the prospect of the development of this particular gold mine by Consolidated Professor on that particular island in Shoal Lake, I, as Environment Minister, entered into discussions with the Environment Minister of Ontario so that we would establish a protocol for keeping track of any of these projects. We entered into an agreement by which Ontario agreed to apply our environmental standards to anything that was done in the watershed of Shoal Lake that would affect Manitoba. We entered into an agreement that they would monitor and keep us informed of all these situations.—(Interjection)—I will continue my answer, Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition places her next question.

Mrs. Carstairs: My supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Can the First Minister assure this House today that there are no strings to be attached to this new proposed park similar to the strings that were attached to the Grasslands Project Park announced? We should remember that the strings attached to the project in Saskatchewan worked to our disadvantage. What kind of strings are attached to this park?

Mr. Filmon: The Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) approves of the question, Mr. Speaker. I can assure

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the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs)—her mind seems to always be involved with negative things for Manitoba and suspicion and innuendo. During the televised debate, she accused me of having discussion with the Prime Minister, and there was a deal on Airbus and it was to Manitoba's disadvantage. It was false, all false, and I suggest to her that her innuendo and suggestion is unbecoming her as a Leader of a provincial Party.

I will tell her, there are absolutely no strings attached to it. We are doing it because we believe it is good for Churchill. We are doing it because we believe it is good for Manitoba, and we are entering into discussions in good faith. Should there be a meeting of the minds and should the federal and provincial Governments agree that this would be a project good for Manitoba, we will go ahead with it. It will be entirely apart from any other discussions and any other projects going on in Manitoba or anywhere else for that matter.

Mrs. Carstairs: Well, that would certainly be a first in the annals of federal Conservative Government rule in Canada. Will the First Minister please tell the House today, in that it takes two to eight years to develop a national park, or at least that has been the history in the past, will he tell us today what participation in the planning of the park will be given to those who live in the North and those who are involved in the environmental community here in the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. Filmon: This is a Government that believes in consultation and cooperation. We believe that when there are parks and facilities being developed for the benefit of Manitobans, that those people who have a legitimate interest will be consulted in the development of those facilities. That means that the people of the North obviously will be involved. That means that those who are naturalists and environmentalists and who have something to contribute to the process will be involved. That means that obviously various Ministers and officials from Government departments in Manitoba will be involved. We will ensure that whatever investment of time, effort and capital is made to develop this facility, it will be the best possible facility and it will be developed in a way that will be good for all Manitobans.

* (1340)

Environmental Future Federal Funding

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a new question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). In line that the federal Minister of the Environment likes to make announcements about Manitoba in Saskatchewan, when will the federal Minister of the Environment be here in the Province of Manitoba to tell us about the environmental future of this province with respect to federal funding in this province?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I will take that question as notice. I have not had any direct discussions with the Minister of the Environment.- (Interjection)- If the

Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) is suggesting that I should have the schedule of all of the 40 federal Ministers to find out where they are going to be tomorrow or the next day or the next month, then he does not understand anything about Government.

I will take that question as notice, and I will ask my Ministers to find out whether Mr. McMillan is planning on a visit to Manitoba in the near future.

Environmental Programs Federal Impact Study

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): I am somewhat shocked, considering that environmental impact studies will not be conducted by the federal Government in the Province of Manitoba with regard to our environmental future, that this First Minister (Mr. Filmon) has not contacted the Minister of the Environment and asked him to come to explain why they will not conduct a study in this province to protect Manitobans.

Will the First Minister undertake today to get in touch with the Environment Minister.- (Interjection)- No, he did not; he said he would talk about it sometime. Will he get in touch now with the Minister of the Environment and have him explain to Manitobans why Manitoba is not being adequately represented by the federal Minister of the Environment?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has been told day after day after day in this Legislature that our Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) has been following through with the Minister of the Environment, Mr. McMillan, on issues that impact on Manitoba vis-a-vis Rafferty and Alameda, vis-a-vis other potential issues. If she wants to know about discussions that he has had, he has tabled letters in this House, he has tabled correspondence with Mr. McMillan, with Mr. Clark, with other people. She knows that the Government is actively pursuing all of those issues.

Other Ministers are pursuing with Mr. McMillan the development of a national park. Other Ministers are pursuing with him and his other federal colleagues other issues to do with developments, initiatives, expansion of particular facilities in Manitoba, and this is an ongoing process. If she is suggesting that only I can be in touch with and report on meetings with Mr. McMillan, then she does not understand how Government works and that is why she is in Opposition and will remain there.

Rafferty-Alameda Project Senate Public Hearings

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a final supplementary to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Let me assure you that I would be not unwilling to attack and to contact federal Ministers, no matter what their political Party.

Has the First Minister written, either on Friday or today, to the president of the Senate Committee or to the Leader of the Government in the Senate, stating

that Manitoba wants Senate hearings on Rafferty-Alameda to be conducted here in the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I thought that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) said that the reason that the Liberal-controlled Senate was holding these hearings was to look into the matter of the potential effects on Manitoba. Is she telling me that they would be so foolish as to hold those hearings only in Ottawa so that they, the Liberal Senators, can discuss those issues in isolation from Manitoba? That is absolutely absurd. I would suggest to her that she get on the phone and talk to those Liberal Senators who she convinced to have those hearings and tell them if they do not hold hearings in Manitoba, they are fools.

* (1345)

Workplace Innovative Centre Funding Cuts

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): The Workplace Innovation Centre is a model of cooperation. As the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) has talked about, cooperation is one of the key parts allegedly of their economic agenda. Yet one of the most advanced areas of technological innovation in dealing with future challenges for the people of Manitoba has been the Workplace Innovation Centre with members on the Board of Directors from the business community, from the labour community, from the university community, from the research community. Why has the Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security (Mrs. Oleson) notified the Workplace Innovation Centre and informed them that this allegedly cooperative Government is going to cut their funding for the '89 year, and they will be out of business in terms of dealing with the issues facing Manitoba?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): The Member should be aware, when that institution was formed, it was agreed that they would be in place for three years, be funded for three years, and then a review would be taken as to their effectiveness and their use. After that time, they were supposed to be self-sufficient and able to operate on their own. They have not indicated their ability to operate on their own. They have not proved cost-effective and could not function privately, so the decision was made that they should be wound down. Notice was given to them in order that they could have an orderly wind down and it would not be too onerous on them, but their obligations will be met.

Mr. Doer: Given the fact that this Government, in its Speech from the Throne, has talked about research and development and the need to move Manitoba into technologically changed areas and innovation, and given the fact, in July of 1985, the Minister herself, when she was formerly in Opposition, talked about most of the people to be affected by technological change—

Mr. Speaker: And the question is.

Mr. Doer: This is my question to the Minister.

An Honourable Member: There is no preamble to the second question.

Mr. Doer: It is part of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Would the Honourable Member kindly put his question?

Mr. Doer: Most of the people who will be affected will be women in terms of technological change. Why has this Minister cut Manitoba's technological Innovation Centre? Why did she not recommend back to Treasury Board that they reinstate the tax of the CPR of \$5 million and keep this modest expenditure to move Manitoba into the future in terms of technological change?

Mrs. Oleson: I will repeat, that institution was supposed to, in time, be self-sufficient. They have not even raised \$50,000 in research accounts to date, and no headway has been made in the business community. I do not see that it is possible to keep an organization like that funded.

Mr. Doer: That is the same kind of "Tory time is tough times" rhetoric we had between '77 and '81.

Unemployed Help Centre Funding Cuts

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with a new question to the same Minister. Given the fact that in August, we had 3,000 more people unemployed under a Tory Government than we had a year ago in August under the former Government, why has the Minister notified the Unemployed Help Centre and indicated that they, too, would be cut in terms of their funding for the next year in terms of this Province of Manitoba? The resources that the unemployed, which are going up under this Government, depend on are being cut by this callous Government.

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): I would remind the Member that the same employment programs are in place as they were under his Government. The Unemployed Help Centre, we feel that the people that they help—and they have helped people get unemployment insurance, but unemployment insurance is a federal matter.

I have contacted the Members of the federal Government, and my staff have contacted people in the Unemployment Insurance area in Winnipeg. They have assured me that they will be able to handle clients and help them get their unemployment insurance. We feel that a provincial Government should not fund a federal agency in order to get funds to this province. My department has employment places that help people become employed. That is the focus of our Government—to help people get employment.

Mr. Doer: If that is the focus of the Government, Mr. Speaker, it is failing, because we have 3,000 more people unemployed and the economic growth of all

predictions is going down and down and down under Members opposite.

My question to the Minister is: Given the fact that there are community-based boards and community-based activity in the Unemployed Help Centre in Brandon and in Winnipeg that are working with people, and given that it is a partnership between the United Way and the provincial Government, why would the Minister cut back on these needed resources when the unemployment rate is going up under her administration?

Mrs. Oleson: I indicated to the Member that this is a federal responsibility to be sure that people get their unemployment insurance. Our Department of Employment Services and Economic Security wants to focus on people getting jobs. We have indicated to those agencies that they will get their funding for this year. We have given them ample time if they wish to go ahead and apply to other sources of revenue.

* (1350)

Gold Mine—Shoal Lake Water Quality

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): We are concerned, Mr. Speaker, that the water in Manitoba is being assailed from all sides. We have Saskatchewan and North Dakota showing more concern than the provincial Government in the southwest corner of the province, and now we see that the purity of Shoal Lake, a source of 600,000 people's drinking water, is being threatened.

My question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). The possible contamination of the drinking water with cyanide or other pollutants has caused significant worry among all the citizens of Winnipeg. Now we read about the potential development of a gold mine right in the source of our drinking water. I am sure that, as the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) has indicated, that the Minister of Urban Affairs is aware of the 1981 Shoal Lake Accord which allows for discussions between Ontario and Manitoba on issues that will affect Shoal Lake.

Will the Minister advise this House whether the issue of a gold mine in Shoal Lake has been discussed at the annual Shoal Lake meeting and what action has to be taken to protect Manitoba's source of drinking water?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) obviously is not aware that these are matters that have been continuously monitored since they were identified for public attention in 1981.

The information of the department responsible for that monitoring, the Department of the Environment, is that the water quality standards that we have demanded will be supported by the Province of Ontario. In fact, there is no indication of any further development going on in Shoal Lake, that it remains as it has been for some time, that the members of the cottage owners

association in the area are aware that there continues to be exploration activity, but neither the Province of Ontario nor ourselves have been made aware that the project is any closer to any possible development than it was a year or two ago.

No proposal has been put forward for development and, therefore, it remains as it has been for a number of years, that it is under consideration. Jean Chretien is interested, of course, in having development take place in Shoal Lake and is representing those people as the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) represents; but in terms of our relationship with the Ontario Government, they have not . . . that it is no closer to being proceeded with than it was a year or so ago.

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

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, the Minister obviously has more information at his fingertips than I do. My information indicates that an application has been processed within Ontario.

Environment Assessment Review

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) if possible. Ontario has an Environment Assessment Act that differs from their Environmental Protection Act. Will the Minister write today to the Minister of Environment of Ontario and request this project be considered for an environmental assessment review?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): I do not know where the Members opposite get their information. They must have a different office, because we called the department in Ontario, in Kenora, and we were assured that there was no application to proceed with the mine. It was in the . . . So those are the facts.

If it is to proceed, then there will be hearings. If the hearings are called, Manitoba will be represented and we will fight for the interests of Manitoba. We must ensure that the water for Winnipeg—for 600,000 people—is clean and potable. We will fight to make sure that water remains potable.

* (1355)

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

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the sincerity that the Members opposite are projecting into this very important review. I think it is important, and I hope they can react to the requirements of the assessment in a more positive fashion than they have indicated in the past.

My question is will the Minister write today to ensure that an assessment impact study is done? An assessment impact study is different than the cold, hard scientific facts which are produced by scientists

and engineers. This is an assessment on the quality of water that comes through to Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member is repeating in substance a question which was previously asked, and therefore out of order.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, then perhaps I can ask this Minister if he would be kind enough to address the federal Minister who has very similar powers as the Ontario ministry.

Federal Intervention

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): As the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) indicates, that under the Shoal Lake Accord, we have the powers of the Ontario and Manitoba Assessment Review Committees, or very similar, will the Minister—

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): They have agreed to adopt our standards.

Mr. Angus: They have agreed to adopt our standards. The question then—that is fair—the question, I suppose, should be: Will they upgrade the standards in Manitoba so that we can get the protection we deserve? The real question is: Will the Minister apply today—

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert will put his question now.

Mr. Angus: Will the Minister apply for federal intervention of the federal Minister, who has jurisdiction in the water matters of this, for a review of this project as well?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): Mr. Speaker, this situation and this concern did not develop by the newspaper reports which Members opposite, like chasing firetrucks, read the newspapers and then that is where their questions come from.

We have been addressing the problems at Shoal Lake from the very inset that we came into Government. We have had meetings with the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), with the city employees, people from the city, Mayor Norrie. We have met; we have discussed the concerns that we have. The concerns that are being addressed by the Members opposite have been addressed by our department, by our Government, for some time. We are going to ensure that Manitoba's water, the water for the City of Winnipeg will be protected.

Court of Appeal Judges Jury Criticism

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). In the last few days, Manitobans have been shocked, and I think quite rightly so, by comments from the Court of Appeal, three judges of the Court of Appeal, including the Chief Justice of

this province. These comments denigrated the jury system and chastised particular jurors.

They showed a total lack of respect, I think, for the sacrifice of time and effort made by so many Manitobans to serve on juries. Further, they showed a lack of respect for the mode of trial, which is the very essence of fairness in our legal system; that is, to be tried by one's peers.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is will the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) now publicly stand up for the good sense of the majority of Manitobans, ordinary Manitobans, and put his Government on record as disagreeing with these comments thrown off so easily by the Court of Appeal?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I appreciate very much the concern which prompts the Honourable Member's question. The Honourable Member calls upon me to go on record as supporting the jury system. I am sure my answer to him will neither disappoint nor surprise him.

The jury system, under the British system of justice, has served Canada and many other countries well for a very, very long time. Combined with the legal instructions given to a jury by the judge in a courtroom, the common sense applied by juries for years and years has served both victim and witness and offender and the community well. I have no hesitation in offering support to the jury system and also to those who take part in it, and offering my support and my hope that members of the community will continue to make themselves available to do this important work.

Court of Appeal Proceedings Transcripts

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Given those comments by the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), and again for the Attorney-General: Will he now consider putting court reporters or reliable recording devices in the Court of Appeal, both, I might add, for the protection of the judges and for the people of this province so that where the situation merits, a transcript will be available of the proceedings in the Court of Appeal, such that a judicial review would be possible?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): As one who has been involved in the system for a number of years as a court reporter, I know that there would be quite a significant cost involved in putting court reporters to cover every appeal case. Generally speaking, a court reporter's function is to record the evidence presented before a court. In the past, when new evidence has been heard by Appeal Courts, it is my understanding that court reporters have been made available for the purpose of recording that evidence.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, my department is now surveying other jurisdictions as to see what they are doing with regard to court reporting or to reporting in Courts of Appeal. Another method being looked at is videotaping, so that the matter is under review. It has not been common practice, in my understanding, that court reporters have been present in Appeal Court

hearings, but perhaps some method of recording of what goes on in the Court of Appeal might be appropriate.

* (1400)

Federal Judges Appointment Committee

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Again, and finally, for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). In view of the federal Justice Minister's comments in April of this year that each province would be having a committee set up to assist in the selection of federal appointments to the Bench, has the Attorney-General been told by the federal Justice Minister when Manitoba might have such a committee struck, and has the Attorney-General been consulted or has he proposed to the federal Minister what non-legal candidates from this province might be members of that committee?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I believe it was in April that the federal Minister of Justice put out a policy regarding the appointment of federal judges, and the provinces do have a role to play in that. As for a committee being struck, I will take notice of the Honourable Member's question.

Rafferty-Alameda Project Environmental Impact Study

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Professor Joe Delecki, an economist with the Brandon University, stated this morning that the Saskatchewan Government is undertaking a study which is examining the feasibility of water export to the United States. In fact, Professor Delecki said that the Rafferty-Alameda project may be a part of the plan to export water to the United States. My question to the First Minister is: Will he now recognize the seriousness of the Rafferty-Alameda project and ask his federal counterpart to order an exhaustive environmental study into this project?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and attempt to find information on Professor Delecki's comments so that I can judge the substance of the remarks.

Water Exports Inter-Basin Transfers

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): A supplementary to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). On previous occasions, the Premier has made light of the possibilities of inter-basin transfers of water.

We have recently heard the U.S. Corps of Engineers is studying the diversion of water from the Garrison Diversion to the Souris River. Now we see that Saskatchewan may be wanting to divert the South Saskatchewan River to the United States. Will the Minister give this House an indication of what his Government's position is in selling water to the United States?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I have never made light of inter-basin transfers. When I was asked specifically with respect to inter-basin transfers, I pointed out that the interim licence that was issued on Rafferty and Alameda contained a clause that prohibited inter-basin transfers.

When we were further asked about the potential of inter-basin transfers with respect to going into the Souris River to augment water municipal supplies for Minot, we pointed out that this would be treated water only that they were looking at, and that it was comparable to the agreements that the previous NDP administration had allowed for inter-basin transfers into the Red River system to augment the municipal water supply of Fargo and Grand Forks. I have never made light of inter-basin transfers.

With respect to what we think of the idea of selling water to the United States, we disagree with it. There are no plans in Manitoba to sell any of our water to the United States.

Mr. Harapiak: Manitobans are very concerned about the sale of water to the United States, and you can see why we would be concerned, because even the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) is extremely concerned about this issue, and he well should be, because he is not sticking up for Manitoba with this diversion.

Government Policy

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): My question to the Premier is that 20 years ago he did a thesis for his Master's Degree dealing with the sale of water to the United States. Will the First Minister assure us, as Manitobans, that he will not be a party to any sale of water to the United States?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The title of my Master's thesis was "An Investigation of the Diversion of Northern Manitoba Waters into Lake Winnipeg." It did investigate the technical feasibility of many, many water transfers from basin to basin. It, in fact, provided an alternative to the Churchill River diversion which was put in place by the NDP Government of the 1970s. It investigated many, many potential diversions from the Seal River system into the Churchill, from the Churchill, vis-a-vis the Sturgeon-Weir River in Saskatchewan, into the Saskatchewan River, and so on and so on. It had tremendous technical content. It is why I take such great interest in all of these questions that are put to me by all the Members opposite with respect to water diversions, water transfers and water projects.

Midwifery Legalization

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): My question is the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), if he is awake. The Manitoba Advisory Council and the Status of Women today submitted their recommendations on midwifery for the—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

An Honourable Member: Withdraw.

Mrs. Charles: I withdraw that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). The Manitoba Advisory Council and the Status of Women today submitted their recommendations on midwifery for the Province of Manitoba, which called on the Government to legalize this procedure and incorporate it into Manitoba's health care system. My question to the Minister is: Is he today prepared to inform us of his Government's intention to support the legalization of midwifery?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I want to assure my honourable friend it was not the boring questions from her colleagues in Government that caused me to temporarily nap, because there is a certain lack of excitement in the Opposition these days despite their growing numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I am unable today to make the commitment requested by the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) since I have only recently received the report, and I am having that report adequately studied by members of my department.

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

Mrs. Charles: My understanding is that the Minister has met as recently as last Friday with groups concerning this decision of the council. Could the Minister inform this House, in considering the possibilities of these laws, under what circumstances would the Government take into account these laws?

Mr. Orchard: In a continuing effort to entertain full and complete consultation, indeed, my colleague, the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) and myself met with the proponents of the study into midwifery last Friday, and that is part, of course, of the ongoing consultation with various groups in the Province of Manitoba who have proposals from time to time as to how policies ought to develop.

The position of the Government has not changed from previous years in that nationally midwifery is not legal. There are a diversity of opinions in terms of its place in the medical health services provided to Manitobans and Canadians. That is under review by two provinces currently, Ontario and Quebec, and this report shall be reviewed by the province.

* (1410)

Alternatives

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

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Can this Government then tell us when it will be able to make up its mind

and make an announcement concerning midwifery; and to that, can they tell us of what alternatives we can use in remote areas to support the causes and needs of those in distress under circumstances where they have to leave their communities to come to Winnipeg to have their babies?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): As with all suggested new directions in health care, any changes in the policy of this Government will be undertaken after full and complete consultation with the various interested groups. The position put forward by the Status of Women is a very legitimate one because women, for instance, in the Keewatin region of the Northwest Territories, find themselves isolated from their families for prolonged periods of time.

In meetings with the Leader of the Northwest Territories Government and the Minister of Health from the Northwest Territories recently, it has been indicated to us that they are considering some of their alternatives in terms of midwifery as one of the alternatives to the current system of providing adequately protected delivery services for women of the Northwest Territories.

Child and Family Services Panel Discussion

Mr. Speaker: The Member for St. Johns. We will have time for one question.

Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns): My question is for the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson). In July of this year, about three months ago, the Minister received a request, and agreed to it, from the Northwest Child and Family Services Agency to participate in a panel discussion. About three-quarters of an hour ago, just six hours before the commencement of that event, the Minister chose to cancel out of this panel discussion.

Given that both Opposition Parties are prepared to grant leave to have just one committee sit this evening to discuss Estimates, which is something we have done in the past when a Minister has an important engagement, is the Minister now prepared to change her mind to cooperate with Manitobans around having an open dialogue discussion on this very important matter of Child and Family Services and attend this evening's panel discussion?

Mr. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): It was indicated to that particular agency when I was invited that it would hinge upon whether or not the Estimates of Community Services were still being debated, and, as the Member is aware, they certainly are.

I have made it a habit to be open in discussion with the agencies. I have met with that particular agency. I have met with the agencies as a group and plan to again.

I think the Member should recall that it is important to get the Estimates of this department passed in order that we can pay the people who so desperately need our help, and that is where the business of Government goes on. That is the first priority of a Cabinet Minister.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I have the indulgence of the House to make a brief non-political statement?

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

Mr. Enns: Thank you very much. It was my privilege during the last week to attend the 34th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference that was convened in Canberra, Australia.

It was a unique experience to be at that conference. For those who may not be informed, it is a grouping of some 48 nations from all parts of the world, nations that have adopted the parliamentary system of Government similar to ours as a means of governing themselves. Countries like Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, India, of course, are among the major countries involved, but it also includes a host of much smaller countries, countries that we nonetheless have a close tie with and a relationship with.

It was unique in a sense that an international gathering of such where all too often east-west tensions tend to mar the deliberations, none such existed. This was a genuine gathering of countries that have chosen our style of Government to handle their affairs.

I simply want to express my sincere appreciation to my Premier (Mr. Filmon), to all Members of this House, including my pair, the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), that made it possible for me to attend that meeting. It was an enriching and rewarding experience for me. On my return home, I also experienced that experience that other travellers of the world from time to time experience, including that of former Prime Ministers, my luggage did not return with me.

* (1420)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Community Services; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

* (1430)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I believe, before we start, the Honourable Minister has a statement.

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Mr. Chairman, I have some replies to questions that were asked at our last meeting or perhaps the meeting before that, but I have some information that was requested.

Career Development in the Winnipeg South region was one of the questions that the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) posed. As part of the affirmative action and implementation strategy of Winnipeg South region, a bridging position was established. This position was specifically designed to provide a career development opportunity within the department. The objective was to establish a career path that would allow an employee the opportunity to assume duties as an entry-level help in Social Development Specialist I. The position was bulletined as an affirmative action bridging position and the competition was subsequently held.

The successful candidate was assessed by her direct supervisor in conjunction with the personnel administrator, in order to determine what training would be necessary in order for her to function effectively. In this particular instance, it was determined that six months to one year would be necessary for the incumbent to become fully functioning. To this date, this exercise has proven to be most effective and successful.

Another question was in regard to the staffing statistics from May 9, 1988, regarding affirmative action. In response to questions from the Members for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) and Concordia (Mr. Doer), raised September 19, 1988: (a) A total number of positions filled since May 19, 1988 is 26. For the 26 positions, a total of 38 applications were received from visible minorities. Of these, one visible minority was hired. The criteria used in selecting visible minorities are those established as selection criteria against which all candidates are measured. The selection criteria are established by the manager in conjunction with the personnel administrator and are based on their requirements for the position. (b) A total number of professional-level positions filled since May 9, 1988 is 11. Of these, no affirmative action target group members were appointed.

As I stated on September 19, 1988, we have identified six affirmative action objectives for the department. I have instructed my staff to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that more positive results are realized in the future.

A summary of work force analysis in responding to a question from the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray): The work force analysis was conducted in order to provide the required statistical data necessary to assess the present configuration of the department relative to the presence of affirmative action target group members. This information was also necessary to ensure planning and design of our present program was properly

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directed. Target group employees in the department were identified through the self-declaration process. Each employee received a personally addressed self-declaration form. Completion of the form was voluntary, but employees were encouraged to return the form whether or not it was completed.

Upon completion of this analysis—this is as at September 1986, the statistical breakdown was as follows: 48.5 percent female, 4.1 percent Native, 4.4 percent physically disabled, 3.2 percent visible minorities.

Resulting from this analysis, a plan was developed. The objectives of this plan have been read into Hansard, September 19, 1988. Using the analysis as a base, my department has proceeded to direct its efforts toward satisfying these stated objectives.

The Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) also raised a question on September 22, to do with grievance statistics. Grievance statistics provided in isolation are not indicative of the full range of labour-management activities that occur when disputes arise. In other words, a grievance procedure is but one type of dispute resolution mechanism.

The grievance procedure outlined in the Manitoba Government Employees Association Agreement indicates that "an effort shall be made to resolve complaints through discussion before a written grievance is initiated." This could include such things as informal discussions between supervisors and employees, Workplace Safety and Health committees, general staff meetings, etc.

It should be noted that the manner in which grievance statistics are collected will indicate only the number of grievances filed but not whether (a) the grievance seeks redress on behalf of more than one griever (a group grievance), (b) several grievances on the same issue have been received from more than one griever.

The following statistics were obtained from a computer program in place at the Labour Relations Branch of the Civil Service Commission. They are available by calendar year and are recorded by department rather than by operating division. This means that Corrections Division grievances are included in all statistics except for the final figure year-to-date, 1988.

In 1985, there were 39 grievances filed, staff complement 2,123. In 1986, 42 grievances filed, the staff complement was 2,138. In 1987, 40 grievances filed, the staff complement was 2,259. In 1988, to date, not including Corrections, the number of grievances filed, 9, and the staff complement is 1,263.

The next one is in response to a question posed by the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) and it is to do with the promotion of females. I was asked to supply more current information on this issue than was available from the Workplace Analysis Report which is now two years old.

The following figures indicate the number of promotions and reclassifications to higher levels that took place on behalf of permanent female civil servants

of Manitoba Community Services during the 1987-88 fiscal year. (a) Promotions total, 48; promotions female, 32; percentage of females, 67 percent. (b) Reclassifications, the total was 21; reclassification of females, 10; percentage of females, 48 percent.

There was also a question asked regarding the guidelines on competition types. The Civil Service Commission is responsible for issuing guidelines on selecting the most suitable type of competition to hold when filling a vacancy. Policy and procedures No. (e)(4)(2), it is intended to ensure the highest possible calibre of applicants for the position.

Three types of competitions are outlined in the policy. (1) Internal: limited to employees of a particular branch or department. Internal competitions are valuable when the skills required for the position can only be gained from previous experience in a specialized area.

(2) Closed—open to Government employees only. A closed competition is used when experience in Government is considered essential.

(3) Open—anyone in or out of service can apply. Open competitions are used when there is no clearly definable area of search within the Government.

The type of competition to be held in each case is determined by the personnel administrator in consultation with the manager.

* (1440)

Mr. Chairman: We will continue with item 3., Community Social Services, \$65,318,500.00. (a) Administration: Provides central administration and program support for adult vocational rehabilitation and mental retardation programs to external agencies, the departmental regional operations and the Manitoba Developmental Centre. Section (1) Salaries, \$368,100.00. Shall the item pass?

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): Mr. Chairperson, I have a few questions based on the information that the Minister has tabled today, but before we get to that, I see as we have been going through the Estimates and the various appropriations that a lot of the questions that have been asked by on this side, or by the Opposition Members, may be fairly general in nature and then we move in to more specific questions. Certainly as we attempt to get answers for our own information for the department and also for the information of constituents and in community groups who do call us on a regular basis, I find that as I read through the Estimates the information that we are attempting to garner is very relevant to the whole discussion around Community Services.

I was very concerned today when I learned that the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) is not attending the Child and Family Services meeting this evening and in fact she had indicated to the Child and Family Services agency that one of the reasons was that we were still in Estimates and that the critics were holding up the Estimates process. I am wondering if the Minister could confirm for us if she or her staff did indicate that to the Child and Family Services agency of Northwest.

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Mrs. Oleson: My staff indicated to the agency, when the invitation was received, that my attendance would hinge on whether or not Estimates were on. I have not been in contact with them personally. They were informed that Estimates were on. I cannot tell her yes or no or what other comments were made because I was not part of the conversation, but we are still in Estimates.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if anyone from her office did contact Child and Family Services of Northwest today and indicated that the Minister would not be attending this evening?

Mrs. Oleson: I understand that my staff did and that they indicated that someone would be attending in my absence.

Ms. Gray: The Minister is aware that myself and the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) certainly have been willing to suspend the Estimates in Community Services for this evening for a period of two hours. Certainly, it is important that we continue on in these various appropriations and obtain information, but it certainly is equally as important, we would feel, that in fact there is the opportunity for a fairly large agency, such as Northwest Child and Family Services, to have the opportunity to hear the views from all three political Parties and certainly from the Minister herself. I am wondering, given the willingness on the part of myself and the Member for St. Johns, if the Minister would agree to attending the panel discussion this evening.

Mrs. Oleson: I have already had my staff indicate to the agency, to follow up, that I was unable to attend. It had been indicated that if I was in Estimates that I would not be able to attend. I have met with that particular agency and discussed their various functions. I have met with the association of the agencies as a group. I intend to meet with those people again very shortly. If the Member was aware of the invitations in my calendar, we would never be getting the Estimates debated if I was to be accepting every invitation, because our first priority as a Government, as a Minister, is to come to this House. This is where the business of the province is done. This is where we receive permission to spend the funds which that agency so desperately needs. It is not the practice of the House, as far as I am concerned, to adjourn every time a Minister is invited to a meeting.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister consider a meeting such as this with one of the agencies that is funded by her department, given the major concerns that have been presented to her and have been presented by the media and are certainly in the forefront of Manitobans' minds, not just an "every" invitation? Does she consider this meeting important enough that she would attend this evening, would reconsider and would attend the meeting?

Mrs. Oleson: I consider it a very important meeting. I also realize and the Member must realize that she of course is free to give that agency any of her views at

any time, but I am meeting with the agencies on Friday. This department funds about 400 agencies and most of those agencies have meetings. It is a physical impossibility to attend them all and it is certainly with no intent to slight that agency that the House sits on Monday evenings and I am required to be here.

As I said, I will be meeting with that agency. It is not that I do not think they are important. They are very important in the operations of Child and Family Services in this province. The fact that I am not meeting with them tonight should not indicate to them my lack of interest. It will indicate to them my lack of time and the fact that I have to be in the House.

I would not be able to, at that meeting, really address the concerns that they have in an appropriate way because I have to meet with them, with the presidents and with these organizations, individually to discuss their funding needs. We would not solve their funding needs tonight.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I can appreciate the Minister's comments about the business of the House. I certainly know that the other two Opposition Parties would certainly be willing to pick up the two hours that we would miss this evening at some other time during the week in order to accommodate this very important event this evening.

I am wondering, the Minister has indicated that her reason for not attending is that we are in Estimates and yet clearly the two Opposition Parties have indicated our willingness to suspend Estimates for this evening. Could the Minister indicate to us why the Child and Family Services Agency, which has already very much ahead of time printed a program with the Honourable Minister's name on it as the speaker, why her office chose to only inform this agency this afternoon about the fact that she would not be attending this evening?

Mrs. Oleson: I will only repeat that when the invitation was received, it was indicated to them that if the Estimates were on I would not be able to attend. It was their choice to print my name on the program.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps the Chairman could suggest that we get on with this in a workmanlike fashion, we could perhaps pass these this afternoon.

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns): Mr. Chairperson, I have a few questions on the same matter and given the number of unanswered questions, given the vigilance on the part of the Opposition to seek answers to no avail in many areas, I do not think it is quite as simple a matter as saying let us sit down this afternoon and pass all the Estimates in a matter of two hours.

My question is first to the Minister regarding this meeting this evening that she has chosen to cancel out of at the last moment. She has indicated that she has met in the past with the agency; she will be meeting again with the agencies. Could she indicate if she is aware that this is not simply a meeting of the board or executive but this is a meeting of the entire memberships of one Child and Family Services Agency,

a group that involves community activists, volunteers, all of those who make it possible to deliver a sensitive and reasonable service in the area of Child and Family Delivery Services?

* (1450)

Mrs. Oleson: I am certainly aware of the services provided by that agency. I do not think I, as a Minister, need to be reminded of that. I am aware it is a very important meeting. I do regret that I am not able to be in attendance, but I repeat that I had told them that that was a possibility when the invitation was accepted. I have made sure that there is a Government representative at the meeting to speak on my behalf.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Given the fact that last week the Minister would have been fully aware that Estimates would be continuing on this week, why she chose to have this agency informed at six hours before the commencement of the event of her unwillingness to attend.

Mrs. Oleson: It is not my unwillingness to attend, it is the fact that Estimates are on. I think as a former Minister the Member is just being a trifle obtuse in suggesting that we close down the House for every meeting of every agency in Winnipeg.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Mr. Chairperson, given the fact that this was an event established several months ago, that a lot of work has gone into it by community representatives, by volunteers who have many things to do on a day-to-day basis, given their interests in hearing from all three political Parties about our commitment to child welfare, would the Minister, in view of the fact that both Opposition Parties are prepared to grant leave to have just one committee sit this evening, which we have done in the past when requested by the Government when another Minister has an important engagement, or in fact when, as was the case with the Minister herself, when a Minister is sick, as was the case last Thursday—only one committee of the House sat—given all of those factors, would the Minister reconsider her last minute decision to cancel and participate in this very important panel discussion?

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me, just a reminder for all Members, they are having some difficulty picking you up on the microphone. If you could speak directly into the microphone.

Mrs. Oleson: I will repeat that I realize that this is a very important meeting. I realize that there are many volunteers who work very hard. There are people who work very hard to help with the protection of children.

I did indicate to the Member before that there will be a representative of the Government going to speak on my behalf, so we will be represented. The Member herself is free to go if she wishes and get someone else from her Party to fill in for her tonight, as the Liberal Party are free to do so. But as the Minister, I am required to be here to debate the Estimates.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: The Minister continues to use the fact that Estimates are scheduled for this evening as her reason for not attending. Given the fact that as of late last week when this issue was brought to her attention and to her House Leader's attention, in both cases the Minister and the House Leader said that they would discuss the matter and give some consideration to having just one committee sit this evening, how is it that she can fall back continually on this notion of Estimates sitting when in fact as of Friday she was still prepared to consider the option?

Mr. Chairman: I would like to remind all Honourable Members of Rule 39 regarding relevance and repetition. The discussion is not relevant to item 3(a)(1). I would ask Members to direct their questions to that item under Community Services.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I think we are all anxious to get some answers to these questions we have been posing. While they may not be strictly under the line before us, they certainly are a part of Community Services Estimates, and I think the Minister owes us some answers as well as the public some answers around this very important matter. I would like the Minister to answer that question: how it was that she is able now to fall back on the fact that Estimates are sitting when, as of late last week, she was still prepared to discuss this with her House leader and to come back with having given some thought to participating with the Opposition to grant leave and to have just one committee sit this evening as is not out of the question and uncommon in terms of important events that come before Ministers, that are placed before Ministers' time.

Mr. Chairman: I will allow the Minister to answer that, and again point out Rule 39, under Relevance and Repetition, and I would hope that we can get on to item 3.(a)(1).

Mrs. Oleson: The Member indicated that the meeting was very important, this is a very important occasion, and I agree with her. The most important event that is on however at this time is the Legislative Session, and that is where the Government decides its spending priorities and passes, or does not pass, what spending authority will be in place for this year. I think that is a very important and relevant matter for the agencies concerned. It is not a desire of mine to not attend meetings. I attend meetings. I will be meeting with the agency, and I think probably that we should get on with the debate of the line that we are on in these Estimates and facilitate the payment of funds to these agencies that are under this department, which so desperately need our help.

Mr. Chairman: On item 3.(a)(1) Salaries.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: In a follow-up based on something the Minister herself said in response to a question from the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray), the Minister said something like there would not be much point in going this evening because she would not be able to address the concerns anyway since she cannot solve the problems of funding.

Is the Minister saying that that is the reason why she is not going this evening, and she is using the Estimates process as an excuse?

Mrs. Oleson: I really find it is just more than a trifle surprising and shocking that this Member is taking that tact. It is totally ridiculous. I said that the important matter before us is the Estimates. The meeting is important. I would not, be it that particular agency and other agencies—I am working with them, my staff is working with them diligently to address the problems which they have. Those problems cannot be solved tonight or this afternoon, but that is not why I am going to the meeting.

I indicated to her that if that was the feeling that the Members had, that we could solve the problems of those agencies tonight, they are incorrect. The fact that I do not or do attend meetings really should not be the subject of a full-fledged debate in Estimates. There are a lot of meetings I have to miss, unfortunately. I am one person. I cannot get to everything. Just because I do not go to a meeting does not say that I do not think it is important, but the important thing before us today is the Estimates of this department.

Mr. Chairman: Point of order.

Ms. Gray: On a point of order. I certainly take exception to what the Minister has been saying. There seems to be an implication there that she is accusing the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) and myself of dealing with an issue which does not belong in Estimates. If the Minister will refer back to the questions that we have been asking in Estimates to this point, one of the main themes that seems to be of great concern to us in the Opposition, and certainly to our constituents and to community groups who contact us, is a lack of communication from the Minister and from the Minister's office. We have a situation here where the Minister, on the record—or has indicated that in fact the Opposition Members are deliberately delaying Estimates. I certainly take exception to that because I feel that the questions we are asking, to this point, are very relevant. Perhaps if we would receive more comprehensive answers on our first one and two questions, the Estimates would not be going on for as many hours but, as long as the answers continue to not be forthcoming, we will continue to be asking questions about issues in each appropriation because we want the answers and the people of Manitoba deserve the answers.

Mr. Chairman: A dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): I had not had any intention to enter into this discussion, however, finding as I am, I am getting a little exasperated with the sort of answers that the Minister chooses to bring forward, I have changed my mind and I will raise the point. The question to the Minister is surely she does not consider this meeting as just any number of meetings that she has on her agenda over time. It would certainly appear, Mr. Chairperson, to be rather more significant than that, and I think that is part of what the discussion is

and why the questions are persisting. I wonder if the Minister has a comment on that.

* (1500)

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, perhaps it was before the Member got here, but I did indicate several times that I recognize this is an important meeting, but I also recognize that the first duty of the Government, the Minister, is to be in the House particularly when his or her Estimates are on.

Mr. Taylor: Quite correct. Mr. Chairperson, if I might continue, I find it a little incredible that we are hanging our hats on the Estimates process as the excuse for a decision to not air a subject matter that requires a thorough discussion and a discussion amongst political leaders, and we have this opportunity. I think it would have been very refreshing; I think it would have been a breath of fresh air to have seen the representatives from all three political Parties, as represented in the House, discussing a matter of this importance in a public forum. And, if there is an agreement amongst the two Opposition Parties to go along with that, why would that not be beneficial to the provision of these very services that we are in debate in the Estimates process for? How would that not be beneficial?

Mr. Chairman: I will allow the Minister to reply again, but I would remind you of Rule 39, on relevance and repetition.

Mrs. Oleson: I will remind the Member that—I cannot speak, of course, for the Liberal Party and the NDP Party—the Government will be represented tonight at the meeting.

Mr. Chairman: On item 3.(a)(1) Salaries. Shall the item pass?

Mr. Taylor: Might I ask the Minister if that representation, that would be at the annual meeting of Northwest Child and Family Services Agency, will it be political representation and, if so, and if it is not political representation, what level of the bureaucracy would we be talking about?

Mrs. Oleson: One of my caucus Members will be attending in my absence, a very able representative.

Mr. Taylor: May we have the name of that MLA, please?

Mrs. Oleson: The Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik).

Mr. Taylor: Thank you very much. I wanted to ask a question of the Minister in regard to the supposed misunderstanding on the part of the agency in the sense of how the invitation was conveyed and responded to, the suggestion being that the agency was in error on this matter and they should have known better. In effect, that is what I am taking from the answers from the Minister as to how we got to this confusing situation, and I would throw it back to the Minister for her responses that possibly the error was not on the part

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of the agency at all, but on the part of ministerial staff in not making clear to the agency that it was in effect a conditional invitation, because I am really, without a waiver on this, which you can have on a conditional invitation, or acceptance, pardon me. There is no waiver on here subject to scheduling, etc., that this invitation would have gone out in that way. I would suggest to the Minister, and she can choose to respond or not, that the error was on the part of the ministerial staff.

Mrs. Oleson: I have already indicated to previous questioning the fact that I have no control over what people print on invitations and I had indicated to that agency that my attendance hinged upon whether or not I was in Estimates.

I would ask, Mr. Chairman, if perhaps you would rule on the relevance of these, and the repetition involved in these questions because I have already answered, in every way I could think possible, the Members as to why or why not I am attending and I cannot answer for an agency of what they print on an invitation.

Mr. Chairman: I would again cite Rule 39, and we would like to get on with the Estimates under 3.(a)(1), Salaries, \$368,100.00.

Point of order, the Member for St. Johns.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Given the fact that the Minister has implied that the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) and myself have been deliberately delaying Estimates—

Mrs. Oleson: I did not say that.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: — and given the fact that some member of her staff has indicated to the representative of the Northwest Child & Family Services Agency that when they raised the question of why such short notice and why the Minister could not be there at all, the member of the staff said, “Talk to Avis and Judy,” I would think that suggests some notion that the Members of the Opposition, Members in good standing in this Chamber, are operating under some dubious kind of assumptions; and I certainly resent the implication of those remarks and would ask the Minister if she is prepared to retract anything that resembles deliberately delaying due process or due debate in the Estimates process and if she would totally disclaim—is that the word?—disassociate—thank you—herself from the remarks of her staff?

And given all of that kind of interference and that kind of innuendo, if she would now, and given the willingness on the part of the Members to cooperate, if she would now indicate, so we can get on to other things, if she is prepared to attend this evening’s panel discussion, knowing that we are all interested in a thorough discussion before Estimates and that we will find the two hours somewhere, somehow, someplace?

Mr. Chairman: On the same point of order, the Member for Morris.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Chairman, I sit here in disbelief wondering what it is

that the Members of the Opposition are trying to prove with respect to these Estimates. It is the convention of this House, as it has been for many years, that when Estimates are on, Members of the Government, and indeed of the Opposition, are expected to be here. It is of the highest ranking order.

I heard somebody say, “What happened the last week?” Last week, there was an attempt made by myself, as the Acting House Leader, to bring into place another committee so that time would not be lost. I received very little help from some people.

Mr. Chairman, this is the highest order. It requires absolute leave to accommodate some of the requests, or the request of the Opposition Party. It is the Minister’s responsibility to be here during these Estimates periods of time, and I would think that we would serve the whole process much better if we would move on to a detailed review of the report. The taxpayers of this Province expect it, nothing less. I would implore all Members of the Legislature to move along on the process.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to thank all Honourable Members for their comments, but I will have to rule all points of order out of order. Can we proceed with item 3.(a)(1), Salaries, \$368,100.00? On item 3.(a)(1), please, the Member for Wolseley.

* (1510)

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairperson, having heard your comments, I am going to ask one final question of the Minister on the matter previously, and that question to her is that is she in support of the concept of having a free and open debate sometime in the near future on the subject matter that would have been discussed at tonight’s Northwest Child and Family Services Agency, and if so, when is she prepared to commit to that debate because that is part of what this is about?

Mr. Chairman: We will accept that last question and then we would like to proceed with item 3.(a)(1)—the Honourable Minister.

Mrs. Oleson: I am always open to debate.

Mr. Chairman: On item 3.(a)(1), the Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: I just have one question in regard to the information that was tabled by the Minister. The Minister has indicated this bridging position that was Health and Social Development 1. Could the Minister indicate what was the nature, or what is the nature of this job? What are the main job functions?

Mrs. Oleson: It is a regional position. We can get back to you with that. It is in mental retardation.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us: Are there any other positions within the Department of Community Services which are classified at an HS1?

Mrs. Oleson: No.

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Mr. Chairman: Order, please. We would ask Members who would like to carry on a private conversation to move to another area of the room.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us—this is the only position that is an HS1. Could she tell me why, or what was the criteria used in deciding that this entry level position would be an HS1? I think of usual positions within the Departments of Health and Community Services that oftentimes they start at least at an HS2 and I am wondering why a decision was made to have the position at an HS1.

Mrs. Oleson: Classifications are done by the Civil Service Commission. So that is where you would have to obtain that information.

Ms. Gray: Just to clarify then, first of all, the Minister is indicating that the classification was done based on obviously a position description which was sent to the Civil Service Commission, and she has also indicated that she would be prepared to table or give us information as far as the main responsibilities associated with this position?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: That was all the questions I had in regard to the tabling of information today. Moving on to Community Social Services, my understanding is that under this particular section there is an indication that there is an indication that there are two SYs in Managerial and two SYs in Professional-Technical. Is this information, as presented in the Supplementary Estimates, up to date, or have there been some changes in regard to the structure under the administration of the Social Services Branch?

Mrs. Oleson: It is the same; one is the Assistant Deputy Minister and the other is Executive Director of Regional Operations.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister indicate to us who the two professional-technical SYs are, who those individuals are?

Mrs. Oleson: One is a Quality Assurance Coordinator, that position is vacant at the moment; and the other is a Planning and Standards Coordinator.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us who is the Planning and Standards Coordinator?

Mrs. Oleson: That is Mr. Hasiuk.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us this Quality Assurance position, how long has it been vacant, and is there a move to having this position refilled?

Mrs. Oleson: It is under review.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us how long this position has been vacant, approximately?

Mrs. Oleson: A year-and-a-half, I understand.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us—this position, this Quality Assurance position, has been vacant for a year-and-a-half. I do not want to make an assumption that it is not needed. Given that there has been no one in the job for a year-and-a-half, has someone been assuming these responsibilities because of the vacancy?

Mrs. Oleson: Parts of it have been handled by others, but it is an attempt to put a quality control in. As I said, we are review it.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister indicate to us what the major job responsibilities are of this Quality Assurance position?

Mrs. Oleson: We could table the job description.

Ms. Gray: That would be fine if a position description were tabled, but could the Minister certainly give us—usually position descriptions have four to six major job responsibilities—could the Minister indicate to us what they are?

Mrs. Oleson: If you want to go on to another question, to the Member, then we could get that for you in a few minutes.

Ms. Gray: In regard to this particular administrative section, we have an Executive Director who reports directly to the Assistant Deputy Minister. Is that correct?

Mrs. Oleson: Please ask the question again, sorry.

Ms. Gray: I believe the Minister had indicated that there was an Executive Director was one of the functions, I think that is what I heard. Does this Executive Director, who is that person, do they report directly to the Assistant Deputy Minister?

Mrs. Oleson: The person is Mr. Ross and he reports to Mr. Cels.

Ms. Gray: With the other two positions, Planning and Standards position and Quality Assurance, could the Minister indicate, who do these two individuals report directly to?

Mrs. Oleson: To the ADM.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to me—my understanding was that as well within the administration that we have an individual who is—this individual who is responsible for planning and standards, could the Minister elaborate on what that individual does?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, he is in charge of Program Planning and Standards Planning and being sure that the standards are being complied with.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I think I probably could have guessed that. I am wondering if the Minister though could tell us what programs are we referring to. Are we talking about provincial standards? Are we talking about standards within workshops, within residences?

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Are we talking about standards and relationship to case management, in relationship to how professionals function? Could she elaborate on the scope of this particular position?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, yes, all of the things the Member mentioned, and we could give her detail in a few minutes.

Ms. Gray: Does this individual who is responsible for Planning and Standards, what if any responsibilities would this individual have with vocational rehabilitation centres? Does this individual have some responsibilities to the residential care system?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, that person is there to ensure that programs are enunciated to the staff and to be sure that there is clarity of regulations, that people know the regulations and also some legislative review.

Ms. Gray: Does this individual have responsibilities in the Mental Retardation Program and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

* (1520)

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister clarify for me what the role is of Dale Brownlee, who I understand also has some responsibilities with the Mental Retardation Program?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, she is the Residential Care Coordinator and also for Support Services.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, given that the Welcome Home Program has wound down, and with the previous administration there was certainly a specific policy direction in regard to care of the mentally handicapped and deinstitutionalization of the mentally handicapped, could she indicate to us today what direction her department and her Government is taking in regard to deinstitutionalization of mentally handicapped?

Mrs. Oleson: Our Government wants to take a balanced approach to be sure that there are facilities and programs in the communities for people who are coming out of institutions. We agree that the ideal is in more a home-like setting, but we have no rigid attitude to the whole process. We believe there should be some flexibility and some choice for people.

I have, for the Member's information, the quality assurance question she asked. It investigates complaints and reviews cases to determine if standards are met by the delivering agencies, including regional offices and agencies.

Mr. Chairman: I would again ask for the cooperation of all Members. We are having some technical problems with the microphones today and I would ask, if you have a private conversation, that you withdraw to the back of the room.

Ms. Gray: I am sorry. Would the Minister mind repeating her last answer? I did not quite catch it all.

Mrs. Oleson: The quality control was the question that had been asked, and that person investigates complaints and reviews cases to determine if standards are met by delivering agencies, including regional offices and agencies. Is that the information the Member wanted?

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what the classification is of this position?

Mrs. Oleson: HS7.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us why this position has been left vacant for the last year and a half?

Mrs. Oleson: I understand it had to do with the reorganization within the branch and an attempt to keep within budget.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate these—it says that this individual reviewed complaints. What were the nature of these complaints and was this on behalf of the department? Could she explain that?

Mrs. Oleson: This person is proposed to answer complaints from various service receivers. It is not exactly in existence right now. It is proposed to do this.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that part of this position as well was to review cases to see if standards were met. Were there a minimum number of cases that were reviewed in a year? Was there a plan as to what this—although I know the position has been vacant, but obviously given that the Minister was not the Minister at the time, there still must have been some, one would think but not necessarily, rationale for why this position was created in the first place. I am wondering, was there an implementation plan or was this individual responsible for ensuring that so many cases were reviewed within various regional operations in a given year.

Could the Minister explain if in fact this was the case and what were these cases reviewed for? She mentioned standards. Are we talking about meeting professional standards? Are we talking about meeting program standards, or are we talking meeting other standards such as confidentiality guidelines, case recording standards, etc.?

Mrs. Oleson: This is a proposed position. There is money in the budget for it and the functions will be in place when that person is hired. But if the Member is talking about reviewing caseloads, I indicated in a previous discussion one of the other days that we met, Thursday I guess, that the M.R. audit included case-by-case reviews. So the cases were being reviewed even if this position was not in place yet.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that this position is a proposed position which, I assume, means it is a

proposal that is being looked at as to whether it will be filled. I was under the impression that this was a position that had existed a year and a half ago and had remained vacant. Could the Minister clarify?

Mrs. Oleson: It was vacant. It is proposed to fill the position this year.

Ms. Gray: Can you repeat that, please?

Mrs. Oleson: The position was vacant but we are proposing to fill it.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated there is a proposal that it will be filled. Could the Minister indicate where the initiation came from as to—what has been identified as to the need for establishing this type of position?

Mrs. Oleson: The ADM requested the position to ensure quality of care.

Ms. Gray: What relationship would this position have with the various regions throughout the province?

Mrs. Oleson: That person would work with the regions and review their cases.

Ms. Gray: I had asked earlier if this position was reviewing cases in regard to—is this in relation to determining whether staff are meeting program standards, or would this also be reviewing cases to determine whether staff are meeting professional standards and are meeting social work practice standards?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, both. The two are tied together.

Ms. Gray: The Minister had indicated that her department was committed to a balanced approach in providing services. Could the Minister indicate, will there be any specific initiatives from her department this year to actually promote and encourage the deinstitutionalization of the mentally handicapped?

* (1530)

Mrs. Oleson: Our main goal is to stabilize the existing system which, I am sure the Member is aware, has a great deal of problems with funding and with many aspects of the program.

Ms. Gray: The Minister indicates a need to stabilize the existing system. Could she indicate to us what problems have been identified in this existing system?

Mrs. Oleson: The major things that have been identified are per diems are a problem, and another thing that has been identified to me in meeting with agencies is lack of training. There is a large staff turnover. That is one of the problems. We need to review the standards, and there are also problems with regard to boards who need training in order to know and understand what type of services they need to provide. So when I speak of stabilizing the system, that is the sort of thing that

we need to look at before we could proceed much further.

Ms. Gray: The Minister indicated one of the problems identified was per diems. Could she explain what the nature of the problem is?

Mrs. Oleson: The per diems have not been raised since 1985. That is causing a problem for some of the agencies, if not all of the agencies.

Ms. Gray: The basic per diem rate has not been raised in the last three or four years, not even raised to cost of living. Could the Minister indicate to us if there is a plan for her Government this fiscal year to increase the per diems at least to a cost-of-living increase or at least at the rate of inflation?

Mrs. Oleson: The Member is referring to an item that will come under (d) further down in this division. Perhaps she would like to ask the question then.

Ms. Gray: No, I would actually like to ask the question now since per diems have been identified. The Minister herself has indicated there has been a problem. Since this particular section of the department is dealing with the entire services to the mentally handicapped and certainly the Minister has indicated a need to stabilize the existing system, could the Minister indicate to us if her Government has any plans to increase the basic per diem rate certainly at least at the rate of inflation, at least increase those amounts by that?

Mrs. Oleson: We have increased by 3 percent plus and the annualization will have to be indicated because some of the people just came into care part-way through the year. That is a funding. I also remind the Member that we are reviewing the whole situation. One of the reviews that is under way is the one to be done by Mr. Wiens in connection with Winnserv.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if either herself or her senior staff have had representation by the Residential Coalition of Service Providers in regard to specifically the per diem rates?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes. That group, I am sure, has identified problems with the staff, but I also met with them in my office. They gave me a presentation on some of the difficulties they are experiencing.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us some of these problems which she has identified? We have talked about the one example of per diems. Are there currently in place implementation plans as to how some of these problems will be resolved, or is the Minister indicating to us that these problems which she has identified are all under review?

Mrs. Oleson: There are plans being developed to try and address these situations.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister elaborate for us as to what these plans are?

Mrs. Oleson: We are attempting to identify just what the per diem needs are and to try to, for the moment,

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address it with short-term solutions. Of course also, there is a very great need for planning for the future.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what problems have been identified in regard to per diem rates and the relationship of those per diem rates to the administrative costs of running a residence?

Mrs. Oleson: Some of the costs that have been identified have been increased shelter costs, increased Autopac rates, changes in need of care for people and the per diems need to address that.

There is an administrative grant given to the residences but some of them are finding it very difficult to live with within this.

Mr. Gray: The Minister has indicated there are administrative grants given to the residences. Is this grant given to all residences across the province?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, is this administrative grant in a lump sum that is given or is it tied in and calculated as part of the basic per diem rate?

Mrs. Oleson: It is part of the per diem rate. It is calculated, it is part of the per diem.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, are there community residences or boards in the Province of Manitoba who, as well as receiving the basic per diem rates which apparently administrative costs have been calculated to be part of, if they also receive above and beyond that an administrative grant for the running of their operation?

Mrs. Oleson: All grants are paid to workshops, but for residences they are part of the per diem.

Ms. Gray: To clarify, the Minister is indicating that no community agencies received an administrative grant for the running of their residential system?

Mrs. Oleson: Not for the residence, but the same operator could have received a grant for another purpose, but not for residences.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that administrative costs are calculated in the basic per diem rate. Could she indicate what other factors are taken into consideration in that calculation?

* (1540)

Mrs. Oleson: That would include all the costs of the residential care. It would include the salaries for staff, the shelter, etc., etc., but all the costs associated with keeping that person in that residence.

Ms. Gray: If the basic per diem rate which is calculated includes all costs associated with the care of that individual in the residence, could the Minister indicate to us then what additional care and support would be?

Mrs. Oleson: That would be in the case where the resident could not function in that residence without this and has a special need, then that would be considered additional care and support. That person could not function without this additional care.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us how is it determined which individuals would receive additional care and support dollars and which individuals and residences would not be eligible for that?

Mrs. Oleson: It would be directly related to the specific needs of that individual if they had great severity of need. For instance, if they needed one-on-one care, that is the type of thing that we are talking about here. It is based on an assessment by the worker.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, do most individuals in community residences, are most of them just receiving, or is the residence just receiving a per diem rate; or are a lot of the individuals in residences needing care and supervision such that the residences are receiving the additional care and support dollars as well?

Mrs. Oleson: A large portion of the clients need additional care and support but not, of course, all of them. We can give you a breakdown later.

Ms. Gray: I am still somewhat unclear—if the Minister could indicate—how is the determination made? What criteria are used to determine whether a client is eligible or whether a residence is eligible for additional care and support dollars on behalf of a client?

Mrs. Oleson: It is involved with the individual, not the residence. The criteria is that if the person needs additional staffing for training or provision of safety, therapy—for instance, speech therapy—or special equipment that they require. I could give the Member additional information on additional care and support. It is provided to purchase individualized training, skill development and specialized care services for mentally handicapped adults in community residences and parental homes, foster homes or other residential facilities.

The per diem rates are based on assessed needs of the individual. Level I does not apply; Level II is up to \$8.39; Level III up to \$16.78, Level IV up to \$25.17 and Level V up to \$33.56. As of March 1, 1988, service was provided to 699 adults.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating that additional care and support dollars were provided to 699 adults?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that the additional care and support dollars are related to the client; however, it would be the community residence who would receive those dollars. Am I not correct?

Mrs. Oleson: Generally, that would be the case but not necessarily.

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Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us where those exceptions would be?

Mrs. Oleson: One example would be a purchase of therapy for the individual, therapy services.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate—she has been referring to a basic per diem rate and we have been speaking about additional care and support dollars—do residences sometimes, are they able to utilize Crisis dollars as well in regard to a particular client who may have special needs?

Mrs. Oleson: The region does, not the residence itself.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, if clients are living in community residences, may be receiving other services which would be paid from Crisis Intervention dollars?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, but for short-term periods.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what the criteria is for Crisis Intervention with regard to time frames? She mentioned short term. What is the time frame of the short term?

Mrs. Oleson: Up to a month.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if then, with Crisis Intervention dollars, it would be very unusual if Crisis dollars were used for a particular client beyond a four-week period?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, it would be unusual.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister have information for us as to how many clients there are where Crisis Intervention monies are being utilized for a program for them?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, I can indicate to the Member that I can, first of all, give her some more information on Crisis Intervention, and how what funds are used and why. Then I can give her the number of clients served in '87-88.

Crisis Intervention is a key support service to maintain people in community life. This service developed in '85-86, allows for support staffing, special intervention supplies, alternative facilities, and compensatory funding, to be provided to alleviate a crisis situation involving a mentally-handicapped individual. The primary goal of the Crisis Intervention Program is to prevent the need for long-term placement in a more restrictive setting. The clients served in Central, '87-88 was five; Eastman, '87-88, five; Interlake, six; Norman, three; Parklands, five; Thompson, seven; Westman, seven; Winnipeg, 86; for a total of 124.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if she has a breakdown of the three Winnipeg regions, breakdown of the '86?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes. Sorry, I could have given that at the time, too. Winnipeg South is 41; Winnipeg West Central, 22; and Winnipeg North, 23.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister have any information? Is there a limit or any type of guidelines as to the amount of dollars that can be used in developing a Crisis Intervention Program?

Mrs. Oleson: One of the guidelines, of course, would be the funds that were budgeted.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what funds had been budgeted for various regions, for Crisis Intervention dollars, actually in the past fiscal year, first of all?

Mrs. Oleson: Last year it was \$171.5 thousand for '87-88. We can give her the breakdown later.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what funds have been budgeted for '88-89?

Mrs. Oleson: \$176.6 thousand.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, these Crisis Intervention dollars and this total budgeted amount, were individual amounts then allocated to each region throughout the province, so that they were aware and they had their own amount of Crisis Intervention dollars with which to work?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they were allocated last year.

Ms. Gray: Therefore given the Minister's response, I would assume that each region was aware of the Crisis Intervention dollars, and would know when they were coming close to their limit so as to not exceed it?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they should be aware of that, and also some would spend more and some spend less, so you would be able to transfer money from one region to another, if there was a greater need. They would not be allocated and rigidly imposed upon them for that one region. It would be used as a global fund.

* (1550)

Ms. Gray: If a region was coming to their limit for Crisis Intervention dollars, what would be the process that they could use to receive approval, which I am assuming they would need beyond the region to exceed their budget allocation for Crisis Intervention?

Mrs. Oleson: The regional director would advise the director.

Ms. Gray: For clarification, would the regional director advise the director or would they ask for approval to exceed their budgeted amount?

Mrs. Oleson: They would put in a request, a submission for extra funds if they found they were short of funds.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if any of the 10 regions in Manitoba, did any of them exceed their Crisis Intervention budgets last year, '87-88?

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Mrs. Oleson: They all exceeded and there was supplemental funding given.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, the supplemental funding that was given, was that taken into consideration as far as determining the increase in dollars for this year's Crisis Intervention monies?

Mrs. Oleson: In part that was considered, but the rest of it will be looked at with regard to the overall budget.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that in '87-88, \$171.5 were budgeted for Crisis Intervention. Could the Minister indicate to us what the final amount was as far as the actual dollars that were spent in that particular area?

Mrs. Oleson: Approximately \$380,000.00.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate for us if that exceeded amount has been taken into consideration in the new budgeted amount for '88-89?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, we are looking at that to be sure that it is not the weak infrastructure that is causing that extra money to be needed and looking at it with a view that perhaps we could improve the system so that it would not have to be Crisis dollars, so many Crisis dollars earmarked for that.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, before we talk about a weak infrastructure, I still would like to seek further clarification. Could the Minister indicate to us how would staff determine whether Crisis Intervention dollars were needed as opposed to requesting additional care and support dollars for one to one programming within a community residence?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, sometimes it is a case of temporary breakdown as opposed to ongoing need. All these things have to be looked at.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Gray: No. Mr. Chairperson, does the Minister have an indication as to what was—two things—what was an average amount of dollars spent per client out of Crisis Intervention dollars, and also what was the range of dollars that would be spent for Crisis Intervention per client?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, we do not have that kind of information but it is possible—I am led to believe it is possible to calculate out for the Member and get to her at another time.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, we will await that information. Could the Minister indicate to us, with these Crisis Intervention dollars what would be the process for approval of spending these monies?

Mrs. Oleson: The regional director would authorize it at the request of the supervisor.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us this request from the supervisor? Was it a written request where

there are specific guidelines and specifications that supervisors must follow in order to request dollars for Crisis Intervention?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, there are guidelines and they would have to be followed for every specific request.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what these guidelines are?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, we could table a copy of those guidelines at another time.

Ms. Gray: Since we are tabling a lot of information here, I am wondering if the Minister could check. I had received some information from parents in community groups indicating that there was a concern that in fact some individual clients were receiving Crisis Intervention dollars for long periods of time while extending the four weeks or the one month as indicated by the Minister. I am wondering if she would be willing to check for us as well whether in fact there have been—is it one or two cases?—a number of situations where in fact Crisis Intervention dollars have been utilized for longer periods of time other than the four weeks.

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, that is why guidelines have to be put into place because that had happened. But perhaps, for the information of the Member, prior to April 1, 1988, many situations received Crisis Intervention funding for longer than one month. New guidelines which came into effect on the 1st of April, curtailed this practice and improved speedier and long-term planning. Some of the things that were discovered was that this Crisis Intervention was masking needs and other programs, and these need attention and not the crisis. The crisis may not have occurred if the other programs were being followed more carefully.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating that in fact the Crisis Intervention guidelines before April 1, 1988, were in fact very inadequate and now she is indicating that we have had an improvement in these guidelines?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what specifically the improvements have been? What extra guidelines or added procedures have been put in place to improve the expenditures in this area?

Mrs. Oleson: The main one was the one-month limit, but we could table those guidelines for the Member.

* (1600)

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if a lot of the Crisis Intervention dollars involve expenses for alternate placements?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, some of the money spent would be as the Member suggested, but we will give her a breakdown of the ways in which the money was spent and for what purpose and what type of crisis. Most of that was for additional staff for the residences.

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Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us—she has mentioned the additional staff for community residences—was this one way that Crisis Intervention dollars was spent, that the extra staff would be hired in community residences?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, if someone was in need of extra care, then that was one of the ways in which it would be addressed is to put extra staff on a temporary basis to help that particular situation.

Ms. Gray: Would these Crisis Intervention dollars that were used for extra staff in residences for a particular client only be used after all the additional care and support dollars, which were eligible or available for that client, were exhausted?

Mrs. Oleson: It is indicated that before April 1 that was not the case. That is why there were changes made.

Ms. Gray: I am certainly pleased to hear that there have been changes made in the Crisis Intervention guidelines.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate for us, when staff submit a request or supervisors submit a request for Crisis Intervention dollars, is one of the requirements of that proposal or request that there be some sort of plan written down or if there is a plan indicated as to what is supposed to happen at the end of time or at the end of the Crisis Intervention dollars being used. Is it mandatory that a long-term plan also be part of the request for using those Crisis dollars?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, that plan is supposed to be developed. That is why they give a month's time in which that can be done. It is to be done within one and two weeks if possible, but it is mandatory to have a plan in place.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, it is mandatory that a plan be in place, is this also a new guideline? Was this in place before April, 1988?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, it is a new guideline.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us—do community residences and workshops—are they aware of Crisis Intervention dollars and do they themselves have any direct access to dollars?

Mrs. Oleson: They are aware of it, but they do not have direct access. It is the case managers that have access.

Ms. Gray: Going back to her earlier comments, and we are speaking about stabilizing the existing system, could the Minister indicate to us that—she also said that one of the problems was there is a review of standards, could she explain what standards are being reviewed?

Mrs. Oleson: Could the Member perhaps tell us in what context she is asking this? We are reviewing The Social Services Administration Act. Is that what she is referring to?

Ms. Gray: I am referring to a comment that the Minister made this afternoon when she mentioned that one thing her Government would be looking at was stabilizing the existing system. She mentioned a number of problems had been identified. One of the phrases she used was a review of standards.

Mrs. Oleson: One of the things I was referring to was the Wiens Report which will be coming forward, which will give us an indication of some of the needs and there needs to be a standards review. There needs to be a review of training and per diems. I think I enumerated some of those things at the time when I made that statement. The Wiens Report will be part of that review.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if the program standards of the department are being reviewed?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they are.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister indicate to us what have been some of the problems that have been identified in regard to the present program standards and what is the nature of that review?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, the things that have been identified are communication and staff salaries, staff ratios, staff qualifications. Those are some of the things that have been identified.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, in regard to staff ratios, is there an acceptable standard as to what staff ratios should be in two areas: one in relationship to the number of cases per fieldworker; and also staff ratios in the community residences and in workshops?

Mrs. Oleson: I understand, for the information of the Member, that there is not a great deal of consensus on what the staff ratio should be and that is one of the things that we are attempting to deal with and to come to some agreement on.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate that lack of consensus is she referring to staff ratios in all those three areas that I mentioned?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, in regard to staff ratios for community residences and workshops, are there are now currently guidelines as to what those ratios would be or should be so that community residences are aware when they open up a community residence or a workshop is aware?

Mrs. Oleson: The licensing standards are the only standards that currently exist.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister or her senior staff have some ballpark figure or ratio of what might be acceptable staff ratios, in other words, fieldworker staff ratios? Also would those ratios be different from urban to rural Manitoba?

Mrs. Oleson: In attempting to resolve that we are having a workload management study done to try to come to some agreement and understanding of what is the ideal staffing ratio in those different fields.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate is this workload study something which a Mr. Jerry Kaplan is involved with?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate who initiated the workload study?

Mrs. Oleson: Children's Special Services.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what the objectives are of this workload review?

Mrs. Oleson: I think just our conversation back and forth in the last few minutes has indicated a need for some staffing ratios to be established and a better understanding of workloads.

* (1610)

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate—she mentioned that Children's Special Services had initiated this review. They would deal with families and children who would be receiving services. Certainly, when we are speaking of workload review, I would think we are not only speaking of a number of cases, whether they be cases where the individuals are under 18 or over 18, but they would also involve a workload analysis involving other responsibilities that staff would have, such as relationship with community residences, responsibilities to a particular workshop, other responsibilities staff may have as part of their role as a regional staff member.

For my information, I am wondering if the Minister has available today what the objectives are of this particular workload study.

Mrs. Oleson: I think we have already discussed the need for this. The initiative came from the Children's Special Services but the whole gamut of different type of service is being looked at. It happened to be initiated in that one particular area but the Member herself has identified a range of different services. All those staff ratios have to be looked at and the whole thing is being studied.

Ms. Gray: This workload study that has been initiated, could the Minister indicate to us what the time frame is of this study, and is this a study that is being conducted province-wide?

Mrs. Oleson: It has not been looked at province-wide yet. There is a steering committee. That report will be given to it, the preliminary, and then it will be looked at province-wide.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, if the study is not province-wide, is this study limited to a particular area of the province?

Mrs. Oleson: I indicated it was not province-wide at this moment, but it is just the first step. Then it will be province-wide after that. It will cover the whole province.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us at what stage this review is at? Have the steering committee just met? Are their objectives and terms of reference established?

Mrs. Oleson: The steering committee is just about to receive a preliminary report.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate who—this steering committee, who is on this steering committee?

Mrs. Oleson: We can get the list of names for the Member at next sitting, but we do not have it at the moment.

Ms. Gray: This steering committee, is this composed of all civil servants?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, it is staff.

Ms. Gray: Is this steering committee the working group who will actually be doing the workload study?

Mrs. Oleson: No.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate who the steering committee will be receiving this preliminary report from?

Mrs. Oleson: From Mr. Caplan.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, where is Mr. Caplan getting his data from, if this is something which is not province-wide, this report. What is the nature of the preliminary report?

Mrs. Oleson: He is getting his information from Winnipeg regional staff, but as I said before, it is just the preliminary part of the study.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, is there a pilot project of some sort under way?

Mrs. Oleson: No, not yet. That is a possibility.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, there have been a number of workload studies that have been conducted in the past, and it has always been—these studies—one of the things that has come out of the studies is that it is always very, very difficult to determine exactly the workload in regard to what is reasonable for one person to assume, and the Minister had indicated as well, I believe, that part of this workload management study would be looking at communications. Could she expand on that thought for us?

Mrs. Oleson: I referred to communications with regard to program standards, communication of policy and regulations to staff. That was to do with the program standards that that reference was made.

Ms. Gray: With regard to the program standards, am I correct in saying that program standards are developed at a provincial level and then communicated to the regions? What I am really asking is, program standards are not developed at a regional level, am I correct?

Mrs. Oleson: The Member is correct.

Ms. Gray: With this particular individual, Mr. Hasiuk, who is reviewing or whose job is involving planning and standards, are there any particular areas or issues which Mr. Hasiuk is looking at that involve program standards or that involve guidelines or lack of guidelines?

Mrs. Oleson: Vocational rehabilitation.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated vocational rehabilitation. That is a fairly broad field. Could she narrow down exactly what he is looking at in regard to that area?

Mrs. Oleson: He is looking at the whole program with guidelines and standards and future direction.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, does Mr. Hasiuk have some responsibilities then for the implementation of the VRDP Committee in the province?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if there are other staff at a senior management level, other than Mr. Hasiuk, who are involved with the vocational rehabilitation services?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, there are other staff involved.

Ms. Gray: And who are they?

Mrs. Oleson: We could give the Member a full organizational chart at the next sitting. There is a variety of staff who are involved in this, so if the Member would wish we could give her an organizational chart.

Ms. Gray: I am assuming there are not that many staff who are involved at a senior level with vocational rehabilitation, I can probably name two. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us—the reason for my question is I am trying to obtain an understanding of how this particular administrative branch, the responsibilities of this branch in regard to vocational rehabilitation, since there are other staff at a senior level who also deal with vocational rehabilitation services, such as I understand, Mr. Michael Klachefsky, and Mr. Gordon Quinn.

Mrs. Oleson: The people the Member referred to are program staff. The senior staff who are involved are the Assistant Deputy Minister and Mr. Hasiuk.

* (1620)

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us the role of Mr. Bob Burns?

Mrs. Oleson: He is a senior program consultant.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister explain? Mr. Burns is a senior program consultant, what program is he involved with?

Mrs. Oleson: Vocational rehab.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister explain the relationship of Mr. Ernie Hasiuk and Mr. Bob Burns and how that relates to staff such as Gordon Quinn and Michael Klachefsky who, I understand, are also involved with VR services?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated before, I could provide the Member with a staff organizational chart and she would be better able to understand that.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister have that chart with her today?

Mrs. Oleson: No. I indicated before we could give it to the Member at another sitting.

Ms. Gray: Who does Mr. Bob Burns report to?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Hasiuk.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate if Mr. Burns is part of the salaries in this appropriation that is now under consideration?

Mrs. Oleson: I understand his salary is under (d)(1).

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what the specific—I mean the four or five main job responsibilities are of this consultant?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, he is involved with cost sharing, with program reviews and with service reviews, and one of those all encompassing designations of "other duties as assigned."

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister explain for me what is involved in service reviews as opposed to program reviews?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, a program review would be the entire program. A service review would be part of that program and how it was delivered.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what particular programs within VR services are being reviewed? Have any been initiated this year for a special review?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, he is working on future directions for vocational rehab and on various training components of that.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I do have some further questions on the area of vocational rehabilitation in regard to the philosophy of this Government in relation to the employment of the mentally handicapped and the post-mentally ill, and the whole area surrounding

minimum wage or lack of. I will save those questions for another day.

At the moment, just one more question, could the Minister indicate to us what the classification is and the salary is of Mr. Burns?

Mrs. Oleson: We do not have all the staff qualifications here or the salaries. It is in Public Accounts, if the Member wants to wait till then, or we could provide the information later.

Ms. Gray: I will wait for the information Estimates, thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister give us some idea of her Government's philosophy with respect to the whole area of the mentally retarded?

Mrs. Oleson: As I had indicated to the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) in an earlier question, our Government is interested in taking a balanced approach to the issue. We believe that institutions still play a role in the care of the mentally retarded. We also believe that it is ideal to have people in a small setting, in a more home-like atmosphere. We certainly think that people should have a choice. Parents should have a choice where they want to have their children, whether they choose to keep them at home or put them in an institution or put them in a smaller setting. There needs to be flexibility in the system.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: What are the Minister's or this Government's plans, both short- and long-term plans, for institutional care and deinstitutionalization?

Mrs. Oleson: In the shorter term, as I indicated before when the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) was asking questions about this, we need to stabilize the situation that has come about during and following the Welcome Home Program to ensure that there are programs and policies in place to take care of people who have been brought into the communities through the Welcome Home Program. We need to stabilize, as I said, that situation to be sure that everyone is well taken care of and is in a setting suitable to them.

We also have to, in the shorter term, be sure to maintain the residences like the MDC in a proper level so that the people who are in the institution get the best possible care that we can give them. In the longer term, we will have to look at how we can provide the resources so that as many as want to and as many as possible can come into community settings and smaller settings, if they so wish.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Does the Minister or her Government have any goals or objectives with respect to level of institution or deinstitutional care?

Mrs. Oleson: We do not intend—at least I certainly do not intend to set a number and say this number will go here and this number will go there. What we want is a choice of facility for people, of quality facilities,

so that everyone will get the best possible care. That is what we work to in the longer term.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate whether one can get to a choice of care or flexibility in the system without some deinstitutionalization?

Mrs. Oleson: We need to make sure that the infrastructure is well put in place with regard to safety and care of residents, and that is one of the reasons of course we are having Mr. Wiens do a report, a study on the Winnserv situation. I am sure we will learn a great deal from that.

When I say that we want to give people choice, I mean just that. The families may choose to keep their mentally handicapped children at home, and they may need some respite care. There are various ways in which we may be able to help them. Some families may choose the institutional route. As I said before, we will want to make sure that the institutions that we have are well operated and give a pleasant as possible environment for the people who choose to live there for whatever reason.

Also we want to make sure that the residences, the standards are kept up and the infrastructure is in place so that there will be day programs for people who need them. All these have to be looked at with the constraints of budgets, as the Member will well know from having been in Government. What we would like to do and what we can do sometimes have to be weighed, and sometimes we have to wait for the things that we really would like to do with regard to all facets of care, of elderly care, of handicapped care, of children. Some hard decisions have to be made.

* (1630)

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: On that, what would the Minister or this Government like to do with respect to care of the mentally retarded? What is their position, their philosophy with respect to the breakdown now of types of care available? Does the Minister have an opinion on the current situation?

Mrs. Oleson: It would be ideal for everyone to be in the community they chose to be in and be in the type of residence they wanted to be in. Ultimately we may get to that but that sometimes is difficult to achieve. But we want people, like any other person in society, to have some choice of where they live with the best possible care that we can provide for them.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is the Minister receiving representations from community groups or individuals who want more institutional care?

Mrs. Oleson: No, I have not had representation from people who want more institutional care. I have had representation from people who want the institutional care to be better and the environment improved, but I have not had people who want more institutions built if that is what the Member is asking. I have had meetings with people with varying views of how mentally handicapped people should be helped and I listen to all those views.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Does the Minister have a view about the current situation here in Manitoba with respect to institutional care versus deinstitutional care?

Mrs. Oleson: I think I indicated before that I am interested in seeing a balanced approach. There are people who want to have their families stay in an institution, and I think we should have some respect for their wishes. There are also people who want their children, families to be in smaller home-like settings and we respect their wishes. It is not possible to get a perfect situation for everyone, but we work toward the best possible solution.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Does that mean the Minister or her Government has no plans with respect to downsizing of institutions?

Mrs. Oleson: We are at the process of developing plans. As I indicated before, we feel that we should take a look, now that the Welcome Home Program has wound down, at the whole aspect of it, take a look at the safety net we are providing for people, take a look at the residential situation, take a look at the programs that are involved, take a look at the per diems that are involved. I am sure it is highly possible, if the NDP Government had stayed in power, they too would have felt that they should take a look and evaluate the situation now and see where they will proceed. There is no way that we could say at this point, yes, we will deinstitutionalize everybody or, no, we will not. We have to take a look at where we are and how we can, as I said before, stabilize the program.

There are people who are in desperate need of day programs. They are in the community and they are not able to get them whereas, when they were in the institution, they did have programs. So we have to look at all these things and rationalize them to be sure that we are going in the right direction and that we are meeting the needs of people and the desires of people as much as possible.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I do not think anyone here is suggesting and I am certainly not, by way of my questions, suggesting all or nothing, moving all towards deinstitutionalization and so on. I think an NDP Government would have been the first to say, as a province, we have a terrible record for responding to the community's wishes and for moving in the direction of some further steps towards deinstitutionalization. I am not getting any sense from the Minister that she has a position or her Government has a position about the situation currently in Manitoba.

There are many who would say that this province has one of the worst records in the country for moving towards deinstitutionalization and for responding to the needs of people in the community to keep the mentally retarded in the community, in the family, in the community, in the workplaces of this province. I am asking the Minister what her Government's policy and philosophy is generally. I would like some indication of where she is starting from, what base of information, what view does she approach this area from.

Mrs. Oleson: We are starting right now from the point of having to sort out problems that were created by

the Welcome Home Program proceeding too fast without enough planning. That is what we are starting from now. As I indicated before we have to stabilize the situation, I will repeat, and make sure that there are facilities, programs for people in the community before we would go into a holus-bolus approach of putting more people into the community. We do not want to force them to be in the institution or in the community. I indicated before, our policy is to have a balanced approach, looking at the needs of people and the desires of people and where they wish to live, all these within the context of very limited budgets.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I would gather from all of the Minister's comments, in response to my many different questions, that the Minister does not have or her Government or her party does not have a position with respect to current level of institutionalization, that they have no goals in terms of moving towards downsizing of the institutions, which is something that is an issue that stands apart from looking at the pilot project around Welcome Home, at looking at the current situation at MDC. It is a broad question, a broad policy matter and, from everything the Minister has said, I can only assume that, by not having any goals or commitments or policies with respect to the deinstitutionalization, she is not unhappy and her Government is not unhappy with the current situation, and not at all concerned with the concerns raised by numerous groups and individuals that we have not yet achieved an appropriate balance.

Mrs. Oleson: I did not indicate we had achieved a perfect balance. I had indicated that we want some balance in the system. I have indicated, to my way of thinking and other Members of the Government, it would be a mistake to decide on a number that you were going to deinstitutionalize when there are so many crying needs in the community for programs and residences and levels of care. I think we had better take a good look at the program and not be into a numbers business. I do not like to look at people as numbers and say 60 will be deinstitutionalized or 40 or 30 or whatever. These are people we are talking about, not numbers.

* (1640)

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: It would seem that we have, over the last number of months, received a number of indications that there is considerable demand on the part of individuals, families and community groups for programs and policies and resources at the community level, and it would appear that there is certainly an unmet need at the one end of the spectrum. I would like to know generally the Minister's perceptions of those demands.

Could she indicate for us trends with respect to demands on the system in terms of respite care, in terms of group home care, in terms of day program care, in terms of vocational rehabilitation, in terms of follow-up in the workplace, programs and so on? What kind of—if she could indicate to us whether or not there have been increases in demand in those areas and how her department is responding to those

increases, what would appear to be increased demands in those areas.

Mrs. Oleson: If the Member is indicating by "increased demands," increased demands for funding, I can assure her that all the areas that she has mentioned I have heard indications, facts presented to me that there is a very desperate need for funding in most of the areas that the Member indicates. There is need for per diem increases, there is need for training in pretty well every aspect of the MR programs. There is an increased need that has been there for a considerable length of time and that has not been totally addressed.

As the Member should know, we inherited—this demand did not start on the 9th of May when I was sworn in as a Minister. These problems had been there for some time and there needs to be a focus of planning, an identification of priority needs. All these things I assure the Member that we are looking at with the idea and the intention of improving the system, improving the way that we deliver programs, and for the Member to indicate that these are just new demands being placed, they are not new. They have been there for some time.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Perhaps it was the wrong choice of a word. I think the Minister knows what I was intending to say and that is, of course, ever-increasing demands on the system. Certainly, the former administration was—Members of that Government would have been the first to admit that demands were increasing and demands were not all being met and that changes had to happen with respect to the system. Changes had to happen with respect to level of institutional care versus the deinstitutionalized care in order to address those areas of concern, those growing demands on the system.

My question to the Minister still is: What trends can she report with respect to increasing demands for respite care, for group home care, for vocational rehabilitation programs and so on? If we could start with those three, perhaps?

Mrs. Oleson: There are more demands, as I indicated before, for day programs because people are in the communities and there is need for programs for workshops—that type of thing for them to do. There is need for more respite care because families are being encouraged to have their children at home and there is more acceptance in the community for people who keep their children at home.

As the Member is aware, a few years ago institutionalization was the norm, and we recognize that is not the way to go. Society is changing in their attitudes to the way people want to live and giving people more freedom these days of whether or not—they are not putting the pressures on them. I have friends who had a considerable amount of pressure put on them not to keep their child at home and they wanted to keep her there. So I recognize and understand what was taking place. But the communities now are more accepting of individual needs and wants than they used to be. All these things then create pressure on the

system to provide within the community some more programs, as I indicated, day programs, respite care, and all the things that go with the changes that have taken place because of deinstitutionalization.

With regard to the deinstitutionalization, that will be an ongoing thing as there are places made available in the community. As people are not putting their children into the institution in the first place, there will be less need and use of institutions. So it is not something that can be achieved in the short-term. It is something that will evolve; some of us may not think it will evolve quickly enough, but these are all the things that need to be addressed and that we are certainly trying to address.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate how her department is dealing on a short-term basis with the growing demands for community-based care, whether it be respite care, group home care or day programs? I know that there was originally some concern raised previously, I think by the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) in the House about a perceived freeze on respite care. The Minister at that time indicated that no one person requiring respite care would be turned away.

Could the Minister indicate what is the current policy with respect to new people coming into the system requiring respite care, to new groups coming forward with proposals to establish group homes, to people requiring group home care, and to new people coming into the system requiring day programs or vocational rehabilitation programming?

Mrs. Oleson: With regard to the respite care, the policy is the same as it has been. There is a budget struck and it is increased every year. People are served in that way and we are looking at ways that we can approve that. With regard to the other programs that the Member mentioned, then every year we can add more by increasing budgets.

I guess it is another one of those areas in which we would all like to put more funds but we have to realize there is a limit, that we cannot meet every single need. But we try to prioritize within the department to free up more funds where we see that they are needed. We are trying to work toward getting as many people the service and the care they need, as possible. But that ugly word "budgetary" restraint, of course comes up every so often in discussions as it did when the Member herself was a Cabinet Minister, I am sure, and we have to work within the allocations that we have. But we do try to improve it as time goes on.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: If I could just ask some specific questions on each of those areas. With respect to respite care, the Minister has indicated each regional office receives a budget and has some flexibility in terms of responding to demands for respite care. Does the Minister have any contingency plans or resources through the department in the event that a regional office can not meet new requests coming into the system? What happens when the budget is used up, period?

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* (1650)

Mrs. Oleson: I am sure it is probably the same as has happened in other years. You sometimes can prioritize within the department, or reallocate funds within the department, but of course there are limitations.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Notwithstanding that, is the Minister prepared to stand by her previous statement that no person, no individual will be turned away, will have a request not met for respite care?

Mrs. Oleson: Some people may not get as much respite care as they would like. That would be the way we could organize it so that every one can get some. That is what will be done. But we have to look at the whole picture and the total funds allocated. As I said, they could be reprioritized. In some cases, you can redirect through the department. What we can do is allow everyone—try to accommodate everyone—but some of them may not get the amount of respite service that they would like. They will all get some.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: It would seem to me that would be an awfully difficult judgment call to make. Does the Minister have any directives or criteria that she is sharing with regional offices to make that job a little easier? How does one judge when someone is getting too much or too little respite care?

Mrs. Oleson: There should be no concern for respite services in the immediate future. They are being funded. There sometimes will have to be some movement, but their staff can go on what has been taking place in the past, and they can project. So they may not hit it right on, but they know from past experience what is needed. It says, in individual cases, eligibility can be increased up to one week at the discretion of the regional director. So there is some flexibility within the system.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: With respect to day programs and vocational rehabilitation programming, what is the practice, the short-term plans, of the Minister's department to respond to new requests coming into the system?

Mrs. Oleson: Sorry. I wonder—would the Member repeat that, please? I did not catch the whole question, sorry.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: It is basically the same question as I had with respite care. With respect to day programming, what is the practice and policy of the department currently for dealing with new demands on the system, in other words, new people coming into the system requiring placement in one of the facilities throughout the province?

Mrs. Oleson: At present, there is enough turnover that some people are leaving the system and some coming in, so that there is enough turnover to be able to accommodate it.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: It was my understanding, in the past, there were always a good number of eligible

persons requiring day programming who were not receiving that programming, just because there was not room in the system. Has that waiting list, in effect, dissipated?

Mrs. Oleson: Not totally, no. It is not completely dissipated, but there is some flexibility because of some people moving in and some out.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is the Minister then indicating that there has been no cap or no freeze on new requests for day programming?

Mrs. Oleson: No, there has been no freeze.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: On the same area with respect to requests for establishment of new group homes, could the Minister indicate what is happening to requests for new homes?

Mrs. Oleson: We receive ongoing requests, and we are in the process of looking at a couple of them right now.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: How many requests are there currently for establishing new group homes?

Mrs. Oleson: It is not an extensive list, but we could bring that back to the Member for her information at another time if you so wish.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I would certainly appreciate that at our next sitting, whenever that may be, could the Minister indicate what is the policy and the practice of the department with respect to handling those requests since they would require resourcing?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, they are reviewed with respect to the need, the feasibility and the funding. So each one is looked at in light of who it is going to serve, how many, if it is feasible to proceed, and that sort of information is needed.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate how many have been approved since the new Government took over?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, we can bring that information to the Member. It is not broken down.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: While the Minister is bringing back information, unless she has got this with her as well, to go back to the day programming issue, could the Minister provide us with some statistics on the waiting list for individuals waiting to get into vocational rehabilitation programs? Could she give us a breakdown for last year, currently, and specifically how requests are being dealt with in terms of new requests in the system?

I am still not sure how the department handles those requests if there is not the space in the system. If there is a waiting list, what happens to an individual who may be coming from another province that requires voc. rehab; what happens to an individual graduating

from school requiring voc. rehab; what happens to new people coming into the system generally requiring that kind of programming given the fact the Minister has said there is some waiting list, telling me that there is not the flexibility she talked about, what happens, what is the current practice of the department?

Mrs. Oleson: I should indicate to the Member there is no waiting list for voc. rehab at the moment.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: If I could just have that clarified then, I have asked it twice now. At one point, I said that it was my understanding, based on last year's statistics, that there was a good number of eligible individuals requiring voc. rehab programming but not receiving it because the some 25 facilities and 1,500 spaces were occupied and full. Is the Minister saying there is no such waiting list and that there is enough flexibility in the system, that all those requiring day programming are being accommodated?

Mrs. Oleson: I think there is a little bit of a problem here. The Member is mixing up two programs. Voc. rehab is one program; the day programs are another. There is no waiting list for voc. rehab but there are some waiting for day programs. I had indicated before that was one problem in the communities when people have come out of institutions; then they have no program to go to. I had indicated it is the day program that has the waiting list.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: The hour is now 5 p.m. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. The committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening.

SUPPLY—INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: I call this subcommittee of the Committee of Supply to order, please. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. We are presently considering line 5.(d)(1).

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Did we actually finish 5.(c)? I know my colleague had a couple of questions yet under Tourism Development. I know that we had completed the discussion. He can ask under the Tourism Agreements, but if we could do it right now it would facilitate it. I do not expect it will take too long.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): I have a number of specific questions which arise out of correspondence and conversations I have had with the Minister previously. Perhaps we can use this opportunity to bring me up to date on what is happening in respect to the specifics.

The first is in regard to the development of a tourism operation on Goldsand Lake in the Lynn Lake area. There were proposals that went out under the previous administration. It is my understanding that the proposals were awarded, or at least one of the proposals was awarded the licence or the contract or the ability to proceed with the tourism operation on Goldsand Lake.

I wrote to the Minister on September 7. I realize he has been in Estimates from then on so he has not had the time to correspond back to me with the answer. I would ask him if he would have some information available to him now that he could provide to me in that regard?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): There was a proposal call made. We received several applications for that proposal call. One has been selected. I do not have the name, unfortunately, but if the Member from Churchill (Mr. Cowan) will bear with me, I will get him the official name of the party in the next day or so.

Mr. Cowan: When he is doing that, if he could also provide any background detail on the proposal which would be available to the public and not of a confidential nature, that would be helpful as well. I see him indicating that he will.

In respect to another tourism proposal or potential tourism proposal in the Pukatawagan area. I understand from the Pukatawagan Development Corporation and the president of the corporation that there has been a tourism licence granted at McKnight Lake which is situated, I am told, about 10 miles northeast from Pukatawagan.

The Mathias Colomb Band has long expressed an interest in economic development in that area, and many of their members trap and fish year-round in that area, and as well many of them work on tourism operations. The band wrote to the Minister in July suggesting that there were fishing rights claims to McKnight Lake by the Pukatawagan Band, and they did not want any licences granted, including tourism licensing, without consulting the Chief and council.

I would ask the Minister if he has had an opportunity to correspond back to the president of the Pukatawagan Development Corporation, or the chief of the band and, if so, what he indicated to them would be the process they should follow in ensuring that their trapping, fishing, and economic development rights and considerations are taken into account in the granting of any licences in that area?

* (1440)

Mr. Ernst: It is the practice of the department to consult with any Indian band in the vicinity of an area that is going to be considered for a tourism licence. As a matter of fact, with regard to the Pukatawagan Band, I have met just 10 days ago with the band consultant, the business manager, and the owner of Laurie River Lodge. The expectation is, or the anticipation or the desire if you will, of the Mathias Colomb Band is to arrange suitable financing for them to acquire the Laurie River Lodge or at least a significant equity in that lodge so that they can proceed to develop a tourism industry related function by the band.

The owner of the lodge wishes to retire some time in the next three or four years, so we are consulting with him on a regular basis. They have brought that matter to my attention. I can assure them that—

had one area and I am not sure if this is the same band or not, where there was a test fishing licence granted on one lake, but it was only for a one-year period and it was simply on the basis of test fishing only.

Mr. Cowan: So I indicate from the answer that the Minister is giving confirmation that before any licence is granted for the McKnight Lake, the Pukatawagan Development Corporation and the Pukatawagan community through the Chief and Council of the Mathias Colomb Band will be fully consulted and they will have an opportunity to indicate a desire at that time to develop their own tourism operation at that particular site.

Mr. Ernst: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cowan: I would also ask the Minister if he can provide just a general overview as to any specific activities that are taking place within this department now with respect to the continued development and enhanced development of tourism operations in the Churchill area and the community of Churchill.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I had the opportunity of visiting Churchill on Saturday. I spent the day there with the Mayor, Mr. Ingerbrigton, discussing a number of tourism-related issues and seeing for myself first-hand the kind of operations that take place in the Churchill region.

Mr. Chairman, our Government is committed to increased economic development throughout the province, including Churchill. We have an offer at the present time under the Tourism Agreement for Sea North Tours for the potential construction of a large 30-passenger tour boat for the Churchill area to transport people for the viewing of whales and for transport to the Fort Prince of Wales.

I also discussed the question of other tourism alternatives with the Mayor of Churchill and we are going to continue discussions over the next little while in order to look at perhaps a study on the viability of a number of different initiatives for Churchill related to the tourism area.

We also have a concern that we do not overpopulate Churchill in terms of the unique experience that is gained there. It is not terribly wilderness oriented to go viewing polar bears, for instance, and find 20 or 30 other vehicles in the same area. It does not do a great deal for the environment, for one; and, secondly, it does not give those people, who are prepared to pay top dollar, that kind of unique wilderness experience that they desire.

So we have to balance our desire for increased tourism activity with the delicate nature of the ecology, with the potential for damaging that area, and for the fact that we do not want to see that unique wilderness experience destroyed with roads and too many tourism operators. We have to create that delicate balance. That has been a concern expressed by a number of the operators in that area that their clients who pay large sums of money to go to Churchill in order to

have that unique viewing experience are all of a sudden concerned now that we have 10, 15 or 20 tundra buggies running around in the same area, not giving them the kind of wilderness experience that they had anticipated. We have a variety of marketing co-op arrangements with people running tours into the North. We have Frontiers North, for one, was approved recently, another co-op marketing initiative. So there are a number of things under way, a number of things still in the consideration stage. We are having ongoing discussions with the Mayor of Churchill, who obviously is very interested as well in seeing that increased opportunities are there for the community.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, some of those initiatives that were mentioned were initiatives that are ongoing or are initiatives that are ongoing of some time. The Frontiers North initiative was one that was, I believe, approved under the previous administration, or if it was not approved under our administration, it was approved just after our administration, because I know that one or at least one of theirs—if there are more, then perhaps a future initiative has been approved—but at least one of theirs was approved previous to the change in administration.

But I am somewhat interested and intrigued by the comments about—not wishing to use the words of the Minister—overpopulate the area. I think the more appropriate term would be, not wishing to overextend tourism operations in the area to the extent where they have a negative impact on either the ecosystem there, which is indeed fragile and, because of that, fragility is even that more valuable over the longer term.

The second would be not to over extend it to the extent where there would be so many tourism operators in place at one time that they would be literally tripping or running over each other in order to accommodate the business. But if one follows that line of logic, even a very short step, what it leads to is some sort of rationalization of the system.

In other words, if one is worried about overextension then one has to be worried about the absolute numbers of operators and the services they provide. If one is worried either about the numbers of the services, there has to be some sort of regulation of the numbers or regulations of the type of services which they are entitled to provide. The question that falls quite naturally from the Minister's response is is he or is the Government considering, or actively considering, or even toying with the idea of regulating the tourism industry in Churchill and, if so, how so?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, at this point, it has only been within the last three weeks or so, a month perhaps, that the problem has been identified to me. I went, as I said, to Churchill on Saturday to view the matters first hand there. Although it is not yet prime time for the polar bear viewing, I did have an opportunity to go there. The problem was not directly evident during my visit on Saturday. It may have to be that we will have to go back again during the prime season to see to what extent the problem exists, whether it is myself or staff is immaterial at the moment.

As I said, it has just been identified to me. It has been a problem placed on my desk. I have, at the

moment, that problem to address and neither have I nor have the staff, at this point, any plans or any ideas at the moment that would see that regulation take place. It is, I suppose, an option but something we will have to give very, very careful consideration to, the balance between the desire for economic benefit to the community and the desire for employment, entrepreneurship on the one hand, and on the other hand to balance the ecosystem. That is something we will have to give careful consideration to over the coming months.

Mr. Cowan: The Minister says that the problem has just been brought to his attention. I would ask him who complained? How was that problem brought to his attention?

Mr. Ernst: It was brought to my attention by three different tourism operators.

* (1450)

Mr. Cowan: The Minister indicated that he met with the mayor during his visit there. He is probably aware that the mayor is involved in tourism operations in the area, not to suggest that is a problem. I would hope, when he undertakes his consultations on regulation of the tourism industry if that is the proposed route which they intend to proceed with or even a regulating of the tourism industry there, that he meet with not only the mayor but the numerous other tourism operators in the area as well as long-term residents of the community who may not actively be involved in the tourism operation or a specific tourism operation but who use the area for recreational purposes, use the area, some of them, for other business purposes and would have a stake as well in any overall plan for dealing with the problem with a potential overextension of tourism operations in the area.

In order to determine whether or not there is an overextension, one really has to determine the extent of the tourism operation at present. Does the Minister's department teach statistics as to the number of visitors, the number of tourism operators, the length of the visits, and those sorts of general market statistics on an ongoing basis? If so, how long have they been keeping those sorts of statistics?

Mr. Ernst: First of all, with respect to consultation, this Government has said time and time and time again that we will consult with those people involved in a whole variety of areas right across the whole scope of Government. Certainly it would be our intention, before anything is considered, to consult with all of those directly involved and, as the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) indicated, even those who perhaps may not be directly involved. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, the very first time this was brought to my attention, it was brought to my attention by somebody who was not directly involved. That was the first time that the question was flagged.

In regard to statistics, the department does not keep a regular diary of statistical information with regard to tourism business to Churchill. However, we have on

hand a number of spot studies done from time to time to indicate over one period of time or other the kind of tourism activity that takes place in Churchill.

Mr. Cowan: Would the department then be able to provide information to the Minister that could highlight in a fairly specific way the growth in tourism-related activities on the basis of tourists visiting the community, on the basis of business generated in any given period of time, say, over the last 10 years?

Mr. Ernst: Parks Canada does keep relatively good statistical information and we obtain information from them on a regular basis.

Mr. Cowan: Would the Minister be prepared to forward that information to myself as MLA for the area?

Mr. Ernst: Yes.

Mr. Cowan: While on the issue of parks, Mr. Chairperson, we heard over the weekend that the federal Government has announced their intention to look at a national park in the Churchill area. We heard some suggestion that it might be tied into Shoal Lake or the Rafferty-Alameda. I have to tell you that we do not accept those premises and we do not accept those premises because it is my understanding, and it is first-hand knowledge, that the federal Government has been looking at the development of a park through Parks Canada in the Churchill area for at least four or five years now. I would ask the -(Interjection)- the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) said it never happened and he knows, as his Leader—and I am certain that he takes everything his Leader says to heart. I know that when he talked about toll booths and his Leader said do not talk about toll booths. So I can only assume that he listens very carefully to his Leader and, had he been listening very carefully to his Leader today, he would have heard his Leader say, and I believe he used the term, two to eight years for the development of any park and that those discussions were ongoing.

As a matter of fact, there was some concern about the development of a park in the area by some of the local residents which slowed the process down a bit, because one does want to be consulted in developing projects of this nature. In order to consult, one must not only listen but one must hear. When people express concerns to you, you have to deal with those concerns in a realistic way. That does, in some instances, delay the process.

But I would ask the Minister directly, is the park that is now being talked about, the same park that has been under discussion for the past four or five years, or is it an entirely different project?

Mr. Ernst: First of all, I do not control the words of the Minister of the Environment of the federal Government. What he says and what he wants to say wherever he wants to say it, Mr. Chairman, that is his prerogative. At the same time, the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) made the statements alleged to my Leader by the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan).

The question of a development in two to eight years was mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition and the previous statement, which just momentarily escapes me but at the time it was uttered by the Member for Churchill, was also directly stated in the House today by the Member for River Heights, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Chairman, I believe my colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), has had some discussion—it is on a very preliminary basis at the moment—to deal with the question of a national park in the Churchill region. We are interested in having a national park in the Churchill region. We are not interested in having the park in the Churchill region if there are a lot of strings attached to which we do not agree.

My Leader stated that in the House today during Question Period and I wish to state it again. There are no strings attached to any discussions or talks that have gone on up to this point with regard to a national park, nor would we consider them if they were.

Mr. Cowan: Perhaps I was not articulate enough, but I thought I had indicated that I agreed that, in this particular instance, it would not appear that there were any strings attached or there was any connection between the park or any other project that was ongoing, unlike the situation we have with the Rafferty-Alameda and the Grasslands Park in Saskatchewan. It is an entirely different situation.

However, that does not take away from the fact that there have been discussions for a number of years. I would ask the Minister, because any development of a national park in the area will certainly have an impact on tourism, as again was referenced today in the Legislature, if this is the same park or if he can find out if this is the same park that has been under discussion for a number of years.

Mr. Ernst: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have had some discussions with my colleague, the Minister responsible for Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). As I understand what he has discussed with the federal Government, there is no specific boundary. A number of boundaries have been discussed, from what my staff told me over the years, prior to my coming into that office and in fact the discussions at present still have a flowing boundary in that no firm boundaries for a proposed park have been decided upon.

It is my understanding also that there are a number of other issues related to the question of a park that relate primarily to aboriginal hunting and fishing rights which may be determined—Mr. Chairman, there are some aboriginal hunting and fishing problems that are associated with a national park because there is no hunting allowed in any national park, so that some of those issues have to be discussed as well. It is at the preliminary stage at the moment.

It is unfortunate, quite frankly, that some premature announcement came out in Saskatchewan over the weekend that would have caused concerns to come forward. As I say, it is at a very preliminary stage at

the moment, and we are working with the federal Government and Parks Canada towards a potential, we hope, national park for northern Manitoba.

Mr. Cowan: Just to assure myself and make certain that the record is clear, is the Minister being critical of the way in which the federal Government announced that possible park?

* (1500)

Mr. Ernst: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, why does the Minister think they did it that way?

Mr. Ernst: Presumably that is a rhetorical question.

Mr. Cowan: No, that was a very real question. Well if the Minister does not want to answer the question, perhaps I can offer some suggestions and he can shake his head yes or no. Perhaps it was some -(Interjection)-the Minister says, quit playing games. The fact is that the federal Government, his colleagues, a Party of the same political stripe as himself announced over the weekend apparently without consultation with the provincial Government that there would be the development of a park in Churchill. He said he is critical of why they did that. Now if he is not going to stand up for the Province of Manitoba, will he at least stand up for the residents of Churchill and put on the record why it is he is critical of that and what he believes predisposed the federal Government to make that sort of announcement at this time without consultation with either local residents, the Government of the Day, or the local MLA?

Mr. Ernst: The Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) wants to play political games in this House with the Estimates of my department, play political games with the concerns of his constituents, quite frankly. I do not think that is very proper.

With regard to whether the federal Government made an announcement or not, I do not know. I did not hear him make any announcement. I saw a report in a newspaper that alleged he made some announcement. I do not know what words were stated, what the context of it was, and neither does the Member for Churchill.

The fact of the matter is—and I put it on the record quite succinctly I thought—that we are in preliminary discussions with Parks Canada and the federal Government with regard to a potential park for northern Manitoba. Nothing has been established. No firm boundaries have been established. We have not even determined on a firm basis that a national park will or will not be created. There is consideration at the moment of a national park in there. We are hopeful we can work toward that end. We are hopeful that a national park in that area will be of major benefit to the community of Churchill, create an additional bunch of jobs for the people in Churchill, and create an opportunity for additional and enhanced tourism for the people in Churchill.

Mr. Cowan: I can appreciate the sensitivity of the Minister when his federal colleagues announce the

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potential of a park in the area and they do not have the courtesy to consult with the provincial Government, when they do not have the courtesy to consult with the local residents, when they do not have the courtesy to, even after having made the announcement, call to the provincial Government and say here is what we said and here is why we said it. If anyone is playing political games, it is the federal Government who is playing political games with this issue.

I feel it is incumbent on the Minister, notwithstanding the fact that they are his friends and his political colleagues in Ottawa, to ensure that their playing of political games does not either create expectations that cannot be fulfilled in the community, or start momentum along a certain process without the involvement of the province and the involvement of the local residents, which may work to the detriment of the local community and residents in the area if they are not involved fully in the consultations from the onset. If anyone is playing political games, it is the federal Government who is playing those games, and I would hope that the Minister would take every opportunity he has to stand up against that sort of manipulation of people's expectations and people's hope and people's optimism by a very crass federal political Government that has that sort of modus operandi over the past four years that has resulted in havoc in so many different areas in this country.

Has the Minister, given the fact that there was, as he says, an alleged announcement, certainly one that got some press media, has the Minister or has the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) or has his staff or has anyone in his department or the Government picked up the phone, which they say gives them direct access to the federal Government, and called and said, what the heck is happening here? What are you announcing? Why are you doing it now? What are the ramifications of it? Has there been any contact between him, his Government, his department or other Government departments, between them and the federal Government to clarify the announcement on the weekend?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I personally as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism have not contacted Mr. McMillan since that allegation appeared in the newspaper. I cannot answer for the rest of my colleagues.

Mr. Cowan: Then can he find out and report back?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I will consult with various affected departments to see if they have heard any information or have had any discussion with Mr. McMillan.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, while he is doing that, will he please also ensure that if there is any contact with the federal Government that they are made quite aware of the concerns of local residents that they be fully involved in the decision-making process around the development of any park right from the onset? Can he tell them on our behalf I am being critical, my constituents are critical of the way in which it was announced, and even the Minister is critical of the way

in which it was announced? Can he tell the federal Minister that we do not like that type of announcement coming from afar without the proper consultation with either the Government or local residents, and that in the future they should be sensitive enough to ensure that we are well advised of any announcements of that sort that they are making that may have an impact on our province. That is the first question.

The second question is, can he now set in process—because the federal Government has initiated the process, set the ball rolling, put momentum in place—a consultative mechanism in the community that ensures that all residents who have an interest in the development of a park—and when I say an interest, I do not mean a financial interest, I do not mean a specific interest, I just mean who are interested in the development of a park—to ensure that they are consulted on a regular basis starting immediately so that they can ask the questions. What sort of park are they talking about? Is this really a park or is this some figment of someone's imagination, or is it a slip of the tongue, or is it something that one might hope would happen but there are no concrete plans? Those are all sorts of questions that rise out of the initial announcement. Those need to be answered but, even more importantly, because there should be a park in the area and there have been discussions ongoing about a park in the area, can he ensure that the residents are involved in a formal, structured and comprehensive way in consultation around any development of a park in that area?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, while certainly tourism has a vital interest in a proposal for any park, the lead Minister in this Government will be the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). He is the Minister responsible for parks in this province. I am certain, quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Natural Resources will be contacting his federal colleagues to ensure that there is a consultative process. If the federal Government, for whatever reason, would choose not to—and quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, they have over the past number of years in terms of federal parks had an extensive consultative process—then this Government will undertake a consultative process with all parties concerned.

As I indicated earlier to the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), Mr. Chairman, we will consult with the people from Churchill, the tourism operators, the question of aboriginal hunting and fishing rights and any other issues that arise from the potential for a park. I caution the Member for Churchill that if he puts too much on the record in terms of condemning the federal Government for this issue, we might wind up not getting a national park which would be a tragedy for northern Manitoba.

Mr. Cowan: Now we have the picture completed of what the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism thinks about the federal Government.

No. 1, he is critical of the way in which they made this announcement. He says it was the wrong way. If one is critical of the way in which one makes an announcement, one is implying that they did it the wrong

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way. And then he says to me, he has the audacity to say to me who is speaking on behalf of my constituents that well, even although it was the wrong way to do it, if you are overly critical, the federal Government might not put a park there in response to that. So what we see from him is a federal Government that does not have the sensitivity to consult when it undertakes actions of this sort and if they are being criticized for something which he says is wrong, they then get spiteful and do not put a park in place just to spite the people trying to ask legitimate questions.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade Tourism (Mr. Ernst), on a point of order.

Mr. Ernst: The Member for Churchill continually, everytime he gets up in this House in my Estimates certainly, tends to put on the record things and accuse me or allege certain statements to me that are not true, that I did not say and he continues to put it ream after ream on the record. It is incorrect, wrong information, and he ought to withdraw it.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member for Churchill, to the point of order.

Mr. Cowan: Yes, on the point of order, I will withdraw anything that is incorrect in what I just said because fortunately for us there is a Hansard available. The Minister very clearly said that he was critical of the way in which the announcement was made. He also very clearly said that we ought be careful about asking these sorts of questions, they are being too negative about the federal Government or they might not put a national park in the area which is sorely needed.

If I have in anyway misconstrued what he said out of his own mouth, then I think he should think more carefully before he speaks rather than cast criticisms on others; but, if I have misconstrued it, I will certainly withdraw it, but I have not.

Mr. Chairman: I thank all Honourable Members for their advice. I would like to advise that a dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Mr. Cowan: Not wishing to belabour the point, I do want to leave the record quite clear. We, too, along with the Minister, are critical in the way in which the announcement was made. We certainly believe that it was made for political gain on the part of the federal Government. Notwithstanding their motivation, we are pleased to see an initiative which might assist the community of Churchill, diversify its economic base and, more importantly, protect the fragile ecosystem which is crucial to our knowledge of the high Arctic as well as the continued development of the community.

The consultation around any provincial park in the area is a key component that must be followed in a structured, formalized and careful manner. The consultation must not only take place with tourism operators or those who hunt in the area, it must also take place with those who have traditional land rights in the area but may not now be in the area such as

the Dene through the Tadoule Lake Band and some of the Chipewyan from the Lac Brochet area.

It must also take place with the research and academic community that is located in the area, because there are researchers and there are out growths of our academic institutions in the area that would be interested in the development of any park as well. Finally, it must take place with residents of the community, most importantly, who make Churchill their home and who would be impacted perhaps from a recreational perspective or even from a business perspective with respect to the development of a park.

So I assume from his answer, and I will look to him for a nod of the head to save some time, that he is going to reference those concerns to the Minister of Natural Resources. We have a commitment from his Government that those concerns will be taken into account and will be addressed when there are any discussions involving the development of a national park or any park in the Churchill area.

* (15 10)

Mr. Ernst: Certainly I think we have put that on the record now for the second or third or fourth time in this discussion, that extensive consultations will take place with regard to all issues that can be identified with regard to a potential for a national park.

Mr. Cowan: And further that the Minister is going to ask his colleague, or himself, or his department, immediately to contact the federal Government to clarify what was said in their statement and what is anticipated as a result of that statement over the near future in the development of a park in the Churchill area?

Mr. Ernst: Yes.

Mr. Cowan: On a somewhat different matter, unless there are others who have questions for the Minister, but on a tourism related matter yet.

Mr. Chairman: With respect to item 5.(d)(1), is the committee prepared to pass this item?

Mr. Cowan: I have one more item under that which should not take much time. Again, in early September, I wrote to the Minister, actually earlier than that, I addressed a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), which was answered in early September by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst), at least in part with respect to tourism operations and employment concerns of fishing and hunting lodges in northern Manitoba. I thank the Minister for his answer.

For the record, he indicates—perhaps I should preface that with some identification of what the concern is. I had been approached by a number of constituents who worked in hunting and fishing lodges in northern Manitoba. They had a number of concerns respecting wage levels, but the one that was most appropriately addressed by the Minister responsible for Tourism (Mr. Ernst) was that with regard to minimum standards for living quarters for staff and for tourists.

He wrote back to me, and I thank him for the answer, and I quote from the letter of September 7: "Unfortunately, existing departmental regulations under The Tourism Recreation Act do not include recommended minimum standards for staff and guides' living quarters but deal more specifically with transient accommodation facilities. The regulations contain only some reference to the type and extent of equipment and services that an independent licensed guide can provide potential customers."

The letter then goes on to state that most of the northern fine inspection tours are of a dual nature carried out by the quality assurance officer from his department and a public health inspector from the Environment Department and that they have stepped up their activities over the past year in the area of licensed on-site inspections of staff living quarters. I have many of the lodges throughout the province.

My question to him then is the department now considering enhancing those regulations concerning staff and guides' living quarters? The concerns are specifically that in this day and age a number of those guides are living in very difficult circumstances where they have tents with dirt floors rather than wooden floors. They are not criticizing the fact that they live in tents, particularly many of the out-camp areas, but they are critical of the fact that a lot of them only have dirt floors and they feel that in this year, and at this time, that it is not appropriate for guides to have to live under those conditions.-(Interjection)- I am sorry, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) had a comment.-(Interjection)- The Minister of the Environment says he cannot believe something from this seat. I am just trying to attempt what it is that is befuddling him at the moment. For the record, there is no answer to that question.

So back to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst), is the department preparing more extensive regulations that would deal with those types of issues?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, while we have every concern over the living conditions that any human being finds himself in in any circumstances in this country, the department's quality assurance program relates to the transient accommodation available to tourists. It is a quality assurance program, one that relates to the transmission of information to potential tourists to come to Manitoba of the kind and quality of accommodation they expect to find without actually viewing it themselves. It is difficult to know that when you are in Chicago that you look at a brochure and find out what kind of accommodation, or you look at a listing in a book as to what kind of accommodation is available. From the tourism side, that is the situation where we are at and where we anticipate continuing to be.

However, the fact that if living conditions are unacceptable in terms of the guides—and I am not sure. I happened to have visited one or two of these places myself and have found the conditions were very good for the people who worked in those operations. However, I certainly have not begun to visit them all and there may be instances from time to time where conditions are not appropriate. I would suggest to the

Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) if he has information about those kinds of situations—and I will be consulting with my colleague, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery), and my colleague, the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), to determine that both areas will investigate these complaints as well.

If the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) would like to provide the information related to those instances of which he is aware, in the first instance, we would be happy to investigate those; and, in the second instance, I will ask my staff, during their quality assurance inspections over the next year—I think for this year they are primarily completed—for them to view these kinds of accommodations, to determine if in fact in their view they are not acceptable and, if so, I will then, as a result of those inspection tours, turn those over to my colleagues in Labour and Health to ensure that appropriate conditions exist.

Mr. Cowan: I appreciate the Minister's response. Let me indicate that I agree with him, that probably in 90 to 95 or even 96 or 97 percent of the cases, the accommodations for guides are at the very least adequate and in many circumstances very good. There are a large number of lodge owners in the province, particularly in the North, who value the work that guides do for them and in doing so they provide them with not only good wages but also with adequate or very good facilities. I am not intending in any way to reflect upon the vast majority of the lodge owners who do provide those sorts of accommodations for their guides.

As well, it can be said that probably 90 to 95 or 96 percent of the lodge owners also provide accommodations that exceed the departmental regulations. In other words, there is no need for the departmental regulations for the vast majority of lodge owners with respect to minimum standards for the customers so that in that instance, although we have the same majority of good owners providing decent accommodations, we still have a regulation to ensure that the one or two, or whatever it is, percent that do not provide those sorts of accommodations do so and, if they do not, then we have some legal recourse to ensure that the bad apples do not spoil it for the rest of the lodge owners to ensure that there are minimum standards so that there is recourse in the event that some lodge owners, and it would be a very small portion of lodge owners, in any event, do not live up to the standards.

I would suggest that the Minister may want to give consideration to regulations, whether or not they come under his department or another department, would have to be a question that would be answered by legal counsel. But I think he could probably initiate the action because I am certain that he wants to see the employees of the lodges well accommodated, just as he wants to see the customers of the lodges well accommodated, because he knows that if the employees have appropriate accommodations they are going to be better guides. If they do not have appropriate accommodations, just because of the fact that maybe the night before they do not get any sleep because it rained hard and they have a dirt floor and it is uncomfortable living conditions, that they will not be

good guides. If they are not good guides then the tourism operation is going to suffer over the longer term.

So I would ask if he would be prepared to initiate the discussions with his colleagues, to determine wherein the regulations should lie within the authority granted to each of the departments, and go one step further and start to draft, in consultation with the lodge owners, and also draft in consultation with the guides themselves, regulations that prescribe, at the very least, minimum standards for them that would be suitable for the day and age in which they live and work.

* (1520)

Mr. Ernst: Certainly, I will be prepared to undertake discussions with my colleagues, the Ministers of Labour (Mr. Connery) and Health (Mr. Orchard) with regard to looking at some standards for accommodation for these people. As I said earlier, we have a concern that any human being lives in less than desirable conditions.

Mr. Plohman: I understand now that we have completed 10.(5)(c) and we have some questions on 10.(5)(d).

Mr. Chairman: I believe we are discussing item 5.(d)(1) at page 116. Is it the will of the committee to pass item 5.(d)(1)?

Mr. Plohman: 5.(d)(1)?

Mr. Chairman: 5.(d)(1). Quality Assurance: Salaries.

Mr. Plohman: Just a question, Mr. Chairman, before we pass it, I believe that this is the section that deals with the ratings for accommodations. Has there been any major change in the ratings system? Are any being contemplated at the current time by the department?

Mr. Ernst: No change, and we are presently looking at the whole question of the rating system.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, I understood that there was a report done a couple of years ago on that system. I just wondered what stage the consideration was at, as to whether the recommendations were being endorsed.

Mr. Ernst: I received the report just recently from the staff. I am advised there was a report that had been brought forward two years ago and not acted upon at that time. We are considering that. We are going into consultation process with the tourism industry to determine their thoughts on the matter, and after those discussions we will be coming to some conclusion.

Mr. Plohman: Just to ask the Minister whether all of the positions, the four staff are filled at the current time?

Mr. Ernst: There is one vacancy at the present time.

Mr. Plohman: I understand that the employee at the Business Development Centre in Dauphin was offered

that position. Has that not been finalized yet, the redeployment of that employee?

I understood, for the Minister's edification, it is my understanding that the employee of his department who is working in Dauphin at the Business Development Centre, was offered a position in this area. Is that correct and has that been finalized yet?

Mr. Ernst: Yes, that employee has been offered the job. She has accepted the position. She is living in Dauphin and working out of the Brandon office area.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(d)(1)—pass; item 5.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Item 5.(e) Corporate and Community Relations.

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Yes, there has been a decrease of five staff, and the substantial is the professional and technical. Can we have an explanation who was, and why?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, we appreciate that Communications, prior to our coming into office, were in the Jobs Funds, were in the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. There was an attempt at consolidation going on at that time as well. But with respect to the specific question that the Member asked, I can advise that two staff years were reduced by the ex-budget options which took place prior to our coming into office done by the previous Government.

There were two staff years related to the Jobs Fund which were, because of the Jobs Fund being devolved to the departments, two staff years were eliminated in that regard and one staff year was reduced due to the amalgamation of the Industry Trade and Technology Department, and the Business Development and Tourism Departments. Both departments had communications staff, both departments when merged need not have a manager in each case and so on. So one staff was released because of that.

Mr. Gaudry: The decrease in Communications is reflected also due to the decrease in staff years and the salaries. Does he have a substantial decrease also in the Communications and other expenditures? Is that due to the fact of the decrease in salaries?

Mr. Ernst: If the Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry) will notice under the Adjusted Vote, appreciating that the Adjusted Vote in this case is difficult, allocations had to be made because there were several different departments involved. But the cost of running the Communications Department under the '87-88 Adjusted Vote last year was \$300,000 approximately, \$300,700, and the cost for '88-89 will be \$261,700.00. So there is a reduction in the expenditures, not an increase.—(Interjection)— I am sorry then, I misinterpreted what you said.

An Honourable Member: Why?

Mr. Ernst: Why? We have, for instance, five less staff. There is, right off the bat, a reduction, as well as merger

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of the two departments, that will create some additional savings just in the operation alone.

* (1530)

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, we have been told that there were five positions reduced, two that were allocated to the Jobs Fund, two in the ex-budget, the exercise that was done prior to the Minister taking responsibility for this department, and one for amalgamation. I think I would like to get some clarification as to what these positions were, what precisely were the positions? I think, as I pointed out earlier on in these discussions, the ex-budget decisions, while taken by the previous Government, were not reflected in any Estimates anywhere. Therefore, the Estimates that this Minister brings forward are responsible for those positions or lack of those positions and this Minister is therefore responsible for them.

I am not familiar with what those two positions were in the ex-budget exercise that were removed. I am not familiar with the two Jobs Fund positions that are taken out. I just wanted to know what classifications, what exactly was their job description, very briefly, that were eliminated?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I am advised there were two information writers, two communications officers and one administrative support staff.

Mr. Plohman: Two information writers, were they ones who were removed in the ex-budget or the two communications officers, or what?

Mr. Ernst: Two communications officers were the ones removed by the ex-budget.

Mr. Plohman: We see then an 18 percent decrease in this budget section, most of it salaries but some other decreases as well. But overall, 785 last year versus 644 this year is an 18 percent decrease, most of it being in the form of two information officers and two communications officers. Can the Minister indicate what activities will have to be curtailed and reduced as a result of the loss in staff in that area?

Mr. Ernst: We anticipate no decrease in output of the department even with the reduced staff. The merger of the two departments has made the communications function and do not forget, while it is contained in the tourism section, we will deal with the communications function of the Industry and Trade side of the department as well. That department under IT and T previously handled the Jobs Fund so that we anticipate no output. We anticipate as a matter of fact that the department will perhaps function a little more efficiently now than under the previous disjointed arrangement, and we anticipate very good things coming from it.

Mr. Plohman: In discontinuing the Jobs Fund, has that meant that certain activities have decreased as well that were previously being undertaken for the Jobs Fund, or were there monies being spent in programs in the Jobs Fund that now have to be picked up by

the departments? I understand that is what has happened is that programming that was previously in the Jobs Fund has now been allocated to the various departments. Therefore, there is an increased workload on some of the staff there with more programming work to do with less staff. So I wonder whether the Minister can clarify what kinds of activities have had to be picked up by the department that were previously done by the Jobs Fund.

Mr. Ernst: Under my department, there are only two previous Jobs Fund functions that would fall under this department: the Manufacturing Adaptation Program and the Venture Capital Program. So there will be no reduction in output by the department at all. Other departments who are participating in Jobs Fund activities will have had their communications people involved in providing communications with respect to the programs devolved to those departments. This department has two, Venture Capital and MAP, and we think we can quite handily look after it.

Mr. Plohman: I just wanted to ask the Minister regarding the Expected Results in the Supplementary Information, he has indicated there that "Communications efforts focus on direct marketing programs and targeted event promotion in U.S. and selected off-shore markets." Could he give some examples to the Legislature of some priorities that are taking place in that area, "targeted event promotion in U.S. and off-shore markets"?

Mr. Ernst: In terms of the tourism aspect of it, as I indicated I think last time, the tourism strategy is in the process of being developed, so I cannot give specifics to the members of the committee at this point.

Industry and Trade, I think we have gone through those as to how those departments function, and of course the communications aspect with it produces things like videos on industrial opportunities in Manitoba in Japanese, in German and those kinds of things. So the Communications department also becomes involved in those activities.

Mr. Plohman: Well, it says "targeted event promotion." I wonder what events we are talking about. Are we talking about something like Folklorama and other major festivals? This is what I am asking the Minister. What are those "targeted events" that are being promoted in the U.S. and other areas? We are talking about something that has already been done, I would take it from this description, not what the Minister is planning for next year.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry then. I misunderstood what the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) was after. I thought he said what was going to happen with regard to what targeted events are you going to promote.

In the past year, as part of the strategy of the department, we have marketed a number of events: Folklorama, the three new festivals for Winnipeg this summer. I think we do some marketing on the Dauphin and the Icelandic Festival as well.

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Mr. Plohman: That was what I wanted to ask specifically about, very briefly, is the marketing that is undertaken by this department of Canada's national Ukrainian festival in Dauphin, which is not a Dauphin festival. It is not a Manitoba festival, it is a national festival. I do not know how many national festivals we have in this province, but I do believe that they warrant some special attention when we are dealing with a national festival as opposed to a more localized or even a provincial festival. I just wanted to ask the Minister whether he has any plans to expand upon the marketing in the U.S. and other areas of this particular festival, and what has been done up to this point in that area.

Mr. Ernst: What has been done up to this point in this area has been under the administrative purview of the previous Government. When we came into office in May of this year, all of the programming and marketing programs were committed. All of the literature had been produced, all of the programs put in place, and the media buys done. So, if it did not get promoted to the satisfaction of the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), it is his fault, not mine, or his previous Government's fault.

The Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) cannot slough off the fact that because I am the Minister today that he did not get appropriate recognition and he was incapable of convincing his Cabinet colleagues earlier to do something better for Dauphin than they did. But we are not now talking about what is going to happen next year, but what happened last year, and that is specifically what the Member for Dauphin asked for. That is all I can comment on that specific issue.

* (1540)

Mr. Plohman: As soon as my red light goes on, I will talk. There it is.

The Minister is now indicating that it is my fault, not his. He has got to remember that he is defending his Estimates in this House right now. These are his Estimates, and he cannot hide behind the fact that the election took place in April. He has presented a Budget since that time, and the Minister has a responsibility here. I am asking this Minister what his priorities are with regard to it, whether he is satisfied that there has been sufficient, not whether I am satisfied. I am asking about it. That is what I am doing, asking the Minister, because I want to know where he is going with these kinds of things in the future because he may be in charge for at least another Budget year, maybe less, I do not know. Since there is this possibility that he might still be in charge for the next six months, a year or whatever the case might be, there is a possibility that he might have some say in what happens. So we want to find out what his priorities are and what he intends to do.

Can I ask the Minister then whether he intends to do a more aggressive and expansive kind of promotion of the Ukrainian Festival, Canada's national Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin?

Mr. Ernst: The Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) had previously indicated he wanted to know what had been

done this year, not what was being done next year. As a matter of fact, when I indicated where we were in terms of the marketing strategy for '89, the Member specifically got up and said I misunderstood his question and the fact that he was referring to what happened during 1988.

So I indicated all of the commitments were made, all of the literature produced, and all of the media buys done at the time that our Government took office. I specifically, if the Member wishes, can dig up all of the tourism promotion information that was done with respect to or mentioned the Dauphin Ukrainian Festival during 1988, if he wishes. If he thinks that is productive, then fine, I am prepared to do that.

In terms of '89, the marketing strategy is in the process of being considered. We have not made any decisions yet with regard to any festival or any other marketing initiatives for '89 except to say that, by virtue of this budget, we are going to spend \$1 million more in marketing in the Province of Manitoba during the period of time up until March 31, 1989, \$1 million more than the previous Government spent on marketing of this province, and marketing funding that is very, very sorely needed.

Mr. Plohman: I think that what the Minister is indicating here is that expenditures from the marketing section of his budget are actually expended in this particular area then from what he is saying, or else why would he be talking about the \$1 million more in marketing. I am asking what is being done under this section of the budget, and we are dealing here with a reduction in staff to carry on this work. So how can there be such a major increase, when he has reduced his staff in this particular area?

Mr. Ernst: If the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) knew anything about this department and how it functioned, he would know that the Communications staff support the Marketing Branch. The Marketing Branch utilize the Communications staff to prepare materials and so on with which they do their marketing programs. Let us not play games. This is getting a little ridiculous.

Mr. Plohman: Okay, the Minister is the only one playing games. We are asking him questions about the department. I want to know what he knows about the department. We have found out in a lot of cases he does not know too much. I am prepared to pass this at this time.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(e)(1)—pass; 5.(e)(2)—pass.

Item 6. Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement—Destination Manitoba.

Mr. Gaudry: It has not been completed? There are no Estimates.- (Interjection)- It is the old agreement. It is gone.

Mr. Chairman: If there are no further questions on item 6., is it the will of the committee to pass the following?

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Resolution No. 102: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,968,400 for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Tourism Division, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 7., Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement 1985-1990.

Mr. Gaudry: In regard to my question of September 2, as discussed last week, the Minister has indicated he would reply at great length in regard to the expenses to date.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, the Member asked a question during Question Period in the House. Following that question, I had indicated that I would be prepared to give the answers in Estimates and then, unfortunately, he was away for awhile and the Estimates got delayed. It took us a long time to get to tourism so that, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to provide him with that information.

Program 1, which is the Marketing Expansion, primarily marketing programs, total funds committed to that portion of the agreement under Program 1 were \$3.5 million, of which we have approved or expended to date \$2.622 million.

Program 2, Resorts, the total funding under that program is \$8 million. Approved to date is \$1.61 million approved funding to date. In addition to that, and I will comment a little bit later, we have a number of areas that are in—and as we talked about it last time as a matter of fact at some length in response to questions from the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), a number of projects in the works, so to speak, that are anticipated to come on stream shortly or whatever. I will go back to that, Mr. Chairman, as I suspect that is where the Members wish to discuss in some further detail.

Under Program 3, Winnipeg Attractions, \$9.5 million were allocated, \$3.9 million have been expended to date. In addition to that, there are two additional projects: the Red River Exhibition, which is under a Letter of Offer at the moment for \$1.5 million; and the Forks Renewal Corporation which is about \$4.900 million—well, it is the balance of the money in any event under that program. That program is fully taken up.

Rural attractions—there were \$4 million allocated under that program, \$772,000 have been spent to date. Under Program 5—Events, \$2 million have been advocated under the agreement, \$1.4 million have been expended. Program 6—Industry Productivity, approximately \$500,000 that were allocated at which \$362,000 have been expended. The balance, Research Studies and Evaluation, was approximately \$1 million and approved to date has been \$263,000.00. We have spent approximately \$12 million under the \$30 million agreement up to this time—sorry, \$12,308,337 expended to date. This year, we anticipate spending approximately \$1.4 million in funding projects that are either to go ahead or to have the balance of their funding completed.

With respect to Program 2, Rural Resorts, as I indicated, we had spent up to this point, committed,

Riding Mountain destination area, the Elkhorn Ranch project, Elkhorn Ranch, Inverness Falls Resort, Nejalini Lodge Resort, Childs Lake Lodge Resort, Sea North Tours, as I indicated to the Member for Churchill earlier, for a tour boat at Churchill.

In addition, we have a project at Hecla Island—the Hecla Village project bed and breakfast facility there. We have a Gimli Resort facility which is, as I indicated previously, in the first stages of development. We are looking presently, in fact studies are under way with respect to the Grand Beach proposal. There are a number of other smaller proposals that we are giving consideration to at this time under this particular program.

* (1550)

I would like to point out to the Members of the Committee that because this is a joint agreement between the federal and provincial Governments, some of these may or may not be announced or approved as of yet. Announcements under this agreement are generally done in conjunction with the federal Government because they are, of course, putting up 50 percent of the money.

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): It is a matter of some considerable concern to us that in Program 2, with an approved budget of some \$8 million, which is the major area within the agreement to stimulate the private sector, that only \$1.610 million has been approved this some three years into a five-year agreement. Does the Minister have an explanation that he can offer for the slow take up?

Mr. Ernst: I cannot answer for anything prior to May 9, 1988 as far as take-up is concerned, although as the staff have indicated, major tourism development projects do not happen overnight. We have approximately three years left to flow the money for these agreements. Even though the commitment has to come by March 31, 1990, we have 18 months after that to flow the money to see these projects through to completion. Major projects in the several millions of dollars, which were anticipated to create major impact, tourism impacts in our province, that was the basic plan behind the joint agreement, do not happen overnight. They are not going to occur. There is a lot of research, a lot of background information that is required, work that has to be done in order to get a project to a stage where major funding is to be flowed. We are close on a couple of these projects and will be hopefully carrying those out in the very near future.

Mr. Carr: I understand that one of the problems is that the requirements for this program to kick in is a minimum of \$500,000, and as a result there are many smaller operators who wish to access the fund who cannot because of the criteria stated within the agreement. Now if that is the case, the Minister seems to be in a very tough spot. He cannot attract too many of the larger projects because in a province the size of Manitoba there are not any, or are not of sufficient numbers. But on the other hand, those small operators who are very anxious to access the fund cannot,

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because it requires a minimum capital outlay of \$500,000 within the terms of the agreement itself.

My question would be to the Minister, will he at an early date, before it is too late to access the money within this agreement, consider reducing the requirement to something less than \$500,000 so some of the smaller operators can take advantage of this Canada-Manitoba agreement?

Mr. Ernst: The \$500,000 limit refers to new major project development. It does not refer to existing project development. We have funded, for instance, Inverness Falls Resort for \$110,000 which was a somewhat modest expansion of their existing facilities. We have Childs Lake Lodge where it was \$80,000, again a small amount of money in relation to the overall.

The Member is mistaken that \$500,000 is required for existing facilities. Existing facilities could have applied under this agreement for smaller amounts of money relating to expansions of their existing operations. However, a new project today, I suspect, would have very great difficulty of a major tourism nature to be built for less than \$500,000 and it is the anticipation of the program to support major tourism operations now that will require significant expenditures to create major impact type of facilities.

Mr. Carr: Would the Minister give us an undertaking that the monies that have been set aside through the provisions of this part of the agreement will not be diverted or directed to public sector projects, but that indeed whatever is left, and it seems to be some \$6.4 million, will be used to stimulate private sector activity within the tourism industry and will not be diverted to public projects? Can he make that assurance and undertaking to the House now?

Mr. Ernst: This agreement is a joint agreement between the federal and the provincial Governments. Certain criteria are laid down as to how the money may be expended and we have to live up to those under the agreement.

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): I was interested, as I walked into the House, the Minister mentioned that they have some money in the budget allocated for developments at Grand Beach. I wonder if the Minister is in a position at this time to let us in on what those plans are for that resort area.

Mr. Ernst: We had an extensive discussion about this the last time the committee met and unless all honourable Members here want me to go through the song and dance again, I can refer the Member to Hansard and he can read—

Mr. Rose: -(Inaudible)-

* (1600)

Mr. Plozman: Mr. Chairman, I just want to, first of all, note for the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) when he raised the issue of the small businesses that could not access this agreement, that item No. 6 under this

Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement that was just completed, was a similar agreement which did not have these limitations. If you will note in the Estimates that agreement had just come to an end. That dealt with very much smaller projects generally and the idea was that following that, we should be targeting on major tourism attractions in this province. That is why the dollars were allocated for four major attractions and why that limit was put in place of \$500,000 for new projects.

I think that there will not be any problem spending it if the Minister follows up on a number of projects that have had a lot of groundwork done on them already. We went through all of these, a number of these the last day during the discussions. There are a number of major projects that could easily spend the \$6 million which would be very good for Manitoba in terms of tourism, so I do not think there should be a difficulty there unless there is a deliberate attempt by the Government to renegotiate this agreement with the federal Government and target those dollars completely differently. So I would hope that the Minister will attempt to ensure that those funds are not reduced.

As a matter of fact, we see a reduction here this year of some 23 percent in the rural resorts attractions and facilities in terms of dollar flow from 334,900 last year to 249. If the Minister would look at the Supplementary Estimates he would see that. I find that regrettable because I see that this comes at a time when the Minister is indicating that they are doing more for rural development in this province. Here we have an area of rural resorts attractions and facilities down some 23 percent in this fiscal year. I would ask the Minister to reconcile that reduction there with his statement that his Government is going to be doing more for rural development in this province.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to do that, because the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plozman) is wrong. What happened under the Rural Attractions Program last year, there were some studies done which will not be duplicated this year. In terms of the overall expenditures, Capital and Current, we spent in 1987-88 \$997,000, whereas in 1989 we will spend \$1.75 million, approximately double—well, sorry, not quite double—40 percent more.

Mr. Plozman: Mr. Chairman, then I would ask the Minister to reference the figures on page 71 of the Supplementary Estimates and to indicate where those figures are wrong.

Mr. Ernst: The Member refers to the Current only. There is an additional expenditure in Capital of approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Plozman: The Minister is indicating that the 334,900 versus the 249,900 does not deal with Capital Expenditures, or what is that precisely for, that reduction?

Mr. Ernst: That, Mr. Chairman, dealt with the Current only and dealt with some resort studies and so on that were done last year that will not be done necessarily

this year. Those studies, having been completed, they are not more an ongoing thing. There may well be additional studies, but we do not have them contemplated just at the moment and have not included it in the budget. But they had been completed last year and of course have to be included in expenditures.

Mr. Plozman: Under Program No. 1, Marketing Expansion, there is a reduction of 12 percent, \$100,000.00. The Minister has been repeatedly saying to the Members of this House that he is going to be spending another million dollars in marketing. Here we see a decrease in marketing. How does he reconcile the two? Is this \$100,000 from here going into that million that he is talking about?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, we have allocated a million dollars of Manitoba-only money under these Estimates for marketing purposes. Marketing projects under the Tourism Agreement have to meet certain criteria. We have expended the majority of the money under the Tourism Agreement for marketing at the present time. There will be monies spent, for instance, under a two-year or three-year agreement for approvals that have taken place in the past, so that it is not always going to work out in a direct pro-rata type of basis that it will happen one year over another as being either up or down. It may well be up or down, depending upon the projects in works at that particular time, or funding approvals that have either been completed or still have additional money to be expended. The undertaking our Government has given is that we will spend all the money under the Tourism Agreement before the Tourism Agreement expires.

Mr. Plozman: Just to put it in proper perspective, though, there was \$100,000 more money spent in this area than is being planned for this coming year. Therefore, of course, that is part of the increase that he is talking about in the area of marketing; we see less activity here. So in fact there is only a \$900,000 increase instead of a million, which is still a good effort on the part of the Minister, I have to admit.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, most of the marketing that is done under the Tourism Agreement is done outside of Government. Projects, for instance, the food festival or the buskers festival, those kinds of things were marketing initiatives from outside of Government. That is private sector marketing initiatives that were supported by the agreement. The million dollars, as being expended under the marketing section of the budget, is marketing of Manitoba in general terms, the way the provincial Government's initiative of marketing.

Mr. Plozman: Mr. Chairman, I understand in Program No. 4, the Minister had mentioned that there was some—I did not pick the figure up exactly—was it some \$4 million allocated and some \$732,000 spent for rural attractions? If that is the case, I would like to know what plans he sees there that are in the works for the remainder of that \$3 million in that area?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, one project, possibly \$1.2 million, is Lower Fort Garry. The feasibility study is under

way at the present time to determine the feasibility obviously of constructing a working farm at the site to complement the Fort as a major tourism attraction for Manitoba. As well, we have under way studies and plans with regard to the Hecla Village, a determination of restoration and creating a working village there as an additional tourism attraction to facilities already at Hecla Island Provincial Park. There are one or two other small projects being considered.

Mr. Plozman: The Minister is aware, I have discussed with him and he has obviously been made aware by staff of a request for some funding for Selo Ukraina at Dauphin, which is the new site that was built as a federal-provincial initiative. The facility has not been operating in the black, to say the least, up to this point in time because of the debt that was incurred in the development of that facility—a large mortgage. They need considerable assistance with marketing and fund raising, being I think the two areas that Government could be of most assistance in ensuring that facility reaches its full potential.

I would ask the Minister whether he has approved the funding under this agreement for Selo Ukraina and the hiring of staff, whether that has been done up to this point in time and if not, when he feels that may happen.

Mr. Ernst: The matter to which the Member for Dauphin refers is contained under the Events section. We have just recently received a job description proposal for hiring of a marketing fund-raising person to assist Selo Ukraina—hopefully out of some of their financial problems that exist at the present time. That recommendation is in the works at the moment; it is expected to deal with very shortly.

Mr. Plozman: This is not to be confused with a major event. It is a facility. I will just ask the Minister the rationale behind taking it from behind that section of the agreement.

Mr. Ernst: Capital facilities, by and large, are in place regardless of how much debt is attached to them. What they need is a program to assist them in getting out of that financial morass as well as continuing on the very good work that they do. Therefore, it was our consideration that it be funded under Events. Quite frankly, it does not matter where it is funded as long as it gets funded.

* (1610)

Mr. Plozman: Quite frankly, I could not agree more. As long as it gets funded, that is what we are after. That is why I asked the Minister if he can be more specific as to when he feels that this will be through the various steps that has to be taken before it is finally approved.

Mr. Ernst: As the Member is aware, it is a federal-provincial agreement. It would have to go through both systems, but I anticipate three weeks to a month.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any more questions? Item 7.(a)—pass; item 7.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 103: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,485,000 for Industry, Trade and Tourism—pass.

Item No. 9. Emergency Interest Rate Relief Program—pass.

Resolution No. 105: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$86,000 for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Emergency Interest Rate Relief Program, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item No. 10. Expenditures Related to Capital, item 10.(a)(1) Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement—Destination Manitoba; item 10.(a)(2) Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement 1985-1990—pass.

Resolution No. 106: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,493,300 for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Expenditures Related To Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

I would now ask the Members to direct their attention to item 1.(a).

Mr. Ernst: As indicated at the start of the Estimates, because the Sport Directorate falls under my jurisdiction as Minister, that I had agreed to, during the discussion of 1.(a)(1), my salary, that I would be pleased to discuss the question of Sport and have indeed provided both to the critic for the Liberal Party and the critic for the New Democratic Party some background information with regard to the Sport Directorate and its expenditures.

Sport is funded entirely out of lottery revenues at the present time, and if that is agreeable with you we will address the question of Sport. I just have a couple of comments to put on the record to start with.

As I indicated, I am pleased to provide information and the opportunity for questions from the Members opposite. Before I do that, however, I would like to introduce two people from the Sport Directorate here, Mr. Ted Bigelow, who is the Acting Director of Sport and Mrs. Janet McMahan, who is the prettiest member of the Sport Department. Both are very diligent, hard working people and have been of great assistance to me during my short tenure as Minister responsible for the Manitoba Sport Directorate.

I would just like to run down some of the current activities of the Sport Department, Mr. Chairman, for the information of members of the committee. We have just completed, in August, the 1988 Manitoba Summer Games, the most successful provincial games ever put into place, thanks to the effort of all of the regional host communities and the provincial final host communities of Beausejour and Pinawa.

Selection process for sports and sites for the 1990 Manitoba Winter Games is presently under way. I should like to offer congratulations also to my former colleague, the Honourable Larry Desjardins, who was the initiator of recent time at these games, and who deserves much of the credit with respect to the operation of those games.

The 1990 Western Canada Games will be hosted in Winnipeg. The organizing committee under the chairmanship of Joe Poplawski has actively been setting the stage for this very, very major sporting event in Manitoba, the largest since the Pan-American Games in 1967. These games will be a step towards a future major games event in Manitoba, as well as a legacy of volunteer facilities and promotion for sport in general.

1989 is anticipated to be the Year of the Coach. At the upcoming Federal-Provincial Territorial Sport and Recreation Ministers' Conference, which will be held in Winnipeg at the end of October, we expect that the announcement will be made to make 1989 the Year of the Coach right across Canada.

The province has incorporated the following themes into our plans: promotion of the profession of coaching, development of opportunities for coaching for women, development of the concept of fair play, which addresses fair play, violence, safety and drug abuse in the sport, improving public awareness to the importance of coaching, and increasing the number of coaches in the system for sport.

In terms of facilities, the Province of Manitoba is currently a partner with the City of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Sports Federation in a \$15 million facility development program, \$7 million for Phase I has been approved for a facility development directly required to bring the sites for the 1990 Western Canada Games up to technical standards, and to provide a legacy for sport in this province. Phase II, \$8 million, is in the planning stage. It will be completed hopefully by January of 1989.

Again I wish to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the Sport Facility Program was initiated by the former Minister of Sport in the Province of Manitoba, the Honourable Larry Desjardins, and much of the credit for that particular program goes to that gentleman.

Under the Sport Directorate, it will continue its role in the promotion and development of sport in Manitoba by working with volunteer agencies, the MSF, provincial sport governing bodies, regional sport associations, communities, sport science, medical, paramedical organizations, universities, coaches associations and the like.

Planning and evaluation of the direction of the future for sport will be done through the following. Firstly, Mr. Chairman, and very likely most importantly is the question of the needs assessment and the lottery review. As the Sport Directorate, all of its funding, as well as the funding for the Manitoba Sports Federation, comes out of lottery dollars, the ultimate resolution of that issue will be significant and relate directly to sport. There will be required to develop a new agreement between the Manitoba Sports Federation and the Province of Manitoba. The present agreement expires in 1989. We will be undertaking those negotiations, identify Manitoba's interests and its role as a Government in relation to sport. We will have to review the Manitoba Sports Federation Sport Plan. We will review the provincial territorial paper, Sport Recreation and Fitness 2000, and review the Province of Manitoba's policy paper on recreation.

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These activities and the programs coordinated by the sport director represent our strong commitment to amateur sport in this province and its related volunteers and volunteer agencies. I would be happy to respond to any questions that the Members opposite may have.

* (1620)

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): My comments regarding sport in Manitoba are obviously in disarray today as a result of unhappy events apparently unfolding at the Olympic Games in South Korea.

One thing that is clear, money does not buy medals and it does not buy fitness. Guts and determination do this. I would like to commend Anthony Nesty of Surinam who won the 100-meter mens butterfly in record time in South Korea. I note that Surinam's population is less than Manitobas and that it is not a prosperous country with only one 50-meter pool.

Government spending on sports is of clear value to Manitoba tourism and is a gesture of encouragement to 250,000 Manitobans who participate in amateur sport. But its greatest value lies in offering character building participation to inner-city youth and rural youth with limited sporting options. I refer with great pleasure to very classy young boxers from Camperville, who are considerably less disadvantaged as a result of the opportunities offered them by the Manitoba Amateur Boxing Association.

Can the Minister assure us that he will use moral suasion, if not direct pressure, to ensure that provincial monies devoted to sport are available in a significant way to sports participation opportunities for the disadvantaged?

Mr. Ernst: By all means. Part of the criticism that has gone on up to this point has been to move away perhaps from expenditures on program and more into administration.

While administration is important, particularly with the complexities that relate to sport today, and the requirements of national and international governing bodies which require greater and greater detail and so on, we still have to recognize that program is the essence of the way we would like to see the lottery dollars spent—a program for all kinds of people across all of the province. I concur with the Member for Transcona that we will certainly be addressing those issues.

Mr. Kozak: I note that the expenditure summary for the Sport Directorate does not show an increase in sports funding for this current fiscal year. I wonder if that would reflect any advance knowledge or anticipation on the part of the Minister of the needs assessment that will be forthcoming later this year?

Mr. Ernst: The Manitoba Sport Directorate has traditionally been funded, as I indicated earlier, of lottery funding, a fixed percentage. It was capped in 1987 along with every other funding agency under the lottery funding arrangement. I think our percentage is—11.4 percent is the allocation under lottery funding. As the

Member for Transcona may know, all beneficiaries under the lottery funding scheme were capped in 1987, as has the Sport Directorate. That is why nothing has changed and it will not change until we rationalize how the lottery review situation takes place.

Mr. Kozak: The last report of the provincial Auditor, and in fact I am informed that reports in recent years by the provincial Auditor, point out that it is improper under The Lotteries Foundation Act and poor management practice to pay the operating expenditures of the Manitoba Sport Directorate out of lottery funds. I wonder if the Minister is adjusting to compliance with this advice on the part of the Provincial Auditor.

Mr. Ernst: I and my colleagues on this side of the House asked those same questions and offered those same criticisms when we were in Opposition. They are correct. I concur with the suggestion of the Auditor that it is not the way to do it, short and sweet.

As a matter of fact, those same criticisms are levelled at the Department of Culture, Heritage, and Recreation because part of their staff and certain other programming funds were coming out of Lotteries and not being shown in the Budget, as they should have been.

In the short period of time that we had available to us to put together a Budget, given that the Session started on the 21st and the Treasury Board completed its deliberations, I think, on or about the 4th of July, there was not time to carry out a holus-bolus arrangement in this department. It is our anticipation that will occur for the next Budget year.

Mr. Kozak: A while ago in this House during Question Period, I got very excited about the provision of lottery funds to the 96 province-wide sports associations that received lottery revenue from the Manitoba Sport Directorate. I would like to commend the Minister for very prompt action in the provision of funding to the umbrella organizations, and also to assure him that I do not always get quite as excited as I did on that particular occasion.

However, there has been over a period of some years an increasing delay that is recognized by all of us interested in amateur sport in the provision of these funds. Some sports that are essentially summer sports could in fact find themselves in the position of completing their entire program without benefit of the funding that essentially finances their program. I wonder if the Minister could assure us today that his exemplary rapid action in expediting funding this year is something that we can expect in general from the Sport Directorate and from the Minister.

Mr. Ernst: The Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) is too kind. As I indicated, this is the time of year when the money generally is forwarded to those groups. His question earlier presented in Question Period was indeed in error. The Member indicated of course that he had some misinformation, and that was fine.

It is a concern to us as well, and part of the process is the way that the Legislature operates and the way

that things occur. This year, particularly, because of the fact that a new Government was put into place on May 9, by the time you get through just trying to find out what is going on and then having gone through the Estimates process, having that approved by Treasury Board, it took some time and delayed it again somewhat more. As I say, it is a concern to us and, dependent how the budget process works for next year, we hope that we will be able to put in place something that we will be able to see the money come forward at a little earlier time.

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Chairman, the Needs Survey that we await with great anticipation will undoubtedly make changes to the funding of amateur sport in this province. We expect that. The purpose of a study is to improve any system that is in existence. I am aware, however, that environmental groups for example, such as Ducks Unlimited, have been lobbying for a piece of the lottery pie. There is a limited lottery pie and I wonder if the Minister feels that the Sports Federation, particularly in light of the fact that they presently have a full one-year operating reserve might well find its funding reduced.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, that is an extremely hypothetical question. In terms of lotteries and so on, that falls under the purview of the Minister responsible for Lotteries (Mrs. Mitchelson). Sport is a beneficiary under the lottery system. It is my intention certainly to expend whatever efforts I can in order to support the Sport funding under the lottery system. I could not begin to contemplate what the Lotteries Review report might say or not say and whether our Government will accept or not accept whatever recommendations are made. Those bridges have yet to be crossed and, as I say, I do not want to make any prejudgments or make any comment on a very hypothetical question.

* (1630)

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Chairman, I have noticed with some interest that in recent time, in fact this month, the Government of Ontario, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, Sports and Fitness Branch, has gone out of its way to emphasize the field of safety in sport. They are presently in the process of hiring a coordinator for a safety program, a safety consultant specializing in training and education, and a safety consultant specializing in risk management and safety strategies. I wonder if the Minister feels that such an initiative would be appropriate for the Sport Directorate to undertake or the Manitoba Sports Federation to undertake or if such an initiative can be taken by some other organization within the provincial Government.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, the Member refers to policy in Ontario. I had the opportunity of meeting with the Deputy Minister from Ontario just a matter of a month or so ago and did discuss some of these issues with him. It is our intention to undertake a modest portion of those activities with the limited funds we have available at the moment. We would obviously like to undertake much more but, as I said, under the capping arrangement of the Lottery Funding, until that is

resolved, we do not have a lot of additional money to spend. But part of that, under the Year of the Coach, certainly will be undertaken, and it is our hope that we can expand upon that program in the future.

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Chairman, in light of once again the unhappy event today in South Korea that I choose not to discuss in any detail, I wonder what proportion of the Sport Directorate's funds would be allocated to what we might call elite athletes, athletes with medal possibilities.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the individual numbers totalled, but I can read them off if the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) would like. If you refer to the budget of the Sport Directorate with the heading, page 9, I think it is the last page of the sheet that you have there. Grant assistance, provincial team, \$220,000, that would be for elite athletes; athlete assistance, \$250,000; the 1989 Canada Summer Games at \$120,000; and the 1990 Western Canada Games at \$120,000.00. Those items would be the items referring to assistance to elite athletes.

Mr. Kozak: So it is fair to say then that indeed the bulk, at least 80 percent of the funding provided by the Sport Directorate, does go to promote fitness at the more general level for the quarter million Manitobans in which we take particular pride, some of whom fall in the category of disadvantaged and cannot be called "elite athletes" at present.

Mr. Ernst: We spend, out of \$4.2 million, about maybe 25 percent are spent in the Elite Athlete Program. Now that includes program, not just assistance to elite athletes but the running of two major games or our portion thereof and assistance to athletes associated with those games. But there are disadvantaged elite athletes. There are or will be in the next two weeks Special Olympics being held in Seoul, Korea, in which Manitoba is proud to have a number of participants.

In fact, I had the opportunity a couple of weeks ago or three weeks ago of hosting those athletes both for the Special Olympics and the current Olympics here in the building for lunch and, as a matter of fact, had them introduced here in the Legislature, Mr. Chairman, if you will remember that occasion. So we are very proud of all our athletes, but that is not to say that there are no elite athletes within the Special Olympic Program, because there are and they are every bit as representative of Manitoba and every bit as deserving of our support as any other.

Mr. Kozak: I am pleased the Minister mentioned the various Special Olympic programs in which every Member in this House takes pride and on which we have commended participants repeatedly. There are very few things that all three Parties represented in this House have in common. One is the concept which comes to us from our classical ancestors, the concept of the ideal of a sound mind in a sound body. There is no implication in our interpretation of this ideal in this House that does not apply to all Manitobans. We take pride in participants in the Special Olympics, as we do participants in other events on Manitoba's behalf.

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I wonder if I might ask the Minister if funding directed in that direction, the direction of Special Olympics sports participation for persons with disabilities, has altered somewhat over the last year.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, I would indicate to the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) that funding has approximately doubled this year over last for Special Olympic Programs.

Mr. Kozak: In light of my earlier question about funding for athletic opportunities for disadvantaged inner-city youth and disadvantaged rural youth, I think the Minister is likely to receive the support of every Member of this Chamber for increases in funding for Special Olympic Programs. That completes my questions, but the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) would like to tender some further questions on one specific area.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Chairman, I have some questions with regard to the Western Canada Games for 1990.

Can the Minister tell the House the amount of funding in capital projects that will be given from this Government either through Lotteries revenue or direct grants from the Government to the Western Canada Games?

* (1640)

Mr. Ernst: There is no capital money to be given directly to the Western Canada Games Committee. There is an agreement between the city and the Manitoba Sports Federation and the province to expend \$7 million of a \$15 million agreement for facilities directly related to the 1990 Manitoba Summer Games. That includes such things as the artificial turf at the Winnipeg Stadium and the creation of a baseball park and so on. In terms of capital funding, there is no direct capital funding available. There is, however, operating funding to be given to the Manitoba Summer Games. That amount is presently under discussion.

Mrs. Carstairs: I do not want to prevaricate about this. I want to come right up front about the thing. It is my understanding that there are a number of sports, 15 of them in all, which require additional facility grants. To give you one specific example, the equestrian site will require a barn. That barn in itself will probably cost some \$200,000.00. This group has been told that the maximum they can expect from any Government agency of any kind is \$50,000.00. They will be unable to build the kind of facility that they require for the Summer Games with that kind of money. What kind of additional funding, if any, is this Government going to be putting into those kinds of sites, or is the total commitment going to be to artificial turf and to soccer facilities if the other 15 sites are to be left without any funding at all?

Mr. Ernst: That kind of indication has not yet come to me as the Minister of Sport. However, as I said, there is a \$15 million Facilities Agreement. The first \$7 million was anticipated prior to my becoming the

Minister of Sport, as I recognized earlier, to be needed to complete facilities for the Western Canada Games. There is an additional \$8 million that is in the prioritization process, and we will be starting the prioritization process over the next little while.

Bearing in mind that there are three partners to that agreement, the City of Winnipeg, the Manitoba Sports Federation, and the Province of Manitoba, as I said, it certainly has not been brought to my attention that anybody is going short, as the Member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) or the Leader of the Opposition indicates. That is not to say that we are not going to investigate those statements and, if the Member can provide me with the information with regard to the other sports where she obviously has certain information, we would be pleased to look into it.

Mrs. Carstairs: The information, quite frankly, I got was from an active equestrian, a coach who is concerned about the lack of facilities in her particular sport. All I would ask of the Minister would be that he would look into the needs of the other sports that will be participating in the games, to make sure that all facilities are capable of functioning, because in terms of the equestrienne events, without that facility, quite frankly, they will just not be able to offer it. That means that a lot of elite athletes training in this field will just not be able to compete in the Winnipeg games.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Chairman, we meet regularly with the Western Canada Games Executive Committee, and up to this point they have not brought that to our attention. It is their responsibility, the host committee, to run the 1990 games. It is their responsibility to ensure that appropriate facilities are available in which to run the games. There are standards and so on that must be met in order for them to operate the games. If there is a problem in this area, and I undertake to investigate that problem or potential problem, but if there is a problem we will have to deal with it in conjunction with the 1990 Summer Games Committee.

Mr. Rose: I have a question of the Minister. Could you tell me, in approximate numbers, how many people are presently staffed in Manitoba to run the Western Canada Games? Is there an organization in effect, a staff to organize the games at the present time?

Mr. Ernst: The Western Canada Games, yes, they have a staff, I think, of four people. Mr. Crook is the general manager. He was previously the director of sport for the Province of Manitoba. He has one assistant. I think there are two, one marketing promotions person and one secretary.

Mr. Rose: I would be interested to know what location they have for administration offices, and what you might anticipate by the time the games come as to how many staff will be working under Mr. Crook at that time?

Mr. Ernst: I think the Member is aware of where they are located. It is the old library building on Rue de la Cathedrale in St. Boniface, a facility provided by his former employer, the City of Winnipeg. I believe that

they are seconding an additional staff person to assist them as well, as near as I can tell. During the event itself they may require some additional short-term staff for a period of a month or so. There is a tremendous number of volunteers being solicited across the province to help put on these games. They need to have thousands and thousands of volunteers in order to assist to make these games happen. They may have the need for some additional staff, of which I am not aware at the present time, but I have not discussed that with them just in the past little while.

Mr. Rose: I certainly was aware of where the site was, but it led to my question as to whether that facility is, indeed, the right size or too large? What was the rationale in using that location? Was it central or could some better, more centralized location not have been found at the time?

Mr. Ernst: The City of Winnipeg is the host of the Western Canada Games in 1990, not the province. The City of Winnipeg set up a committee to deal with the 1990 Summer Games, so it was the City of Winnipeg's decision that that is where they would be located. They offered them that facility. They are paying for the cost of it, so presumably the rationale by the 1990 Games Committee was that it was free. But as I said, the city is the host, they are the people who are conducting, through their committee, the 1990 Games Committee. We have one position there because we are a funding body associated with it. We are not directly involved in the operation of the games.

Mr. Kozak: The Minister responsible for Sport (Mr. Ernst) will be hosting his fellow Ministers from across Canada at the end of October in Winnipeg. I assume he will be presenting to them the general thrust of Manitoba's sports policy. Are there any particular details of what he plans to put forward at that time that he presently would like to share with us?

Mr. Ernst: I said we will be advancing a sport policy. I do not think we are going to be able to have in place any kind of even a framework by the time the federal-provincial Ministers meet. As well, the agenda is pretty much set and predetermined by meetings and other events that have taken place up to this point. So that there is always room for, of course, last minute items and so on, but the major portion of the agenda has been set at this point.

Mr. Kozak: That completes our questioning on sports funding in Manitoba. If the Second Opposition Party wishes to make some comments at this time, prior to final votes on this Minister's Estimates, we are certainly amenable to that.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Prior to me entering the Chamber, I understand you indicated that you would be tabling the report from the Sports Federation that was reported on last Friday, dealing with the impact of sport on Manitoba and the tourist industry, that he had indicated that. Would the Minister then please agree to table the report that was produced on—and as I see, is on the Minister's

attendant table, in terms of sports and its effect on the economy of Manitoba.

Pursuant to that question, does the Minister's own department concur, both Tourism and Sports Departments, those two areas concur with the findings in the report, or does he just perceive that as an advocate report for purposes of maintaining their funding?

Mr. Ernst: I am surprised that the Manitoba Sports Federation has not provided every Member of the House with a copy. I see several being flashed from—but if the Member from Concordia (Mr. Doer) does not have a copy I would be pleased to provide it. I do not know that I want to table a document that is not mine in the House, specifically as it relates to that. In terms of the other questions, it was only released on Friday. We have not had yet an opportunity to review it. We will review it, and take it from whence it came.

Mr. Doer: I thank the Minister for that answer. Would he, when he is finished his Department of Tourism and Sport, has reviewed the document and analysis and impact statement, would he agree to table those findings with all Members of this Chamber?

Mr. Ernst: I would be happy to give him my very earnest consideration.

Mr. Doer: I would ask the Minister. There is a great deal of controversy. We all want to maintain sports, both elite and amateur sports, drug-free. There is a great deal of controversy, in terms of drugs, obviously last week with the weightlifting categories, Canadian weightlifting categories, as to disagreements with athletes. Today again, we have the Ben Johnson situation, which I am sure will rage in this country. Is the Minister satisfied with the policy of the federal Government and indeed, the provincial Government in this area, or is there a policy in place?

* (1650)

Mr. Ernst: It is unfortunate, the Member from Concordia (Mr. Doer), the Leader of the New Democratic Party was not here but we did talk about drug abuse to some extent today. It is on the agenda for the Federal-Provincial Ministers' Conference at the end of this month, and we do have some expectation for increased policy, and increased program in this area.

Mr. Doer: A final question that I would have to the Minister, September is Manitoba Special Olympics month in this province and it has received both support from the Manitoba Sports Federation and support from the other components of Government through Jobs Fund funding. Is the Minister going to maintain the level of funding for the Manitoba Special Olympics with its thousands of volunteers in this province over the next number of years, and will that be incorporated under the Sports Federation or in other areas of the province given the cutbacks in the Jobs Fund from the Government?

Mr. Ernst: As the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) probably knows, the Sport Directorate funding is

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capped, along with everybody else who receives lottery funding under lottery funding in the province. Yes, we are committed. I think I indicated a little bit earlier we had increased or the amount of funding for Special Olympics is increased, I think, from \$10,000 to \$19,000 year over year. Special Olympics certainly is a major, major concern of ours, and I know the special interest that the Member for Concordia has with regard to Special Olympics. We will certainly be maintaining funding for those areas.

Mr. Doer: I take it from the Minister's response, that includes the Manitoba Sports Foundation contribution for the Manitoba Special Olympics and the \$50,000 per annum from the Jobs Fund that was forwarded through the Department of Fitness and Amateur Sport in the past number of years in terms of the ongoing commitment to Manitoba Special Olympics.

Mr. Ernst: Yes.

Mr. Plohman: I do not know whether the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) wanted to request that we pass this at this time. If he does not have anything further to add, I just wanted to make a few comments before five o'clock, and we can pass it at five.

I wanted to indicate to the Minister that I was extremely disappointed and so were my colleagues. I think first of all we should have the staff—once we are finished with Sport, we can deal with the Minister's Salary. Is that what we are on now, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: We are item 1.(a), Minister's Salary, and we had earlier agreed that any discussion with respect to sports would be undertaken at this time. If there are no further questions directed to sports, we can perhaps wait just a few minutes until the staff leave.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier before I interrupted, we only have a brief number of minutes here and we will not be able to do justice to this Minister's performance during this Estimates process. I do want to indicate that I was extremely disappointed with his position and his explanations and justifications for the position that he has taken on free trade in this House during these Estimates. He was unable to satisfy this Opposition and, I am sure, the Official Opposition as well in this House that he had in any way considered in any detail or conducted the studies that were required to indeed build a strong position that he is taking on supporting the Free Trade Agreement or the trade deal that Mulroney has put forward.

As a matter of fact, he relied on studies that have been done in other jurisdictions by other groups who have already made up their minds about where they wanted to go on this issue and supported free trade from the outset. He relied on that as the basis for any justification that he wanted to make in this House during these Estimates. I find that regrettable.

The fact is we pointed out that there were serious problems in this Free Trade Agreement in the investment area by raising the threshold from \$5 million to \$150

million. Many takeovers will not be scrutinized in any way by Canadians, by the Canadian Government. That means we are going to see a loss of jobs, and the Minister justified that in support by saying there will be more jobs because of foreign investment or foreign takeovers. I demonstrated during the discussions that over the last 10 years there have been a reduction in jobs by foreign-owned companies in this country. It has been small- and medium-sized firms in this country, Canadian owned, that have created the jobs.

The concerns dealing with regional economic development have not been dealt with in the agreement. There is no assistance for Canadians with regard to regional economic development programs to prevent what has happened in the past with the groundfish issue, as I indicated to the Minister, in the Atlantic provinces where 55 regional development programs have been deemed to be countervailable. There is no protection there.

My colleague, the former Minister of Agriculture, the Member for the Interlake (Mr. Uruski), raised a number of issues with regard to agricultural commodities. These were not addressed to any satisfaction to this House. My colleague, the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), raised the issues of energy and the giveaway that we have made in the trade deal, that Mulroney has made in the trade deal. Those were not addressed by this Minister.

In other words, this Government has refused to table legal documents that would support their positions. They have not done the studies that are required, and yet they are blindly going forward to support this trade agreement. I think that is regrettable. It is certainly unbecoming of them in their position as Ministers in this Government.

I want to indicate that we do not support that position. I would ask the Minister to very carefully reconsider that position in the months ahead as we now pass these Estimates with some, I must say, regret in those areas.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): In the 30 seconds I have left, I would just like to suggest that we too will be watching the activities of the Minister in the year to come between the process between now and the next time he introduces a budget.

He has amalgamated the department.—(Interjection)—Yes, he may not even survive a year. By the next time he shows a budget, we will be scrutinizing the impact of free trade, the impact of the amalgamation of the departments in terms of Industry, Trade and Tourism and whether or not they require more specific attention than he has been able to give them. We will be closely watching the participation of athletes in this province and the development of sports. We will serve notice, Mr. Chairman, in moving the passage of the Minister's Salary as it stands, that we are putting him on notice for closer scrutiny at the next budget process. Thank you.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: Is this section of the Committee of the Supply ready for the question? Item 1.(a), Minister's Salary—pass.

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Resolution No. 98: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,014,800 for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

The hour is now 5 p.m. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. The committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed to Private Members' Hour, I would like to draw all Honourable Members' attention to the Speaker's gallery, where we have with us this afternoon 15 members and staff of the Standing Committee on the Ombudsman of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RES. NO. 15—WINNIPEG RIVERS MANAGEMENT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), Resolution No. 15, Winnipeg Rivers Management.

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans), that:

WHEREAS the Red and Assiniboine Rivers are Winnipeg's greatest natural resources; and

WHEREAS the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, and the lands along them, have become important for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS the citizens of our capital city are choosing to make even more use of these rivers; and

WHEREAS there have been three serious boating accidents, one of them fatal, in Winnipeg in July of '88; and

WHEREAS the preservation of the riverine flora and fauna is of serious concern; and

WHEREAS all three levels of Government have certain responsibilities on, in and surrounding these bodies of water; and

WHEREAS clarification and coordination of these various Government responsibilities would be of benefit to those who use Winnipeg's rivers; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg conducted a major jurisdictional study on rivers concerns in 1985, which has been reviewed by all city departments; and

WHEREAS City Council, by unanimous vote on October 15, 1986, requested provincial/civic

negotiations at the official level and set a proposed 12-point agenda; and

WHEREAS The City of Winnipeg Act Review Report, the Department of Urban Affairs' response to that report, and City of Winnipeg's response to the same report have all called for greater authority to be given to the city for rivers management;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request the Government to instruct the staff of the Department of Urban Affairs to commence comprehensive negotiations with officials of the City of Winnipeg on rivers jurisdiction matters;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly also requests the Government to initiate discussions with the federal Government as soon as possible on matters under its control, i.e., navigation, boater safety, speed limitations, noise limitations and construction of crossings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly further request that the Government seriously consider the immediate transfer of additional funds to the City of Winnipeg to be used for the provision of needed equipment and staff so as to enhance the Harbour Master operation.

MOTION presented.

* (1710)

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I will begin my address in support of this Private Member's resolution by reading into the record a motion out of the City of Winnipeg Rivers and Streams Committee of the 21st of February, 1985:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT due to the profusion of responsibilities splintered amongst various agencies of the three levels of Government as it relates to activities on, in, or surrounding Winnipeg's rivers and streams, and due to Winnipeg no longer being a federal port, and that this fact and other changed circumstances has made for gaps and responsibilities in governing our water courses, that the City of Winnipeg Act Review Committee be informed of this confused situation and deficiencies, and that it consider in its review and deliberations the creation of a tripartite-operated comprehensive rivers and streams authority responsible for all aspects of rivers and streams concerns, including bank protection, pollution, control, dredging, regulation in shipping, small boat safety, rescue, ice safety, flow constriction, vegetation control and river bank clean-up."

Well, Mr. Speaker, quite a potpourri of items that do need attention, and I am glad we have with us this afternoon the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) because I will be very interested in his response to this matter.

Winnipeg is at a crossroads. There is recently a heightened awareness amongst city dwellers about the potential of their rivers. There is an expectation of

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something more to come, including of course new facilities and programs, but an expectation of something more again, a new approach which will not let us slip again in the future years into the past abuse and miseries that we have had.

Winnipeg, a prairie city, has as its most obvious valuable natural resource its rivers and streams. But long ago, the earlier residents of this city put industry on their banks, forgot about proper land husbandry, and quite frankly turned their daily lives away from the rivers. I feel that we should be maximizing our use of these rivers and streams from an economic, ecological and from a recreational viewpoint. For this reason, I have spent the last several years as a city councillor on Winnipeg's Rivers and Streams Authority. The purpose of that authority is to ensure that protection of the flow of the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers, to prevent any obstruction thereto, and to control constriction and the deposition of materials on its banks.

While on that committee, realization came that in this city we have a very unusual situation when it comes to jurisdiction on the rivers. It is not that there have not been jurisdictional problems in other cities. There have been but they have taken corrective action. In our city, the only device available to the residents is to come to Rivers and Streams but unfortunately, with the restriction of its authority to bank stability, flow impedance or constriction, this was not the answer. There was no other vehicle. There were no other jurisdictional tools available.

Rivers and Streams, as set up, cannot be sensitive to the needs of all its citizens, be they private homeowners, an entrepreneur who wishes to do development, or anybody interested in increasing and enhancing the activity on the rivers. They are faced with a myriad of Government regulations, confusing responsibilities and a total lack of coordination. All three levels of Governments have responsibilities, some overlapping. In some cases, approval for a project might be required from all three levels of Government.

It is interesting to note that, until some eight years ago, Winnipeg was a federal port right in the middle of the Prairies. The historical reason for that being is the transportation of goods from the south, from North Dakota and Minnesota to Winnipeg was a main supply line. With the ceasing of the commercial activity and the large freight boats that we used to have, we have seen a very great change in the federal Government, seeing that change over the last 20 years, removed the federal Harbour Master operation. There has been nothing in its place that answers all the needs there. We have a Harbour Master, but we have one with very limited jurisdiction, and certainly one that is not able at this time to yet fully police on the City of Winnipeg's rivers. The RCMP, which has authority to do so, which does so in cities such as Montreal, Ottawa, etc., is not policing here in actual fact, even though the responsibilities lie there.

There are three levels of Government, each with a jurisdiction, and it is not hard to imagine situations where duplication and critical concerns are not properly addressed.

The issue of a new river authority to Winnipeg is one that I have addressed at City Hall, at university

conferences, at international conferences on river management and, in fact, have prepared reports to The City of Winnipeg Act review, and to the University of Manitoba as well. This is an issue which at first might not engender excitement, but one which there is a serious price to pay if one does not get into the matter and get into it seriously. It is more than policing on the river. It is more than saying there should be speed restrictions. We have, quite frankly, a jurisdictional quagmire.

As a result of the sort of situation that the city found itself in, it set up an ad hoc jurisdictional committee which studied this problem. The committee held a series of 10 public meetings through the summer and early fall of 1985. At the referenced public sessions, input was received from all affected interest groups, agencies and departments that are involved in any way in river regulation of activity. Both informal and formal representations were made and it was most illuminating.

Those of us on the committee came away with an understanding of the existing situation, and it was not all negative. Those involved came away with a feeling, quite frankly, of optimism about the opportunities that exist on our rivers, and for the ability that we could have, if dealing with it in a forthright and up-front fashion of providing for the accommodation of a variety of complimentary activity.

The jurisdictional subcommittee met with user groups such as Riverbankers, a lobby group of concerned property owners, Manitoba Water Ski Association, Manitoba Canoeing Association, Manitoba Naturalist Society, representatives from each of the federal-provincial and civic agencies of departments that have an involvement on the rivers came forward. The committee had representation on the Canadian Coast Guard, the Manitoba Agreement for Recreation and Conservation, or otherwise known as ARC, Small Crafts Harbour Branch from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Public Works Canada, the Boating Safety group of the RCMP. The Director of the Provincial Water Resources Branch was there, as was the Clean Environment Commission of the province, and Manitoba Fisheries staff out of Natural Resources, as well.

The city at that time had been carrying out a review of its regulations and by-laws. One of the first steps that we took was to meet with that group, and make them aware of Rivers and Streams goal, and there was a cross-sharing of information. We were therefore able to pull together the various and diverse views and concerns of the city administration, which ranged from the people who wanted the snow from snow removal operations onto the banks to those concerned with clean-up of those banks in the springtime, and the developing of park lands, and those in the Park Planning Department, who are involved in zoning and regulation on the use of the land on the banks itself.

The questioning was intense, the answers were candid, and there was a good feel for what was going on in the city. However, because there was very little enforcement and monitoring by the province, because there has been a walking away from responsibility by the federal Government, the city had a major problem on its hands: What to do?

In certain areas there is clarification, for example, in Emergency Measures matters. But there is no clear-cut responsibility for funding of those emergency measures. There was also the case of cruise ships dumping sewage, raw sewage into the rivers in Winnipeg. Where did we have to go? Thunder Bay. That was the closest federal office which would enforce compliance of The Canada Steamship Act which would prohibit such an activity. Those were the sorts of real-life constraints that were being put upon the City of Winnipeg in trying to manage its river environment.

There is no shortage of examples of the complexity of the situation. In fact, after this study a consultant was hired who did a report on the findings and looked at various options as to how we might manage in the future, the rivers in Winnipeg. That report looked into the potential for a bipartite management operation for the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba jointly, with some delegation of authority from the federal Government. That study was reviewed through city departments over a period of one year and resulted in the fall of 1986 resolution which passed unanimously at City Hall.

I will read that into the record, because it is very pertinent to this resolution. Unanimously, on October 15, the City of Winnipeg passed the following 12-part resolution:

- (1) That the city accept the concept and responsibility for regulatory inspection enforcement emergency operation aspect related to the use of the city waterways and lands immediately adjacent thereto.
- (2) That the question of long-range planning, development, financing and management of the city waterways and public open spaces adjacent thereto be considered as a separate issue and worthy of review in relation to various concepts and proposals suggested by other Governments, private citizens and special interest groups.
- (3) That the City of Winnipeg endorse the concept of elimination of multiple jurisdiction in the regulatory and enforcement aspects of waterway management and request the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to transfer certain jurisdictions. That is point 3.
- (4) That the City of Winnipeg negotiate satisfactory cost-sharing arrangements with the Governments of Manitoba and Canada in recognition thereof of acceptance and responsibility for the enforcement of transferred responsibilities.
- (5) That the various departments of the City of Winnipeg be assigned specific areas of responsibility.
- (6) That the Department of the Environmental Planning continue to deal with and process applications for permits involving riverbank construction, constriction and impedance of flows with the Committee of Environment designated as the Rivers and Streams authority or responsible authority for the regulatory and enforcement aspects on the waterways and lands adjacent thereto.
- (7) That a Commissioner be designated as the Commissioner responsible for the coordination of all services.

(8) That the City of Winnipeg explore with input by Government, citizens and community organizations, an approach to a long-range riverbank development, improvement and beautification authority supported with adequate operating and capital funding.

(9) That upon completion of negotiation with the senior levels of Government the Committee on Environment, which became the Committee on Planning Community Services, review and make recommendations on the procedures related to the processing of applications and enforcement of regulations relative to the City waterways.

(10) The said review and recommendation by the Committee on Environment will take into consideration concerns and recommendations of the local community committees.

(11) That the Board of Commissioners be requested to report on a structure whereby the City can take initiative for short and long-range planning for riverbank development.

(12) Proper authorization to the City authorized to do all things necessary to implement those recommendations.

That is what has not been responded to by the previous administration and as yet we are awaiting word on how this Government will respond. I have before me a press release today, jointly put out by the Ministers of Natural Resources and Urban Affairs, and I can see that they are going to take some action on the aspect of the safe boating and better policing on the City of Winnipeg's rivers. I think these are the sort of things that are the start along the way to improving the situation. However, I would hope that when dealing with those points positively that we will not lose sight of the end goal. The reason for this Private Member's resolution was to deal with the issue itself and also to deal with it in an encompassing fashion so that we are dealing with all aspects.

* (1720)

I see here that we are talking about The Water Rights Act, pollution from boats and marinas, designation of provincial waterways. Those are steps in the right direction. However, there must also be transfer, or delegation of additional authority, to the City of Winnipeg; that has got to come. That was recommended in The City of Winnipeg Act Review. It was also concurred again in the response to The City of Winnipeg Act Review, and it was concurred again by the City of Winnipeg in its response to that same City of Winnipeg Act Review.

We will be examining this press release and, more particularly, we will be examining the action that comes out of the Department of Urban Affairs in conjunction with support out of the Department of Natural Resources, because I, for one, and I know there are other Members here on this side of the House are not going to look forward to a situation of status quo with greater coordination. That would be a start but hardly sufficient to give us what we need.

Whatever the impending negotiations between Manitoba and Winnipeg bring, that variation I mention

is not acceptable. These negotiations surely need not be too protracted and can be followed up by the setting up of a task force of civil servants to deal with the details, to deal with the legislative changes necessary and which can then be dissected and reviewed by public interest groups, by the city administration, who would be also looking at it for impacts into the by-laws, by Members of this Legislative Assembly and by interested parties living on and using the rivers.

In summary, I am very optimistic of what we can see in the next few years, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the response from my colleague on the other side of the House on this very important matter to the City of Winnipeg. Thank you.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs):

Mr. Speaker, first of all before starting, I know the Member has referred to a press release that was sent out today. It just happened to be the day of the official delegations and it is just a start, because we felt that the water regulation was a good start. The reason why the press release went out—as we did meet with an official delegation this morning—and I was not trying to put something on the board in front of the individual today because I knew they were supposed to talk last week. After consultation with the city, we did send out the press release.

The Member did mention that he was a city councillor for a few years. I too was a city councillor for a few years and the first opportunity I had in my first month of office was to meet with my federal colleague, Leo Duguay—with people who had concerns in regard to the river problems that we do have.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on this resolution, Mr. Speaker. Winnipeg has been graced with two major rivers, the Red and the Assiniboine, plus smaller rivers, such as the Seine and the La Salle, and a number of creeks. Winnipeg's waterways are a source of pride to its residents and an attraction to its tourism trade. Many of us, throughout our lives, utilize the rivers and hope that eventually someone would take action that would see that the rivers that we play in would be an improvement over those years. I hope the action of this House in the next couple of years will actually benefit to that and add to that so that our children and our grandchildren will make use of these particular rivers.

Our Government is very much aware of these historical, environmental and recreation problems and differences of Winnipeg's waterways. We are committed to ensuring effective management of these important resources.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by summarizing our Government's main interest in Winnipeg's waterways. The first interest is environmental. Our Government is committed to conserving the province's water resources and habitat for the benefit and enjoyment of present and, as I mentioned earlier, future generations. The conservation of Winnipeg's waterways is a provincial concern because the management of rivers extends beyond the city's corporate boundaries. The province must help to ensure the quality and supply of the water resources in the interest of all Manitobans.

The second interest is the enhancement of the riverbanks as a natural and heritage resource—a focal point for community activity and tourism. The Red and Assiniboine Rivers are important recreational resources in Manitoba and are very important to the cultural heritage of the city, the province and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, public access to the riverbanks must be protected and enhanced where it exists. I know the Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), in his role as a city councillor, I know as well as mine, you found that in the last few years the city was taking riverbank in lieu of monies for parks, and I must compliment the city in that jurisdiction because I know in south St. Vital we accumulated many lands. A lot of times it was very tough to do so, but it was so that our people could use those riverbanks. I know in south St. Vital we are hoping to gather the riverbank from Maple Grove Park all the way back to open the River Road. I know the Member for Wolseley had a more difficult position because there the lands were not becoming available on zoning matters and that. They just were not coming available. So his efforts, he did do that also. I know that the City of Winnipeg has at least got that message across to the councillors, that we do accumulate the lands where it is necessary and where we should when we do have that opportunity.

These opportunities for public access must be created where they now do not exist. We are doing that in The Forks Program. I know The Forks will be known as "the meeting place," a very historical position of Winnipeg. I know when I went down in a delegation in 1984 with the dream, with Nick Diakiw and the Mayor, when we first approached the Honourable Mazankowski, he mentioned to us that the CN should not own these kinds of lands. Through his efforts and through the other Ministers and the federal Government, we have at least that start of The Forks, and that very important start was the accumulation of the land. Whatever projects go in there, regardless of how long it takes now, at least we have the land and that is the important message.

An Honourable Member: It was started by Lloyd.

Mr. Ducharme: It was not. The Member mentioned that it was started by Lloyd. I have to correct him. It was started by three members that made a delegation to Ottawa, to Mr. Mazankowski, and at that meeting—I was personally there—it was his position to now get going on with The Forks.

The potential of these rivers as a base for recreation and a physical link between public and private developments is only beginning to be realized in the last, I would say, decade, and I think that is a compliment to any of the Governments that have been involved.

The 18 projects undertaken as part of the \$13 million federal-provincial agreement on recreation and conservation for the Red River Corridor was signed in 1978 by the Government of Sterling Lyon and demonstrated the great potential of Winnipeg's rivers for the year-round recreation and tourism that is important today.

Our Government will ensure that this potential continues to be developed and promoted. The recent

announcement of plans to redevelop the Louis Riel Park is evidence of our commitment.

Mr. Speaker, our third principal interest is protection of the rivers in the broadest sense—regulation if you will. In developing the potential of our rivers, our Government will work towards ensuring that responsibility for regulating the waterways is clarified and regulations are improved where required. Before I outline what actions our Government has taken to clarify and improve the regulation of Winnipeg waterways, I believe it is important to note that Manitoba cannot solve this problem independently.

The Constitution is assigned authority for such water matters as navigation and fisheries to the national level. The provincial level has been assigned authority for property, including water property matters, as water quality, water flows, water consumption and fisheries. The province, in turn, has delegated authority for certain matters regulated to properties such as land use control to the municipal level.

When it comes to water-related lands, we must recognize that there are three levels of Government involved, each with its own interest and an area of responsibility. The challenge will be in defining for our citizens, the respected jurisdiction of each level of Government, and ensuring that regulations are effective and streamlined. Mr. Speaker, how much time?

Mr. Speaker: Eight minutes.

* (1730)

Mr. Ducharme: In 1985 there was a consultant's report. I believe this was mentioned by the Member originally talking on this resolution, a consultant's study for the City of Winnipeg, reviewed jurisdiction over Winnipeg's rivers. This study identified 60 federal-provincial statutes that were supposed to affect waterways. I believe that this study was misleading. A thorough review of these statutes by my department has revealed that about one-quarter either do not apply to Winnipeg or no longer exist. In more than one-half of the statutes, the reference to rivers or riverbanks either has to be inferred or is minor and incidental to the statute's primary purpose, for example, Cemeteries Act. There are, in fact, only about five federal statutes and nine provincial statutes that directly affect the rivers and adjacent land in Winnipeg. Five of these nine provincial statutes already have been delegated to Winnipeg.

The five federal statutes that we found in our research directly affecting rivers and riverbanks with the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Canada Shipping Act, the Canada Water Act, Fisheries Act and the Public Works Act. The nine provincial statutes directly affecting rivers and riverbanks, The Water Rights Act, The Water Resources Administration Act, The Environment Act, The Ground Water and Water Well Act, The Diking Authority Act, Noxious Weed Act, The Rivers and Streams Act, Dutch Elm Disease Act, City of Winnipeg Act.

I agree with the Member that there has to be some type of consultation to gather these particular

authorities. However, there was some problem in the numbers that were mentioned in regard to that particular report.

The remaining five federal statutes and four provincial statutes represent matters of national or provincial interest that generally cannot or will not be delegated to the municipal level. Clearly, the goal of providing effective management of Winnipeg's waterways is not as remote as some may think. The problem is manageable. Our Government is committed to working with Canada and Winnipeg to improving the way Winnipeg's waterways are managed. I believe, in the short form, we did start that today. We will not stop at the particular short form type of information we brought forward to the official delegation this morning.

To this end, I have written and had two meetings with Mr. Leo Duguay, Member of Parliament for St. Boniface. I have also written His Worship Mayor Norrie to bring to his attention the boating restriction regulations under the Canada Shipping Act. As I mentioned, I had discussed that with the mayor and official delegation this morning.

These regulations, when defined by Winnipeg and enacted by Canada, will give Winnipeg substantial control over recreational boating in the city. The province has promised to act on any request by the city in this regard, and we will act quickly.

I raised the matter of river regulation at this morning's meeting of Urban Affairs of the Cabinet official delegation this morning. We did have a press release that went out, that outlined our concerns, some of our concerns, in regard to that particular meeting this morning. We tried to highlight what we say is our concerns, or immediate concerns, before we get into the management. Our concerns are basically on regulation.

I will read the 10-point action plan. We had actions to rationalize, the first one, and clarify the jurisdiction of the three levels of Government and streamline regulations; provincial support of city actions to have the federal boating restriction regulations apply in Winnipeg; thirdly, new section of The City of Winnipeg Act to develop, in consultation with the city and public, to address bank stability and drainage and replace the inadequate Rivers and Streams Act; consultation with Canada on the development of more effective means of regulating pollution from boats and marinas; actions to bring about a speedy review of the federal definition of navigable waters in order to clarify the extent of involvement of Canada in Winnipeg's waterways; and the last point was review of regulations relating to food service establishments on waterways, care of residential property and nuisance abatement to ensure consistency within Winnipeg's boundaries.

The Member has said in his remarks, the Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), that he hopes this is not just a start. I can assure the Member I have the same concerns from my experience in city hall and my love, if there is anybody else, for the rivers, that it is not. As long as I am Minister of Urban Affairs, this will be a main concern of ours and we will act quickly.

While problems associated with the management of Winnipeg's waterways will not be solved overnight, I

believe a start has been made by our Government and that start was made, I think, when we first got into office. The start was made in June, when we first came through, when we first discussed with the federal Government, when we first discussed with the City of Winnipeg.

I would like to assure the Legislature that our Government is committed to working with Canada and Winnipeg to clarify and improve the way Winnipeg's rivers are regulated. All three levels of Government must cooperate to ensure that regulations are effective and wasteful duplication is eliminated. The burden on all our citizens must be reduced. The regulations that affect them and effective management of Winnipeg's waterways must be achieved.

I would also like to, in closing, mention that we felt that by going to the city as an official delegation and we mentioned that we have been in touch with the city. We are hoping—I know the city has a management team—that they will be coming back in regard to their regulations. The reason this process is being done is because, as the Members realize, the federal Government does not want to regulate to the city, speeds, etc., in all the cities across Canada because they all vary with their different concerns and their different situations.

It is our intent, and it was our intent, to take a lead role in coordinating and encouraging efforts by all three levels of Government to clarify and streamline their existing legislative authority over Winnipeg's waterways. That is our main concern and I feel that we do have that start in today's role. We will proceed with that when we get to Water Management.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Mr. Taylor: Will the Honourable Minister accept a question?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member's time has expired. Does the Honourable Member have leave? (Agreed)

Mr. Taylor: A two-part question. It is with great interest I saw the 10 points laid out. I just saw the press release issued jointly by the two Ministers. The questions are point 1 in No. 3. It talks about using existing meetings of the UACC/OD and Policy Committee of the Core Area Initiative discussion issues related to regulation of Winnipeg waterways. I would like an understanding if he could give out the full definition of what that means. The second part was, and I do not know if it applies to either 7 or 10 or both, but it is to do with pollution, specifically noise pollution. Would that be addressed in either 7 or 10?

* (1740)

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, the reason we decided we would like to come forward to official delegation and carry on these particular concerns as we go along with the regulations etc. We felt that it is time that maybe

an official delegation, because we have a program of meetings and they are scheduled meetings, that these meetings be on a constructive basis on these types of important events that come forward to that particular meeting. We felt that it was a good method so that we do not have the delaying that goes on with people. As you can probably appreciate, the Member was a city councillor. He knows the busy schedules of city councillors and the Ministers at these meetings, and that we will now bring up these points at these meetings.

Also the core area has a program in regard to the riverbanks, etc. We do have a Member on staff who is very, very capable of going between the core and the city to help get away from that confusion that is created by many, many levels of Government not sitting down. We feel that is a good way to coordinate that particular program.

The last question in regard to pollution. The Member had mentioned something on pollution.

An Honourable Member: Noise pollution.

Mr. Ducharme: Noise pollution. I guess it would cover all pollution. At the official delegation, you brought up something that did not come up at those meetings about the noise pollution. That was not discussed. I am sure it will be discussed as these particular groups meet. I will take note of that.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): I want to rise and speak on this Winnipeg Rivers Management Resolution.

I, along with my colleagues, certainly agree with the importance of the Red and the Assiniboine River for recreation in the City of Winnipeg. I guess there is just a growing realization of how important a part the rivers play in the city when it comes to tourism. There are many cities in Canada that have developed their riverbanks to a much greater degree than what we have here in the City of Winnipeg. I think an example is if you go to the City of Saskatoon, which has just done a magnificent job in developing all of the riverbanks. They really are the focal points of the community when it comes to boat recreation for the citizens of the City of Saskatoon, and also tourism attractions as well.

We, as a Government, believe that there should be a tri-level committee set up to deal with riverbank development so that it will take in—the tri-level committee could include the federal Government, the provincial and municipal Governments. I think an example of that is the Core Area Agreement that is in place is an example of how we could be utilizing the human resources that are around and have an interest in this area, that it would be developed to the benefit of all Manitobans. I think that example there is one we can follow. The Core Area Agreement has been working to the benefit of all the citizens of Winnipeg, and I think that this example can be used for the development of both the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers.

Being a northern Member and also being one who was raised in rural Manitoba, I have an appreciation for the Red and Assiniboine Rivers which goes back

many, many years. As a youngster, I came into the city on one occasion and my uncle, Bill Lewicki, who lives in the North End of the city, was an ardent fisherman at that time and he took me out fishing on the river. At that time, I was amazed at the size of rivers and I was kind of frightened of the waters in the river at that time. Since then, I have come to have a better appreciation for the river. My colleague from Churchill and I have been entered in several canoe races

An Honourable Member: Where did you place?

Mr. Harapiak: We placed—the first year we entered we made the mistake of getting into the professional race and we could not keep up with the size of the canoe we had. I am not sure we could have kept up even if we had a proper canoe. We would not have kept up with some of the people who were in the professional race. They are in excellent condition and you would have to spend a lot more time than what we have available to us to get into the condition that they are in to compete at that level. But we still continue to paddle for recreational reasons, and I quite often see some of the pollution that is in the river.

We want to make sure that we all support the concept of cleaning up the pollution in the river, not only the noise pollution that has been referred to by the previous speakers but also the pollution that is dumped into the rivers. There was an example about a month ago when that explosion occurred and there was some substance that was put into the Winnipeg sewage system. It was directly diverted into the river which was a good move for the City of Winnipeg because, if that would have gone into the sewage system, there could have been several more explosions that would have caused much more damage than had occurred. I guess when something like that happens, you realize that there is more pollution going into the city which is going to have an effect on the quality of water. The City of Selkirk gets their drinking water from the same body of water, so I am glad they were able to have some alternate water from the wells so they would not be taking their supplies from that area when it came down.

Once again, it is the importance of dealing with some of the pollution that is in the City of Winnipeg. That is why we had called on the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) to hold a public inquiry, because we felt that there were people out there who deal with the liquid wastes that are present in the city. Quite often, there are petroleum wastes that are given to these liquid waste operators and they have no place to dump them so they are, out of necessity—they want to be good corporate citizens but there is no place in the City of Winnipeg where they can dump this waste, so they are through necessity dumping them into the sewage system and it winds up going into the Red and the Assiniboine. I think it is too important to the long-term survival of that river that we find a better way of disposing of those petroleum products and other products that are being dumped into the river.

Our Government was committed to riverbank renewal, and we had committed during the previous election, when the Premier, Howard Pawley, was the Leader of our Party, \$10 million towards the clean-up

of the riverbank. Our present Leader, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), was the Minister of Urban Affairs. He had to push very strongly to get part of those dollars to be included for riverbank clean-up. I know there was \$5 million of this was committed under the CORE Agreement, so I am glad that the Member for Concordia pushed for that inclusion, because I think that it is going to be a beginning of what can happen in that area.

They talk about the areas of responsibility under the Rivers Act, as to what areas come under the responsibility of the federal Government, and I guess that we know that the area of navigation to Navigable Waters Act and the Canada Shipping Act comes under the federal responsibility as well, as mentioned in the resolution earlier, the boaters' licensing, speed limitations, noise limitations, and the construction of crossings all come under the responsibility of the federal Government.

We know that the building of that famous bridge at Selkirk which played quite a role in the last provincial election, the reasons the costs of that bridge escalated is because of the fact that the federal Government got involved, and there was a requirement to raise the level of the bridge to make it navigable for sail boats, so that is why it was required for us to raise it after the first plans had been in. So that added to the cost of the construction of that bridge.

I know that the Member from Lakeside (Mr. Enns) will be interested in hearing that because that was one of the constituencies that there was a lot of noise made about the construction of that bridge in Selkirk, which I think is going to be raising—it will be utilized quite strongly by the constituents of the Selkirk area, because they tell us that it is required. I am sure . . .

An Honourable Member: But you told us that the Queen Mary was coming down there, and that is where we stopped believing you.

Mr. Harapiak: I am sure that in years to come that there will be a greater appreciation for the reasons that the bridge in Selkirk was built.

The provincial jurisdiction includes areas under resource users, and the impact such as flood protection levels, and The River Control Board Act, the environmental pollution control, and problems with soil erosion.

While I am speaking on the provincial jurisdiction, I would like to give credit where credit is due, and that is where Duff Roblin was responsible for building the Floodway around the City of Winnipeg which has saved, not only the citizens of Winnipeg but the taxpayers of all the province, many claims because of the fact that Floodway has now saved many floods in the City of Winnipeg. I know many people who were involved in those floods in the Fifties when there was the last major flood, and it was a disaster for many families who lost a lot of their property in that particular flood. I am glad that there was wisdom on the part of the provincial Government of that time to build that Floodway, and I think it is an example that we can use in many other areas where there is a possibility of flood.

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* (1750)

I go back now where we had a project in the Swan River area coming from the Duck Mountains, which there is a flood about every second or third year of that farming area in that area. There was a proposal coming forward to construct a holding site in the Duck Mountains to stop the flooding from taking place, and all they do is have a retention pond built in the Duck Mountains that would delay the flow of water for about 12 hours, and that would make it possible to stop the flooding in the rural part in that area.

But my understanding is that money has been taken out of this year's Budget, so I am sure the Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell) will be speaking up for his constituents in the Swan River area and will be going after the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), making sure that there are some dollars included in next year's Budget to be sure that those people from that area can get some of the same protection that the citizens of the City of Winnipeg are receiving now because of the Floodway, which serves a very useful purpose.

The municipal responsibilities focus primarily on the zoning, and I think that is one of the areas that the city has ignored, their responsibility. I think that you can see some of the building that is going on now along Osborne Street. I am sure, if the zoning was strictly enforced, many of those apartment blocks that are going up along the banks of the river certainly would not be going up.

I guess the report that the Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor) refers to was submitted to him, the 1980 consultant's report, was a study submitted to the Winnipeg City Council regarding the role of Rivers and Streams Authority and some of the problems that they are faced with. It is unfortunate that the Member for Wolseley, who as a city councillor at that time did not have the time to follow through with the actions that were required of a city councillor to resolve some of the difficulties that they are faced with as a city council, and the application of these responsibilities that face the city councillors.

I am pleased to see the initiative that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) and Minister of Urban

Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) have put out today. We just received this news release. It would have been great if we had this prior to this resolution coming forward so we would have an opportunity to assess how this will affect the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers. This is the 10-point action plan that was put forward to improve the City of Winnipeg's waterways. I am sure that it will be a beginning to improving some of the conditions that exist on the waterways. As I mentioned earlier, we do some recreational canoeing in the city on the Red River, and quite often the boats go by at great speed with little regard for the people who are canoeing on the river.

I know that some of my colleagues will be speaking on this resolution at a later time, and I am sure that they may be coming forward with a friendly amendment to put some of the responsibility where it belongs. I am sure that when it next comes up, there will be recommendations made of how we can come up with a plan that would put the responsibilities on whoever from the three levels of Government share the responsibility. As I mentioned earlier, the Core Area Agreement is an example of a way a committee should be struck to deal with this very important resource. I think this is a resource that is important not only for the recreation in the City of Winnipeg, but is also useful for tourism in the city. It is an attraction for Winnipeg. I think, once the tourists come into Winnipeg, that there is a greater possibility of them staying on and visiting the rest of the province, so we as Manitobans will all benefit from a greater attraction to the City of Winnipeg.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will close, and I know that there are several more of my colleagues who want to speak on this issue. I am sure that they will be bringing forward a friendly amendment to that resolution when next this resolution comes before the House. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? (Agreed)

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 8 p.m. tonight. I am leaving the Chair with the understanding that the House will reconvene at 8 p.m. in Committee of Supply.