

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 o'clock, Thursday, March 26, 1970

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're dealing with the estimates of the Department of Labour, and the Minister's salary.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with the estimates, I would like to like to direct the attention of the members to the Speaker's Gallery, where we have 14 retired CNR supervisors from the mechanical department of the Transcona Shops. Their combined service totals 560 years. They have decided to keep together by meeting once a month and on this occasion are the guests of the Minister of Labour, who is one of them. On behalf of the members of the Assembly, we welcome you here this afternoon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland. Oh, I'm sorry, I have notification here also of a School in the Gallery which I'd like to draw the attention of members to. There are 21 students of Grade 6 standing of the Brock-Corydon School. These students are under the direction of Miss Lambert. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights. On behalf of the members of the Assembly, we also welcome you here this afternoon. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, my remarks or comments will be very brief; however, I thought I should say a few words. These are the first estimates that are being tabled by the New Democratic Government as such, and since we're dealing with the Labour Department as the first department of government, I would like to congratulate him as Minister of the Department and also the faithful employees in the particular department as well.

I was rather surprised this morning when I heard the other speakers that they were still talking about problems. After hearing these people when they were on this side of the House, they would have everything solved. I figure that now that they were elected the government, we would have no further problems, we'd be in the "new millenium", that is unless some of them don't believe in the millenium, I don't know, but to me, I figured all problems would now be resolved and we would have no labour difficulties whatever. Too, I felt that we no longer would have the two classes of labour in this province. Am I to understand that farm help will still come under agriculture and that you people are still distinguishing between industrial labour and farm labour of this province? I think under this new government that has been championing the labour rights that this certainly would be done away with.

Then from the last couple of years, where we had, well I think it was since '66, when we had quite a new group of members come into the House of the New Democratic Party, they brought in any number of resolutions as to what should take place in this province in the way of labour laws. Changes that should be introduced. Just what changes will be introduced? If I look at the Throne Speech, there is mention of civil rights. Is it just that the new government is going to bring in legislation regarding management and restrict their activities. What can we expect from them at this particular session? Well, we no longer have voluntary checkups, no longer supervised strike votes. Is this all going to be a thing of the past? If I remember hearing the Honourable Minister, I don't think we heard too much in the way of these items in his speech this morning. I am certainly interested as to what will happen this year if the farmers are supposed to summerfallow their land, not raise a crop. What is the farm labour going to do? Have you any work prepared for them? Or are they going to go on welfare as so many others will be going if work is not available? And this is not just being facetious, I think this is a matter that you will have to contend with, because if the farm economy is going to go down and continue to go down - and I've expressed my views on this already at the time of the Throne Speech - that if there's going to be less farm income, that means that there will be less dollars spent in the way of earnings for the farm people in this province, and that means that there will be fewer jobs available. Certainly, I feel that when we discuss labour estimates here in this House that we should not only be concerned with labour and industry, but that farm labour should also have its rightful place.

The Minister mentioned that the minimum wage had increased, and I think the Honourable Member for Lakeside mentioned the matter of a fair wage rather than a minimum wage. This is probably a better way of putting it, in my opinion; that we should work toward having fair wages in this province without necessarily increasing the minimum wage, because this can

(MR. FROESE Cont'd)... spell trouble for many people in this province in industries that cannot compete if they will have to increase wages from time to time because of legislation that is being brought in. I know of industries in rural parts that would have to close up if very substantial increase in wages should take place because they would no longer be able to compete. I'm sure that these industries have been making representation to the government and to the Minister concerned in this respect and have made their views known to the Minister about it. I would like to hear from the Minister just what does the future hold, what is the prospect for more jobs, because when I look at the B. C. report I notice that there is a very substantial increase in their province as far as jobs is concerned. The budget report of this year from that province, the budget speech of 1970 on Page 45, shows you the labour force net profits and how it has progressed. The monthly average number employed in 1960, 565,000; in '65 it went up to 657,000; and in '68, 797,000; and in '69, 836,000. So there's a steady increase in jobs available to the people in that province. No doubt, when you have an increase in population, this also means that there will be more work and automatically more jobs are available. But I think we should not forget that increased jobs and increased pay means that these people will have more money at their disposal, that the purchasing power is increased, and this means that there will be more activity going industrially - wise and also commercial channels. Through commercial channels you'll have more business take place, and this all adds up to a better economy in the province. I would like to hear from the Minister just what can we look forward to here in Manitoba during the coming year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Chairman, I just had a few brief remarks I'd like to direct to the Minister. I congratulate the Minister on the presentation of his estimates at this time and along with the remarks of those who spoke before, I bring him greetings from my constituency and wish him well for the future.

The matter of jobs for the semi-skilled and the unskilled with regards to the development of The Pas area is one that's concerned many in my constituency for the last several months and the Minister I think can check back on correspondence, we have raised the point. I'd just like to ask the question: is there some agreement that the labour force from Manitoba and Saskatchewan had some type of priorities in that area of development? This seems to be the conflict, that the semi-skilled and unskilled labour is coming in from jurisdictions East, Quebec and Ontario, and in many cases those who have applied there from Roblin constituency come back and say that while they did work for a while they were laid off. So maybe the Minister can give me some information in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add one or two remarks to the substance of the examination of the departmental estimates before us at the present time. Their import lies mainly in the area of opportunities for students, particularly for university students who face the perennial problem of the student in our society, and that is the necessity to meet their expenses and their tuition fees, and indeed their cost of living, and in some cases the living costs of dependents, and relatives, while at the same time trying to pursue the training that they are embarked upon in their courses. This has been a serious problem in Manitoba and indeed right across Canada in recent years; the whole question of employment in the non-academic year for students at the University level in particular. High school students have somewhat the same problem, but they aren't faced with quite the urgency in terms of financial necessity and expense, nor are they faced with the problem of lengthy vacation periods between semesters, between school terms, when they would like to be putting themselves to some useful advantage and devoting themselves to some useful pursuit. As I say, they have the problem in High School but the high school student's problem is not as vivid or as critical as is that of the university student.

I broached this subject, I think, during the last session with the Minister of Labour, and I simply am on my feet again at this point, Sir, to prod him once again into addressing himself to the question and to the problem. If he has already spent some sleepless nights contemplating the problem and seeking solutions to it, then I thank him for those efforts, that conscientious devotion to the question on behalf of all university students in the Province of Manitoba, and urge him to redouble his efforts in this regard, for the academic year, of course, is coming to a close, it's rushing to a close, in a matter of a very few weeks university students will be on the labour market. I appreciate and I think most students appreciate that this poses a particularly difficult problem for the Minister of Labour because his first concern and the students would be among the first to admit it, his first concern is with the breadwinner of a

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(MR. SHERMAN Cont'd)... family, his first concern is in providing jobs and equitable working conditions and equitable recompense for the adult Manitobans who head families and run households and have wives and children to look after. When you've taken care of that problem there's probably very little time left in the Minister's day, very little time left in his schedule, and to ask him to make further inroads on his time and on his energy to concern himself with what may on the surface seem a peripheral problem is asking a great deal; but he is a strong man and a strong Minister and he's been exposed to problems before, and I would just urge him to redouble his efforts in this regard. Because he knows and everybody in this Chamber knows, Mr. Chairman, that the problem of student employment, or perhaps more correctly I should phrase it as student unemployment, has been a sharply deteriorating one in recent summers.

Two summers ago, in particular, at the time of the 1968 Federal Election, it was critical in most parts of Canada, but certainly critical here in Manitoba. I don't have my statistics in front of me at the moment, but the situation was not all that much better last year, and I would hope, and certainly I think I can speak for the majority of students on the campus of the University of Manitoba, the University of Brandon and the University of Winnipeg in this respect. I would hope that sincere and productive and progressive efforts are being made to provide them with opportunities in the summer season that's now imminently upon them, with jobs, with labour opportunities that will help them to meet the expenses of being a student and of pursuing a higher education in this day and age. At the same time, neither the Minister nor I would want to jeopardize the job situation for the non-student, that is for the professional worker, but it's our responsibility surely to try to meet both commitments, to try to meet both challenges and to make those compromises that are necessary to give students employment opportunities while strictly adhering to a position of respect for the greater necessity of jobs and employment opportunities where adult Manitobans and breadwinners of families, non-students are concerned. It has occurred to me that some innovative or imaginative initiatives might be explored in this respect. I don't know whether the Minister of Labour has had a chance to examine, in company with his colleague, the Minister of Youth and Education, some programs for summer employment that might seem a little revolutionary, or a little radical in their concept at this stage, and I think of ideas, for example, such as making opportunities available through Crown corporations like the CNR - I cite this just as an example. It seems to me that certain programs might be worked out between the labour leaders of our province and our country, between the executives in charge of the functions and administration of Crown corporations like the CNR, between education officials, between student labour representatives and the students themselves, for making certain routine jobs available to students in the summer while at the same time, not depriving regular workers, union members and labourers of regular cast, of their opportunities. And just as a completely theoretical suggestion, Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether in the case of the CNR something might be explored or examined along the lines of perhaps a summer program of painting or repainting railway rolling stock, which could be scheduled for the non-academic period of the year, the summer of the year, and to which end university students in need of jobs could be employed.

Now, I recognize that this has to be carefully scheduled and patterned and dovetailed so as not to deprive regular railway employees of rightful job opportunities, but I ask the Minister at this stage, Mr. Chairman, whether either by himself or in concert with his colleague the Minister of Youth and Education, this kind of program could not be explored and examined as a possibility for solving part of the student employment problem. If it was not an entirely impractical or unreasonable or unrealistic suggestion, then I think it contains within itself the seeds of a partial solution to what has become a chronic, perennial problem that faces our student population every spring, so I urge the Minister once again, Mr. Chairman, to redouble his efforts in that field and to sit down once again with representatives of organized labour and with representatives of the student community themselves and see what can be done without dislocating the normal job patterns in Canadian industry to see what can be done to provide a permanent fund or permanent wellspring of summer employment opportunities for our student population, not just our university student population but our student population in general, but of course it's the university student population that's most acutely concerned and affected where this problem exists.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): I rise only to ask the Minister a specific question regarding the responsibilities of the minister in charge of railway transportation. I fail to find any mention made in Transportation and I fail to find it in Labour, and I would like

(MR. GRAHAM Cont'd)... to know under what department we can ask him questions on that particular matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, if there are no other questions at this particular time, maybe I could take the opportunity of answering some of the questions that have been directed to myself. Possibly I should start replying from the last speaker and then finish up with the remarks made by the honourable member representing the Conservative Party, the Honourable Member for Rockwood, I believe it is.

May I say to the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell that insofar as railway matters are concerned I have been designated by the First Minister as the member of the Executive Council to whom matters pertaining to railway transportation should be directed, not in my capacity as Minister of Labour, or as an adjunct to the Minister of Transportation. I must make a confession - they sometimes say confession is good for the soul - it wasn't until last weekend when I was going over what has been transpiring over the last few years, and what happened at the last session of the Legislature, I found that buried in the Statute Law Revisions was a matter which abolished the Act setting up a railway commissioner. Now this legislation, and I'm not faulting my honourable friend the Leader of the Official Opposition, but this piece of legislation had been on the books dating back to the days when the government of Manitoba had some responsibility directly insofar as labour, railway transportation was concerned, but of recent days of course it has gone beyond the jurisdiction of Manitoba to all intents and purposes, and the Act itself establishing a railway commissioner was repealed. However, the First Minister informed me the other day that notwithstanding that, he still would appreciate if I would carry on considering matters pertaining to such items as rail line abandonment and other factors dealing with railway transportation, and I would be pleased to hear and to receive any representations from my honourable friend the Member from Birtle-Russell or anybody else, pertaining to the question of railway transportation apart from that in my present capacity as Minister of Labour.

MR. GRAHAM: ... then it would be better to discuss this under Executive Council.

MR. PAULLEY: It could well be, and as I illustrate, Mr. Chairman, there is no precise provision for a railway commissioner but I think that this will be done subsequently by Order-in-Council. But again I say to my honourable friend, the Member for Birtle-Russell, or any other member who has problems dealing precisely with freight rates, rail line abandonment, and abandonment of personnel, I'd be more than pleased to consider the same and act as a representative of the government in this area.

To the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, may I say that one of the problems that we are facing at the present time is the problem to which he referred namely that of student employment during the summer months, and it is a matter of grave concern to the government, a matter that has been an on-going concern year by year, and I would like to inform my honourable friend that student employment has been of steadily growing concern and it's uncertain in outlook today, because not only are we faced with the problem here in Manitoba but it is being aggravated all across Canada. We are fortunate, as I illustrated this morning, that our rate of unemployment in Manitoba, 4.2 I believe it is, is less than that in Saskatchewan of 7.4 or 5, and the national average being over 5%. We are not unmindful of the problem of student employment and I want to assure my honourable friend that we will be doing everything that we can to provide jobs for the students and in particular those students that rely on summer employment in order that they may continue their studies during the year, and I am sure, Mr. Chairman, as all are aware, my colleague the Minister of Youth and Education did express the concern of his department, and I want to say to my honourable friend that the Department of Labour in concert with all departments of government are undertaking a survey to see how much we in government can provide employment for students over the summer season.

I say to my honourable friend that the government will again be an important employer of students as it has in the past. Last year the government, which was partially under the direction of the Conservative Party and partly under ours, provided employment for about 1400 students or about the equivalent of 7 or 8% of the permanent work force of the province, and it is our intention to continue this, and that the departments of government are now making their plans for hiring students this summer and a survey is under way to determine the total number of students to be taken on. And I want to assure my honourable friends that not only myself as Minister of Labour, but ministers in the other departments too, are concerned with this matter

(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd)... and that we will be uniting in our efforts to provide employment for the students requiring the same work this year. I am told that according to the DBS statistics, that in Manitoba (that's last year) about 95% of the students who sought work obtained it. We are hopeful that there will be no less a number will obtain employment this year, and I guess the fact is that we should aim for the sky and hopefully reach the treetops, which of course we will be doing. And I say to my honourable friend the member for Fort Garry that it will be my intention, partially as the individual concerned with railway matters, as I replied to my honourable friend, to make a request of the CNR and other Crown corporations and private corporations as well, to do all in their power to employ students for the summer months, and I appreciate very much the remarks of my honourable friend the Member for Fort Garry when he indicates that it is not desirable to infringe on trade union agreements, collective bargaining agreements and the likes of that in this field, and I think that by the cooperation of government, employer and union, we may be able to arrive at some satisfactory agreements for the employment of our students, and again I say, particularly those that require summer employment without going through a real means test, so that they may obtain the same and continue their studies.

To my honourable friend the Member for Roblin, I want to say to him that he is well aware of correspondence between us that I have had, members of the Department of Labour go particularly to The Pas in connection with Churchill Forest Industries, and in respect of employment of local people it's a problem because - and I don't fault the trade union movement; part of the problem is created because of union security and the check-off of dues and preference to union members that in some instances unemployed union members have been given employment which appears to be in preference to the local applicant for jobs. It's very hard sometimes to be able to overcome this sort of a field of difficulties, but I have been assured, I have been assured by the labour organizations that they will lend every effort to local citizens to obtain employment, subject of course to the provisions of their union constitution and agreements.

There is another problem that is being encountered, Mr. Chairman, insofar as employment is concerned in northern Manitoba, and in some degree employment in the whole of the province, and that is the intrusion into Manitoba of construction firms, particularly from outside of the province of Manitoba, and bringing of their employees along with them on jobs. Here, too, it's a problem that we are trying to face up to at the present time. We haven't got preferential treatment for Manitoba-based industries insofar as the tendering system is concerned, but I do want to say, Mr. Chairman, to my honourable friend and all members of the House, that this is a matter of grave concern to the government of Manitoba and, while we do not wish to preclude the employment or awarding of contracts by people outside of the province so that our prices have to go up just on a local option basis or local tender basis - I am sure my honourable friend appreciates what I am trying to say at this time - it's a grave problem and we are looking into it very closely. I am hopeful, as government is always hopeful, as the former administration was hopeful, that the economic climate of Manitoba will rise so that we don't really have these basic problems, and I assure my honourable friend that we will do our utmost to resolve the difficulties that he referred to. I appreciate and I realize that they are real problems, and I want to say that as far as the Department of Labour is concerned and government collectively, we're cognizant of the problems and we will do our utmost to overcome them.

Now I would like to refer to my honourable friend the member for Rhineland. I always love listening to this honourable gentleman and, while sometimes it might appear on the surface that we haven't an affection for each other, I am sure honourable members of the House know differently, that no one loves the Honourable Member for Rhineland more than the Minister of Labour, and I think that it is vice versa and I somewhat smile when I hear my honourable friend referring to the position that I took as Leader of the New Democratic Party and previously the CCF Party while I was on that side of the House, and he referred in his remarks that there has been some change, but I want to say to my honourable friend, and also to all of the honourable members opposite, that when I was on that side of the House I felt that I had a job to do: namely, to prod the government into doing something that they weren't doing, and I say to my honourable friend - (Interjection) - Pardon?

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Something that you knew we couldn't do and you can't either.

MR. PAULLEY: Ah no. We can and we're going to do something about it, I want to tell my honourable friend. There's no question or doubt about it.

MR. WATT: Carry on.

**MR. PAULLEY:** We'll do it without the prodding, to the same degree as you had to be prodded by us when we were on that side of the House, and as I illustrated to you, my honourable friend, this morning, in reference to the Woods Committee, we're not going to sit back on our fannies and wait till somebody else tells us what we're going to do. We'll do it. And this is the difference, I might say to my honourable friend the Member for Rhineland, that we will be on our toes. But, in saying this, I want to assure my honourable friend the Member for Rhineland and all the members opposite, we will accept and welcome your criticisms, and I trust that your criticisms now will be just as constructive as the criticisms that we gave when we were on that side of the House, so I have no worries, or I have no fears of the comments of my honourable friend from Rhineland.

My honourable friend from Rhineland asked what changes will be introduced in respect of labour legislation. I ask my honourable friend just to be a little patient, because they will be introduced. They were announced in the Throne Speech; they are in the process, may I say to my honourable friend, of being drafted into legislation, and Mr. Chairman, I only hope that my honourable friend the Member for Rhineland will support every bit of legislation that will be introduced by this government in order to achieve what he said a few moments ago is the desired for Manitoba.

I want to tell my honourable friend, though, of a couple of pieces of legislation that have been accepted in British Columbia under a Social Credit government that I will not be introducing as the Minister of Labour in Manitoba, and that is the interference by governments in the rights of collective bargaining such as prevails at the present time in British Columbia. And I want to say to my honourable friend who is so wont to tell us of the glory of British Columbia and its government, that in that particular province under a Social Credit government we had the highest incidence of labour disputes in the whole of the Dominion of Canada, whereas here in the Province of Manitoba it was the lowest. So I want to make sure, I want to make sure to my honourable friend and to the House, that it will not be the intention of this government to enact legislation similar to that in respect of labour that's prevailing at the present time in British Columbia, or in the Province of Alberta, for I note, Mr. Chairman, that just the other day a revised Labour Act which would allow the Alberta government to cancel strikes and which has been condemned by many labour leaders, was one of 16 bills introduced into the Legislature of Alberta on Wednesday; and I want to say to my honourable friend again, under Social Credit government, Alberta, it will not be my intention to introduce such a measure in the Province of Manitoba. But I welcome, I welcome the suggestions from my honourable friend from Rhineland that it appears that he will support progressive labour legislation in Manitoba, and we will be asking his support, and I'm sure that in view of the statements of my honourable friend that such support will be forthcoming.

My honourable friend also asked of me what will farm labourers do if we curtail farm production, and of course in due course my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture will be dealing with this because it is a fact that the question of farm employment comes under the Department of Agriculture. But the government as a whole will be endeavouring to so order the economic climate of Manitoba that we will be able to absorb more and more farm workers into industrial employment in the Province of Manitoba.

My honourable friend also mentioned the question of, by reference, minimum wages and the like, and I'm sure that my honourable friend is aware of the fact that farm labour in Manitoba receives far more return for their labour than those covered under the Minimum Wage Act of Manitoba, because the average hourly return for a farm worker in Manitoba is about \$1.52 an hour plus board and keep, and without board and keep, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.72 and upward per hour, and I ask my honourable friend if there is any consideration for an increase in the minimum wage in Manitoba, that it will have his full endorsement and his only criticism might be that it's not high enough.

**MR. FROESE:** Mr. Chairman, when I mentioned the minimum wage, I was not so much discussing the farm worker, I was discussing other industries that are concerned in this. . . .

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I'm quite aware of the context in which my honourable friend was speaking of the minimum wage. All I'm raising this point for at this time is to enjoin the support of my honourable friend if there is any suggestion of a further increase in the minimum wage to bring it up to about the same level as that of the farm worker at the present time.

And now, my honourable friend the member for Assiniboia raised quite a considerable number of questions dealing with the Department of Labour, and I want to compliment my

(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd) . . . honourable friend for his interest in matters pertaining to labour in Manitoba. I sometimes feel that my honourable friend must stay up nights reading news articles on labour legislation, and receiving representations, in order that he might make a contribution as he did this morning, and I compliment him on the basis of his contribution. I compliment him too on the thoroughness with which he outlined his suggestions for changes in Manitoba. He did suggest that we should have one Labour Act so that all of our legislation was in one book, and I want to say to my honourable friend that I agree with him and that in due course - and I know this is a hackneyed old sort of a phrase - that in due course this will be done.

My honourable friend says that we cannot take satisfaction at the increase of about 1,000 in the labour force and compare that with the lowest unemployment rate generally across Canada and I agree with my honourable friend. We're not satisfied with either the employment or the unemployment picture that's pertaining in Manitoba at the present time. And this is our endeavour, to improve it; and I'm sure my honourable friend will agree with me that this is the purpose of this government, and we've announced the same in the Throne Speech.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Labour can take satisfaction in only having 2.5 unemployed last year, but I think as far as the Minister of Industry and Commerce should be concerned, I think he should be not satisfied with 1,000 new employees added to the labour force in the province.

MR. PAULLEY: We're not satisfied. I just tried to tell my honourable friend that we're not satisfied. The Minister of Industry and Commerce is not satisfied. The Minister of Labour is not satisfied, or the Finance, and I'm sure I can speak for the Minister of Finance, even though he is not here, that if the situation was different, or improved over what it is, he'd have more dollars coming into his coffers in order that he would be able to do more for the citizens of Manitoba. And that, Mr. Chairman, is the direction of this government, and that is the direction that this government is going to take.

My honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia touched on the question of human rights and the question of discrimination, to outlaw discrimination. It is the intention of this government to produce a Bill of Rights to make it possible to end discrimination in Manitoba. A Bill of Human Rights. And Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that all members of the Assembly will appreciate the fact that this is a new venture by legislation in Manitoba, and I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, that all will appreciate the fact that you can't legislate precisely morals or human rights, but you can take and give leadership and that is the direction of this government; and I think that when the bill is introduced into this House dealing with the matter of the establishment of a Human Rights Commission, that my honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia and all members of this House will at least appreciate the direction that we are taking, and criticize us, certainly, and that's the job of all members of this Assembly. The shots will not be perfect but the aim will be, and I ask my honourable friend and others to join with us in trying to formulate in Manitoba as perfect a piece of legislation that it is humanly possible to enact, to give guidance and to give leadership to all of the citizens of Manitoba, to end intolerance and to end any persecutions for reasons of sex, racial origin, age and the other factors mentioned by my honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia. And this is our aim and the direction, as I say, that we will be taking.

My friend also mentioned the question of the minimum wage. I agree with him that low wages per se do not help in the economy of the jurisdiction; they do not make any contribution to the betterment of the economy of the province. But I'm sure that all members of the

Assembly will agree that there are areas in employment that it's necessary for government to take action in order to ensure at least a reasonable basis of return to those who are engaged in employment. And it is true, it is true that in some circumstances people can receive more on welfare than they do on minimum wages, but it is equally true that there are a considerable number of people who would rather toil on a lesser amount in order that they would be not charges on the public treasury. I say to my honourable friend - I don't think I really need to say this to my honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia, because I know what his attitude is in respect of minimum wages, and if we can have the full support of all of the members of this Assembly in any projected increase in minimum wages, then we can go unitedly to the areas that generally speaking are low wage groups, and say to them that this is the united desire of the whole of the Assembly of the Province of Manitoba to attempt to have justice to a degree insofar as minimum wages are concerned.

My honourable friend touched on the matter of Workmen's Compensation. Here again, I say that we're not perfect. There is no jurisdiction in Canada that is perfect insofar as



(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd).

Workmen's Compensation is concerned. My honourable friend suggests that we should raise the ceiling from \$6,600 to \$7,000. It's worthy of consideration and will be considered, I want to tell the members of the Assembly. My friend tells me or indicated to me that the increases that were awarded last October insofar as widows and children were concerned was not enough. Agreed. But the question arises: how far do you go? We're ready to hear from all members of the House their opinions as to how much further we can go, but I want to assure, Mr. Chairman, to you and to all members of the Assembly, that this matter is under active consideration by the Workmen's Compensation Board, and it is that Board that has the responsibility. We have no jurisdiction precisely over the Board other than to try and give guidance to them in these areas, and I want to assure my honourable friend that this is being done. I'm so happy to hear from my honourable friend that there has been a lessening of the number of complaints going over his desk since the beginning of the year, and I want to say to my honourable friend, such is the case insofar as my desk is concerned as well.

He raises the question as to whether or not we should establish an Appeal Board that can appeal decisions of the Workmen's Compensation Board itself. I want to tell him and all members of the Assembly that this is a matter that is being given the active consideration of the Minister of Labour and his department. Some jurisdictions have already established this principle. However, there is the overlaying principle of the basis upon which Workmen's Compensation was established, that is to take out from the realm of the Court and to give to the rights of the individual an opportunity to obtain compensation; and the big problem is - and I'm sure my honourable friend will recognize this - how far do you go insofar as appeals are concerned? And surely my honourable friend would not like us to turn the clock back to 1915 at the time Workmen's Compensation was established so that the matter became subject to court tribunals and the likes of that, which would defeat the basic purpose and principles of Workmen's Compensation.

My honourable friend mentioned questions of vacation with pay, statutory holidays, hours of work. These matters, I think, will be considered during the course of this session, introduced by the government.

On the matter of industrial safety, my honourable friend, I want to assure to him and members of this Assembly that this is one of my pets. As one who has been engaged in industry over the years, the question of safety in industry, and that the Workmen's Compensation Board are charged with the responsibility in this field and there have been a considerable amount of discussions between the Workmen's Compensation Board and myself to bring about better understanding of the importance of industrial safety, and also to bring about more recognition by employees principally, and employer, of the necessity of a safety program in industry to the benefit of those. If we can cut down on the incidence of accident, we help the employee from suffering and also at the same time reduce the cost to the employer for the provision of Workmen's Compensation.

My friend mentioned the question of sheltered workshop program. I want to assure, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Labour is actively engaged in discussions in respect to sheltered workshops. I had the opportunity the other day of having luncheon with Dr. Meidner, or some such name, from Sweden, and it was a very fruitful discussion and I will be continuing investigation into the matter of sheltered workshops, and I am sure that the Honourable Member for Assiniboia and myself have a compatible understanding of this problem, and I think that we can obtain the co-operation of the labour movement, the employers, in this field.

My friend mentioned the question of the violation of labour laws. It is true, it is true that there are considerable violations in our labour laws, but we haven't got the staff, quite frankly, to continuously police the whole of the industry, but I want to assure, Mr. Chairman, all members of the Committee that any indication of violation proposed, the information given to us in the Department of Labour will be pursued and, if necessary, the culprit prosecuted to the full extent of the law. And I want to ask labour support and the individual employee, whether he's represented by a trade union or not, to forward to the Department any indication of violation of our labour laws, and I pledge to them that their individual names will not be revealed to their employer, and the initiative will be taken by the Department of Labour.

Lastly, my honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia mentioned the question of automation in industry. This is a very very important happening today. We know of the application of the Freedman Commission insofar as the railroads were concerned. We know full well the effects on work in industry today as a result of automation in industry. We discussed this matter fully at the conference that I referred to in my opening remarks at Ottawa,



(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd)... and the question arose even to the possibility of setting aside the sanctity of collective bargaining arrangements, or agreements, so that there might be some provision in collective agreements so that the agreement could be opened up as the result of arbitration, and this is a matter we're discussing at the present time. The opportunity of retraining is going on in the Department of Youth and Manpower, charged with the responsibility of manpower training.

Now, may I say to the spokesman for the Official Opposition how much I appreciate his remarks.

MR. PATRICK: One point that you missed. You answered most of my questions to my satisfaction but you did not mention anything about the shorter 40-hour work week.

MR. PAULLEY: I thought I did, Mr. Chairman. I think I indicated that the hours of work will be considered later on in the Session. I coupled that with Vacations with Pay and Statutory Holidays. Let my honourable friend not construe this that precise legislation will be here, but I do tell my honourable friend that we recognize the points that he raised.

I want to say to my honourable friend the Member for Lakeside how much I appreciate his consideration of me on a personal basis, and it's really nice, isn't it, to have the honourable member say nice things about one who did cut his salary from \$15,000 down to 98 cents so short a time ago. Maybe I should now say to him, although I don't think I need to say to him, he indicated that it was a gimmick of protest, and that if I recall correctly at that time, I even assured his good wife that I would subsidize his income so that they didn't have to go on welfare. But I do appreciate his remarks. And then he raised the question himself: how come one who has so many hats previously, or had so many hats previously, should at this particular session be the lead critic of the Official Opposition in the Department of Labour? And I confess to my honourable friend that I didn't know that he was a former member of the Steelworkers Union in Canada, and somebody said to me, very facetiously of course, a little later, what afternoon did he spend in a mine? Now I don't know how long my honourable friend was a steelworker, but I do appreciate the fact of his association with the labour movement.

MR. ENNS: While the Honourable Minister is pausing, let me indicate to him it was two years as a sheet metal worker with Anthes Imperial Foundry.

MR. PAULLEY: Fine, fine. And you know, two years at labour is a pretty stiff sentence, and I'm glad that my honourable friend had his sentence. My friend mentioned the question of labour inspections applied to the mining industry regarding safety and can labour and mining get together in this field. I want to say to my honourable friend that I appreciate his comments in this regard very very much. We are endeavouring to try and bring about a common understanding of the problems of mining safety and industrial safety, and I want to say to my honourable friend that, providing the estimates of the Department are passed, it is our intention to establish in Thompson an industrial inspector, mechanical inspector, and maybe from there we can go further, and it's also my understanding that the Department of Mines and Natural Resources will be proposing the establishment of a mining inspector in the North as well, and this has been overdue for some time. So I think maybe we are now going ahead. I might also say, too, that as far as the North is concerned, as a service to the North, we are looking forward to the establishment of a representative of the Workmen's Compensation Board in the North as a service to the employees in Northern Manitoba so that we can overcome some of their problems of having come down to Winnipeg to consider their complaints and difficulties. I might also say at this time too, just touching on this subject, Mr. Chairman, that we are at the present time actively considering reorganization of the Workmen's Compensation Board so that the Board itself might be able to travel into the different areas of Manitoba to hear complaints and to hear appeals to them in respect of workmen's compensation.

My honourable friend the member for Lakeside touched on the question of minimum wage, the Minimum Wage Board, and to consider the possibilities, I understood my friend of having differentials in some areas in the province in respect of the minimum wage. If I understood my friend correctly, I just want to remind him that this was a situation that prevailed a few years ago, and that in the wisdom of the Minimum Wage Board and the Conservative administration at that particular time, this was changed so that there was a uniform minimum wage right across the province. I doubt very much, I might say to my honourable friend, at the present time whether it would be advisable to change at this time from the uniform application of a minimum wage across the province.

I do want to say to the Member for Lakeside I appreciate his remarks insofar as the protection of workers all across Manitoba irrespective of whether they're under collective

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . . agreements or otherwise. I agree most heartily; though I would prefer quite frankly, as a trade unionist, that all workers in Manitoba were associated together in some organization or other, I agree most heartily that every worker in Manitoba should have the benefits of the labour legislation, and as far as I am personally concerned, on the application of any of them to me as Minister of my department at the complaints, they will be given every consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I know that I have dwelt on this rather at length, but I do want to assure my honourable friends that I appreciate their comments and their observations. I do want to indicate to them again that we are very mindful in the Department of Labour as to the job that we have before us, in short, to all of those who toil in Manitoba and to all of those who have toilers working on their behalf, that we have a climate that we can progress the well-being of this our great province.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I recognize one of the other speakers, I'd like to draw the attention of members to a group of students in the gallery, some 40 students from Grades 11 and 12 from the Rossburn Collegiate in the gallery to my right, who are here under the direction of their teacher, Mr. W. E. Vandurme, and are of course from Rossburn. These students live in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. On behalf of the members of the Assembly, we welcome you here this afternoon.

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Cont'd)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Mr. Chairman, I really wasn't going to enter into the debate until I felt that the Minister had almost lulled us or hypnotized us in a manner something similar to what a past member used to do of the Cabinet, by the name of George Johnson. By the time he got finished answering his question, we'd forgotten what it was all about. And I think he is about to not only take over from George Johnson, but probably surpass him. Those who sat with him know what I'm talking about - you couldn't explain it to others - but I think you've given them a pretty good example this afternoon.

I do not have a great deal to say at this time - I'll save it for Industry and Commerce - and I feel that really a good many of the questions that were put to you this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, were really those that probably would have best been placed to Industry and Commerce. But, since the Minister has spoken to some extent on human rights, or the Commission on Human Rights, etc., I would warn him that really he shouldn't get people too enthused that do feel they're being discriminated against, because there is a gentleman sitting behind him and has been sitting for many years, with a plaque, and I think Moses had the best human rights regulations that have been put before us, and certainly it didn't affect us too much, and I don't think that trying to do it by means of force and legalizing will overcome the many things that people do feel take place, and quite often, really, they don't. They're things that people feel take place rather than do. In fact, I was in the library at noon and I was reading back on Hugh MacDonald's speeches at Dauphin in 1899 and he was talking about the Galicians - there were only 9,000 and here they were going to allow them into Manitoba, encourage them in, and they didn't even know what freedom was or democracy, and why should we allow them in, etc, etc. We have come a long way from that time and I don't think it was through a Bill but just through an education program. Sometimes an education program can be much more effective than legislation which tends to try and force people to admit to things that they're reluctant to do.

Only the other day, in one of the committee meetings, somebody brought up the fact that an Indian in fact came up to get a room in a hotel and he was turned away and the next man was accepted, and being in that business at one time or another in my life, I could see where maybe somebody had a reservation, the other didn't, and this could come about through some clerk not bothering to tell people what is really taking place.

So I would rather pass on quickly, if it is possible, and the Minister has now said that he would consider putting a Workmen's Compensation man in the north, and I think that this would solve many of the problems that faced us during the Task Force. I believe that if his department is going to touch on these things, then I would hope that they would accept the responsibilities of looking after many of the problems through a department, another department or through theirs - to see to it that the people do get their rights, because it seems that the

(MR. BEARD cont'd) . . . . further you get away from Winnipeg the harder it is to get to the people that can protect you, and certainly the Ombudsman located in Winnipeg is not going to really look after the problems as far north as I am talking about, or as far away from Winnipeg, and I would hope that you can extend your services to protecting people against the complacency that they fall in in the north and the fact that the apathy, the inabilities of the past of being able to reach out to government and demand their rights, in fact, which they have gone without for years and years, and they don't know where to start. And if the Minister really means it when he talks about looking after people and defending them, then if he can see to it that members of government, civil servants, look a little broader afield when they reach into these areas and not be so quick to brush it off as something that they have nothing to do with, remembering that they won't be back for many weeks and remembering that people do not really know what their rights are. The rights are there but they are not able to reach out and get them, and inspectors such as yours, and people working with education etc., are the people that are really going to be able to bring many of these things to light, just as in fact I think that a great deal of emphasis today, and pressures, are being put on both you and the Minister of Agriculture and others as to what you are going to do about the farm worker, and I am sure that the Minister of Labour realizes that this same problem has gone on for many years with the trapper or the fisherman, compounded many many times over, what will happen in the agricultural industry this year.

But I am assured in my mind that the people that are being disturbed in the agricultural industry this year in southern Manitoba are going to be looked after in one form or another because they are where the action is as far as government is concerned, but I don't really feel that we have advanced to the stage where the action is going to get to those people - and they are numbered in the thousands - in the north who are not going to get the same type of assistance or be able to be reached out, and it is well and dandy for men to say, "Either work or starve, because if you starve long enough you will work before you die," and this is right, but there are hundreds and thousands of people in the north who have lived, and I might say who have starved for many days and many weeks, not because they didn't want to work, but there was no work, and so when people get up and make statements such as this, then it does anger me because there are people in northern Manitoba who want to work, and you will find many documents on this as time goes by, in this session, and if these people have been reading the papers and following the most active commission that was set last Legislature - in the last session rather - you will find that we have been active; and you can call it politicking if you want, but it's amazing, there were representatives of the three parties and whatever you wish to call me; and maybe we accused each other of politicking once in awhile but I would be ready to say right now, and I'm not sure, but I think that we had more meetings and travelled more miles and spent more hours and got paid less for it than any other commission that was incorporated in the last session, and I'm sure the documents will show that this was carried out. So, Mr. Chairman, I think that it will prove that there is unemployment that is not showing up in your statistics today.

I can recall a few years ago, when I wanted to speak on it at one time and it was suggested that "let sleeping dogs lie" type of deal, because this was something that had never been brought out. While I spoke about it last year, I'll speak about it again this year, that there are hundred and thousands of Indian-Metis people who do not have opportunities to work. They have a place to live and they have a built-in welfare system rather than governments reaching out to them. So there are these many, many people that are becoming an unfair load and an unwilling load on the Department of Welfare while it should be a problem of employment and it should probably come under either the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and, as I say, I feel that I would rather go into this further when we come to Industry and Commerce, Mr. Chairman, and I do not wish to really delve on it too far in that respect.

Railroads. We have a pretty good railroad in the north. It runs back and forward. I would hope that if the Minister is taking on responsibilities of railroads that he could from time to time get his assistant, who certainly has a knowledge of railroads, a knowledge of ability to get to people, and find out if it isn't possible to extend a railroad from Grand Rapids north to Thompson. This would be just about as unpopular as Highway No. 6 in the eyes of a great deal of the province, but certainly it would open up the middle of the province, and just hopefully, the Metro chairman, the Mayor of Winnipeg, the Chamber of Commerce and such on, could become a little more interested in Fort Churchill if this could come about.

(MR. BEARD cont'd)

And with those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I'll let others take over and I would hope that some of these things can again come up when we reach Industry and Commerce.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister if I could. It's relative to the position of Canadian unions and American unions. I note in the past year that this has been a growing controversy and it has been the subject of some disputes here in Manitoba. It seems to be growing in importance on the Canadian scene as well, and I wonder if the Minister has a policy in this regard and what the policy of the government is.

MR. PAULLEY: I would like to answer my honourable friend in this manner, Mr. Chairman, that we believe in the right of self-determination in our workers, and if they chose an American union which has been long established, that's their prerogative. They have the rights in Manitoba and the rights in Canada of self-determination in the union of their choice. There are provisions in the Labour Relations Act where applications can be made to the Labour Relations Board for de-certification or certification. I don't think that it is an area in which the government of Manitoba should, and certainly I would not recommend, interfere with the rights of the employees in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to the speech made by the Honourable Member from Churchill, and I say that he took my speech out of context; that I didn't refer to people starving. What I said was, when work was available and they wouldn't work, that they should be -- if they were hungry they would work, but I did state that "when work was available." And I'd also like to ask the member if he doesn't feel there are abuses of welfare in his area too? I have said this before several times and I'm sticking with it.

MR. BEARD: I'm sorry if the member feels I took it out of context. Maybe I would have to go back and read it. I feel as strongly about the opposite side of his thinking as to what he does, but abuses of welfare -- I don't know. That's a term that again lies in responsibility of Health and Welfare, Health and Social Services as we get to it. But, no, I don't think there's any abuse of welfare other than what government allow, and if government allow it then that's the fault of the civil service, not the people that are receiving it.

. . . . . continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 71 (a) -- The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, before we go off this particular item I wanted to say a couple of words and ask the Minister a couple of questions. First of all, let me wish him well in his job which I'm sure he'll find himself well-equipped to handle because of his background and experience, and also he will find it a very difficult job because this department, although it's one of the smaller departments in terms of the estimates book to look at it, it has to handle some of the most difficult tasks and some of the most ticklish jobs that have to be undertaken in the province. I think that he will be ably assisted by the very fine people in his department who, in their unsung way, carry on such an excellent job in keeping the wheels of industry in motion through the harmonious relations which they are largely responsible for.

I think also it should be pointed out from the information brought out by the Economic Council for 1969, indicating that in Canada we've had a growth in our gross national product, G.N.P., of something of the order of 9.2 percent or 9.4 percent, and about 4.5 percent of this is due to increases in the cost of making products and performing services through salaries and wages, but the remaining percentage, around 4.7 percent, is attributable to increased productivity. I think probably this is one of the first years in a long time when increases in productivity have exceeded the general increase in costs of manufacturing, and I think that due credit should be paid to the work forces of Canada in achieving this level. I think probably not only is it unique in recent history in Canada to have productivity exceed general cost increases, but it's also I think unique for most of the countries probably in the western world.

So I would like to pay tribute to the work forces and the management who have been able to bring this about in Canada, and certainly I think that if we use the advice and recommendations given by the Economic Council that increases in productivity are extremely important to our economic well-being, that this is a very valid comment at this time. Now when I say increases in productivity I'm not suggesting alone here increases in productivity of the individual, but increases in productivity through application of new technology as well.

The questions that I wanted to direct to the Minister directly was with respect to the position of American unions in Manitoba, and could he give us some indication of the percentage of the Manitoba labour force that would fall under the aegis of American unions, those unions that have locals in the Province of Manitoba. There has been a great deal of concern about the retention of Canadian autonomy, not only from an ownership point of view but also from the point of view of the parent body to our local unions in Manitoba, and if he could possibly give us a breakdown on the percentage of the labour force that does come under the umbrella of the American union structure, I think that this would be valuable information to the people of Manitoba.

I would also hope that he might be able to give us an indication at this particular time as to what his position is with regard to Canadian versus American parent unions, whether he feels that one or the other is in the better interests of Manitoba or in the better interests of Canada. We have had considerable concern from time to time because of some of the practices that apparently have taken place, and the one in the last year that has drawn a great deal of concern is the elections in the United Mine Workers. Although I don't believe we have a local in Manitoba of the United Mine Workers, this certainly has drawn an awful lot of attention to the problem of the autonomy of Canadian rights in international union structures. With those two or three questions, Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate receiving the views of the Minister.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, may I first of all express my appreciation to the Honourable Member for Riel in complimenting the productivity increases and relating the same to the workers of this nation of ours. It's all too often that criticism is directed in reverse, and I appreciate the remarks of my honourable friend.

I'm not able to give him at this time the precise breakdown between unions affiliated with United States organizations and those in Canada. I'll try to get that information for him insofar as precise figures, that is of course of collective agreements, and that's the only information we would have.

I wouldn't like to make a comment insofar as the mine workers' turmoil that's going on in the United States. That's a problem that they have across the line, and it would be improper, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, for the Minister of Labour in the Province of Manitoba to make any comment insofar as that struggle is concerned. We don't have it here in the Province of Manitoba. My friend wanted a comment from me insofar as my approach and attitude insofar as American unionism as against that of Canadian unionism. I answered the Honourable Member

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.)... for Ste. Rose a moment ago that this is a matter of self-determination of the workers themselves, but I want to say to my honourable friend that if he was as educated, if I may use that term, as I am in the trade union movement, he would find that contrary to the conception of some as to the impositions imposed by American unions on Canadian workers, that he would I'm sure have a different perspective entirely to what I interpret his remarks to me.

I have been member of an American affiliated trade union movement since I was 18 years of age, which is a few years ago. I refer to the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of the railway unions, and I want to say that at no time has there been any imposition from headquarters across the line insofar as the conduct of the organization is concerned. I want to say that by and large there is Canadian autonomy in the affiliated unions; that is, the unions that are affiliated with the trades and labour movement in the United States. And while I appreciate the desire of many workers and many economists of being in a position to say that they are members of a Canadian trade union movement, I still think, though, we should pay a tribute to the work that has been done on behalf of the Canadian worker by the American affiliates or American parenthood of the trade union movement in Canada and on the North American continent, because originally - outside, of course, if we go back to the toe-puddled markers who were sent over to New Zealand and Australia - it has been the American trade union movement that has laid the basis for the organizations, generally speaking, the trade union movement here in Canada; and while some are wont to point a finger of scorn at the American trade union movement, I would suggest to my honourable friend that if he would really look into the history of the trade union movement on the North American continent, he would have a different conception, a different approach to the trade union movement in Canada as well. In saying this, I do not reject the possible desirability of being able to say that here we have in Canada a trade union movement that is strictly Canadian, but again I come back to the point that I started out to make, that there hasn't been, to any appreciable degree, impositions made on the Canadian worker, particularly in recent years, by the headquarters of the trade union movement in the United States. We have as workers in Manitoba, as workers in Canada, the right of self-determination, and I think that by and large the trade union movement in Canada are very thankful for the assistance that was given, particularly in the early days of Confederation, the help that was given by the trade union movement from the United States in organizing the workers in Canada. And I say quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, as far as I'm concerned as an individual, I would welcome if every worker in the Province of Manitoba or in Canada belonged to a trade union movement, either with its headquarters in the United States or its headquarters in Canada.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, was I correct in a previous statement regarding the mine workers in Manitoba? Do all mine workers that are organized come under the Steel Workers of America?

MR. PAULLEY: I believe that there still is one unit that is connected with the United Mine, but I'll find that out for my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 71. (a)--passed; (b)--passed... The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Chairman, on Item (b), Administrative Salaries, there's an increase here of \$45,752 and the Civil Service Agreement is seven last year and six this year. Now a 6 percent increase would be \$9,747.00. Now, realizing there are increments involved, I'm sure that that would be some of the explanation, but is this increase in an increase of staff, or where does the increase come in?

MR. PAULLEY: My honourable friend answered his own question, Mr. Chairman. All that is provided for in the estimates insofar as salaries are concerned is a general increase of 6 percent and 7 percent because it's reflected by comparison in the total picture over the two-year period, and you'll find that, Mr. Chairman, as you go throughout the estimates, and that the general salary increase in the total for the department amounts to about \$112,000 and the total for the department is closely related to that and it does include the increments. As far as the staff is concerned, the total number of staff, there is provision in the estimates for an increase of two persons, one being the Industrial Relations Officer, who was a member of the Conciliation Board, and I believe the other is an Inspector that we're hopefully going to use up north.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 71. 1. (b)--passed; (c)--passed; (d)--passed. Resolution passed. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, on (d), on the Human Rights Commission, the \$20,000, is there any number of people been chosen as yet that this will take care of?

MR. PAULLEY: No, Mr. Chairman. The figure of \$20,000 is just a projection at the present time. When legislation is introduced establishing the Human Rights Commission, I think we'll be in a better position at that particular time to give a precise answer to my honourable friend. When we decided to set up a Human Rights Commission it was deemed advisable within the estimates that it should contain a figure to start with in order to get established.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolutions Nos. 72 and 73 were read and passed.) The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: The question I want to ask is No. 74, Resolution 74.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's the next resolution, Resolution 74.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, Apprenticeship and Industrial Training. I understand there have been several changes made during this past year to update some of the programs in apprentice training and industrial training. I wonder if the Minister can explain what changes were made, what were the changes, and give us some information in respect to apprenticeship.

MR. PAULLEY: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, what we have done is expanded the areas under the apprenticeship training to take in more and different trades, a general expansion of the areas covered. I think that is the general information that I can give to my honourable friend. We have for instance brought under the apprenticeship training program glaziers that weren't there before. This deals with the question of changes in plate glass installations in apartment blocks. As my honourable friend's aware, take James Richardson - I'm sure my honourable friend is well aware of that particular individual - his building down at the corner of Portage and Main is practically all glass. They've changed the apprenticeship training program to include that area, coupled of course with their instructors, and by and large this . . . I don't have the precise information of all of the changes at the fingertips but I'd be glad to supply it, Mr. Chairman, specifically to my honourable friend.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps he can take this question as well if you haven't got it at the present time. Is apprenticeship training on the increase or is there less people now in apprenticeship training than there was last year? And perhaps he can give us the number that there is.

MR. PAULLEY: I'll supply that information to my honourable friend. By and large there has been an increase in the endeavours insofar as apprentice training is concerned. As I say, I haven't got the precise information but I will supply it.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, before we leave this topic I wanted to ask the Minister if there are still efforts going on to make changes in the apprenticeship training that will allow a little more versatility between recognition for the formal training that takes place at the vocational institutes and the community colleges to overcome this difficulty that has been in existence for many years for entrance requirements, credits granted for work, formal work done, that were not previously recognized in the apprenticeship program and vice versa. Is this work still continuing on or has there been any progress that he could indicate?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, I would indicate to my honourable friend, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Youth and Education and the Minister of Labour have started preliminary work into this field to try and arrive at a consensus as to to what degree we can give credits for vocational training and training at the Red River Community Colleges and others insofar as the apprenticeship program is concerned. I'm sure my honourable friend recalls in his term as Minister of Youth and Education that this was a matter under consideration. It's an ongoing consideration, and of course in conjunction with Manpower as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolutions No. 74, 75 and 76 were read and passed.) Resolution No. 77. 7. (a)--passed. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I see there is a very small increase in Item No. 7, Research. Has there been any more staff added in the Research Department or is it the same as last year? I feel of any area in the whole estimates - Labour estimates - this is one area that perhaps we should probably spend more money than we are at the present time in view that there is more unemployment, there is the problem of automation, and we'll have more college students looking for jobs and so on, so I wonder if the Minister can tell us what really is happening in this area. I know there's such things as undue noises, what effect it has on human beings, with our fast speed motors at this present time, and many many areas of technological change. And I do not feel at the present time that we are doing the type of research what effect these



(MR. PATRICK cont'd.)... things have on the human being, on the human life. Perhaps the Minister can tell us something of what at the present time this area is involved in.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Before the Minister gets up, could we hear more about the general program that is being conducted? As the Member for Assiniboia pointed out, for what the increases go, but I would like to have a general outline of the research program as such.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The general outline insofar as research is concerned is into matters pertaining to the general labour picture prevailing at the present time in Manitoba. There is an increase of some \$13,000 which a lot of it is taken up by the normal increases. What the Research Department of Labour is doing at the present time is investigating into matters such as the construction industry in Manitoba. We will be utilizing some expertise this summer, some of our professors knowledgeable in matters such as the construction industry, to assist the Department in forming a program for the future; and in the field of research we have a staff, and I might say a very capable staff, that supplies for instance such information as the Minimum Wage Board required for its considerations in its reports. Also touching on minimum wages, Mr. Chairman, you will recall that I made the announcement last October, or in the Fall Session of last year, that the Minimum Wage Board would be an agency of an ongoing type rather than almost an ad hoc sort of an organization or commission that appeared to be the previous manner of operation, and that research personnel would be made available to the Minimum Wage Board, the Woods Committee and others, to conduct in-depth studies. At the present time the Department research people are giving me continuing on-going figures insofar as employment is concerned, unemployment is concerned, and conducting, in concert with the Department of Education, methods by which we can provide jobs for our students and the like of that. Now this generally is the direction of the research department. I appreciate and realize that the figure is not possibly as great as it should be, but I want to assure my honourable friends that the staff is competent and this is the general direction that the research department is directing itself.

My honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia will recall that when he presented a resolution dealing with three weeks vacation with pay last year the government amended his resolution to ask for further investigation into all aspects and the ramifications of the application of the three weeks vacation with pay. This is the type of job that the research department has been doing and they are doing more of it in other fields as well at the present time. So I'm sure my honourable friends will appreciate the necessity of this work and I appreciate along with them the inadequacy really of the provisions within the department to cope with all aspects. I would refer my honourable friend to Page 15 of the Annual Report in which I list the actual functions of the Labour Research Division, and it's pretty well what I've just said, to conduct studies and provide information on matters about which the Department of Labour must either make decisions or provide advice such as the compiling of the annual wage and salary survey, compiling and analyzing information for policy formulation and program evaluations, and secretariat for the Woods committee and so on. So these are the general areas in which this section is working.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, but there is no such thing as research into what effect certain work has on an individual himself, or on a worker such as bright lights or fast motors or noisy motors with the great technological change in industry. I see under the headings here there's no such thing, and I think that it's time that the Minister should add one more item. There should be at least a very small percentage, or maybe just a little bit expended in that field because I think we're just at an age now where this must be done and it's necessary. So I hope that the Minister will include research into what effects certain industries or working in certain situations has on the individual himself.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may in reply to my honourable friend, say that this is done to a fair degree through the Department of Health and Environmental Sanitation and working conditions, and also to a considerable degree this is now the responsibility or an arm of the Workmen's Compensation Board, so it is a joint effort but I appreciate the remarks of my honourable friend that possibly more should be done within the department itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: ... research work is carried out on the project of a shorter work week and so on, how soon will this be completed? When can we expect a report? Will we see it being tabled during the course of this session? I think if this work is being done we'd certainly be interested to see the results as soon as possible.

MR. PAULLEY: I recommend that my honourable friend read the Annual Report of the Department of Labour from last year; it might answer some of the questions he's just raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, I have one specific problem that I think might warrant a little bit of research, which involves a particular case of a constituent who is a young mother who finds herself in the position of having to supplement the family income and wanted to offer a service, a hairdressing service to people who required the service in their homes, and in taking the initiative to pursue this, discovered that in fact the legislation did not allow her to offer hairdressing services in private homes. She had done a pretty extensive survey and discovered that there was a market for this service, and her direct aim was to have a group of people who would work for her and, if the market demanded it, would be able to work on a part-time basis, go into the home of invalided people and others who, particularly in the winter, were unable to get out on a regular basis to have their desires met at the local beauty salon.

But she still finds herself in the position of not being able to proceed with this because there is a regulation in the legislation that states that although the Minister can issue a special permit for the purpose, that in actual fact it is impossible or very difficult to get it because the legislation spells out that hairdressing services will normally be undertaken in a registered beauty salon. I wonder if perhaps in this day of increasing services if the Research Department might look into this - or it may not take your expensive research people, perhaps just a little bit of investigation on the Minister's behalf, to see if the legislation can be broadened enough so she can legally undertake this service that apparently there is a need for.

MR. PAULLEY: It is very interesting hearing my honourable friend speak. I ask him a question: Has he drawn this to the Department of Labour as the advocate for the person concerned? Because certainly it hasn't reached the table of the Minister of Labour. If my honourable friend would take the time out to be an ombudsman on behalf of his constituent, I'm sure that we will give the matter consideration.

MR. CRAIK: I'm pleased with the Minister's reaction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 77 - 7 (a)--passed; (b)--passed. Resolution--passed. That completes the Department of Labour.

We now turn to the second department for consideration, the Department of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, and members, I want to say that it is indeed a pleasure and an opportunity to introduce to you the first estimates of the Department of Agriculture known as the new government estimates. I think I have to say that because we did appear before you once in the last six months and introduced estimates which did not necessarily reflect the priorities of this government, so I want to make that point, that this is the first legislative session that we are able to introduce our budget on the basis of our considered priorities and that I would accept any logical criticisms of the same would be much more appropriate at this session than they were at the last.

I want to say that agriculture, of course, is still a very important industry in the Province of Manitoba and that despite the fact that we have some difficulties in the industry at the present time, that it's my belief that it will continue to be one of the most important areas of economic activity.

But just before I get into the main theme of my remarks I want to say that it may be possible, in fact it's highly probable unless we are going to pass my estimates today, that we may have an interruption of debate during the course of my estimates in that it's most likely that I will be engaged in the presentation of a submission from the Province of Manitoba to the Government of Canada early next week having to do with the current crisis on the prairies and having to do with the federal proposals relative to the wheat inventory reduction program. So I would hope that I may be excused perhaps next Monday or Tuesday, if the need arises, and that we may have the concurrence of members opposite to allow a day for that particular expedition and perhaps to consider another department at that time. I'm not just sure when this will take place but I anticipate that it will be early next week, and I anticipate that we won't be through my departmental estimates today so we likely will be having difficulty in that area.

There are going to be many reforms - and you probably noted a few in the estimates, some of them are quite evident - but there will be many reforms in the Department of Agriculture that are not shown in the estimates, reforms perhaps in the way of changes in legislation, certain bills will be presented for you for consideration which I consider to be necessary

(MR. USKIW cont'd.)... changes and progressive changes. I think that for the first time in a long long time the Department of Agriculture is asserting itself as a most meaningful tool in the development of Manitoba. I want to say that we have been taking a long and hard look at what in fact the role of the Department of Agriculture ought to be and are still evaluating that particular role, but coming to a few conclusions.

One of them is of course, Mr. Chairman, that there's a lot more to the Department of Agriculture, or should be, than just the mere responsibility of providing a system of services to the commercial sector. And I think there has to be a very strong philosophical approach, one of which includes the development of commercial agriculture, but also one of which would try to up-grade a lot of our people in the countryside that are not now classed in that category but that probably could be if properly assisted.

Another aspect of philosophical approach, Mr. Chairman, has to be with do we have a responsibility to the well-being of people in rural Manitoba, agro-Manitoba, that are not capable of achieving commercial status and what is our role in their rehabilitation and development. And at some time during this session we will entertain the idea of more fully outlining to you just what we mean when we talk about a shift in approach and a shift in philosophy. At this particular point I am not ready to make that announcement but it will be a substantial departure from what we have had in the past. It will mean that the Department of Agriculture will take a much broader look and will really get involved in the whole human problem in agro-Manitoba, human development problems which we have to face today. The whole question of adjustments in and out of agriculture has to be dealt with and I think the Department of Agriculture has the kind of expertise that will be able to indeed carry out the kind of program that I am trying to outline.

I think one of the most important areas of course has to be that the Province of Manitoba, through the Department of Agriculture, has to show a great deal of leadership in the Department of Agriculture and in where we are going from here. I think we have to try to provide leadership and policy development at federal levels of government, hopefully to encourage them to work with us towards the making of a national agricultural and rural development policy which at this time we don't have. You know, a lot of talk we've had about the Task Force on Agriculture that has prepared a report and a number of recommendations but there's - you know and we all know, the report is still kept in the hands of the Government of Canada and has not been released to the public, but I assume that there are many recommendations in that report to which we ought to address ourselves and help in the development of a policy for the rural development of Canada and indeed as far as we are concerned, Manitoba.

So the Province of Manitoba will try to provide leadership in that area, will continue to prod the Federal Government into dialogue to make sure that our interests are looked after. I think this is an area that over the year perhaps has been found wanting. I don't know why. It's a criticism that I have made in the past and I simply reflect that I haven't changed my opinion that there has been insufficient liaison as between provincial and federal governments in the past and that the problems are so vast that I don't think a country such as Canada, with a very small population and a very large geography, can continue to work at arm's length but rather that they must work much closer together and hopefully, as I stated in the House a few days ago, that we can approach matters of human development as much as possible on a non-political basis, trying to be most constructive with proposals that are put and that only on rare occasions should we engage ourselves in political confrontations and those occasions ought to be where there is no movement on the part of one side or the other or no willingness to continue the dialogue. And I think if we take this approach, Mr. Chairman, that a lot of benefit will accrue to the people of Canada and indeed the people of Manitoba.

And this is the position that I hold at this time relative to current crisis situation. It is something that I will continue to follow at least to the point where I feel that there is no further point in trying to persuade federal authorities to compromise their position. If we reach that stage then I think it is our responsibility to address things in a most political way if necessary, but at least until that time arrives I think we have to be as constructive as we possibly can and the brief which we are going to submit very shortly will be just in that context. And I have to say because it is in that context, it won't be made public until I feel that I've exhausted all the opportunities that I had in convincing federal authorities that there ought to be some movement from their position, and having failed in that attempt then I think I would make that submission public. But as long as we are able to negotiate and as long as we are able to arrive at some

(MR. USKIW cont'd.)... compromise or some adjustment, then I think I would prefer to keep things out of the limelight as long as possible. So I would hope that members opposite would bear with me on that particular point.

Manitoba farmers actually in the last year, one would justifiably say, should be complimented because they have indeed made a major shift in production and that really they saw the writing on the wall and decided to do something about the surplus situation and made some major adjustments in their production of wheat, and this is one particular reason why I have a lot of reservation about current proposals. I think that our farmers are perhaps somewhat ahead of the game, ahead of the politicians when they undertook to make these voluntary cuts, and I have to say that I don't blame them if they feel that this fact has not been properly recognized. This is one of the areas which I think we have to look at very very seriously.

We must recognize, Mr. Chairman, that agriculture as we know it today, or as we refer to it, includes a number of sectors in rural Manitoba which require different solutions to different problems, and I intend to follow a course in this government to try and attack those problems in different ways, or in ways which I expect some response would be achieved. There is no point in trying to arrive at a policy position on for example rural income if that position for example is based on only the commercial aspect. I think we have to separate these categories and try to program them in such a way that they are meaningful in each instance and not necessarily fuzzle the whole picture.

I want to say that the Department of Agriculture has a lot of expertise and the people in the countryside are using that expertise, but it is a known fact that those people that do have the most knowledge and the most expertise themselves tend to exploit the resources of the Department of Agriculture more fully than those that have a lot to learn, shall we say, in the commercial development of their enterprise or that haven't yet achieved a commercial status in the industry, or those that require an adjustment either -- well I should say out of agriculture.

A lot of the people in the two categories mentioned are somewhat reluctant to maximize the use of the services of our expertise, namely the Branch Directors and their staff and the agriculture representatives throughout the province, and it has been my instruction to the staff that they must as much as possible pay a great deal more attention to those two other categories that are in difficulty. Not, by the way, neglecting the top commercial group but trying to pay less attention than is necessary to that particular group in commercial agriculture in that that group is substantially capable of looking after itself and that only in real tough situations would they depend on the expertise of our department to assist them, and that our departmental people should be really looking at trying to upgrade the other groups either into commercial agriculture or involving themselves in programs of rural adjustment which would perhaps assist people out of agriculture. We have to look at the problem in terms of a rural human adjustment program in the total sense, and if we do this, Mr. Chairman, I think that we will arrive at a much happier, shall we say not conclusion, but a much happier way of life in rural Manitoba, having made these kind of adjustments.

There are a number of new programs in the estimates and one of them is going to deal with just the points that I have mentioned. It's listed Agro-Manitoba Development. There is some \$250,000 allocated in that particular program and I am not going to elaborate on it at this point, we'll have an opportunity to deal with it at some later time. I did touch on it in my remarks just one moment ago.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): What resolution is that under?

MR. USKIW: I don't have the page before me, it's on the second page. There's an item of \$250,000 and it's called Agro-Manitoba Development, more of a social development program which we will be looking at later on and I could discuss it at some length at that point. But this outlines part of the new approach.

One of the important points that I want to make, one of the important areas of adjustment, in the estimates you will notice is the item - and I don't have the number before me - under the term "Marketing", and this is where we are injecting a substantial increase of capital in order that we might more meaningfully emphasize the importance of marketing intelligence, and it is the intent of the government to employ four or five staff people in this particular area to lay the foundation of a marketing branch or marketing unit within the department to research marketing possibilities, do some promotion on commodities and to generally bring to the rural people of Manitoba their expertise and information as quickly as it can be obtained so that that

(MR. USKIW cont'd.)... information could be used in proper time.

One of the biggest handicaps that Canadian farmers have today is the fact that marketing intelligence is very limited, and if it is there it's not readily available and we often learn of mistakes that we are making far too late in the game and consequently run into very serious difficulties, and it is my hope that at least we can do something in Manitoba to overcome some of this difficulty. In my opinion this is one of the most significant points and significant budgetary items.

You will notice an increase in the crop insurance program, an increase in the amount, and that of course reflects the fact that Manitoba is going into an expanded crop insurance program to include hail insurance, and I have to say that unfortunately we weren't able to convince the Federal Government to enter into this kind of a program and this part of it is strictly a provincial program. But I think that again it's a bit of a push situation here. The province is trying to push other provinces and indeed the Federal Government into a progressive step, into broadening their scope of insurance so that at some point perhaps we may have some participation. Manitoba's position has to be the one that suggests that we should forget about P.F.A.A. as far as we're concerned because we don't really benefit from the program and that I would rather see federal funds that are now allocated for P.F.A.A. be transferred over into an expanded crop insurance program which would be available for all our people in Manitoba. While they're not prepared to consider this at this point we have to, in my opinion, pioneer the way because if no one takes the leadership, Mr. Chairman, nothing will be done for some time to come, and it's our hope here that our pioneering will not be in vain and that we will have a much expanded program and much more participation on the part of the Federal Government at some time.

One of the significant items in your budget, Mr. Chairman, will show up in the livestock area. We have naturally decided to -- not naturally, but as you know we have pumped in a substantial amount of money into that particular activity through our credit program which was announced at the last session. You will notice that there is some quarter of a million dollars in interest subsidies. You will notice, that is in the cow-calf incentive program, aside from the vast interest subsidies in the general program, and again we feel that this is an all important step at this time in keeping with the thought of having to diversify Manitoba's agricultural economy as much as possible and at a rate which is reasonable so that over a period of time that we will be much less dependent on the fluctuations of world markets as they affect us in the grain industry.

I think that Manitoba is in an ideal position. It has plenty of water resources; it has land resources which are relatively inexpensive in this province, certain areas of the province, which lend themselves well to the development of a livestock industry. It's too bad that we have slipped in this particular sector over the years but hopefully this program will restore our position and in fact improve our position in the livestock industry of this continent. It may be argued that a push in this direction will bring about a decrease in prices at some point. I tend to refute that argument on the basis that the fact that we had dropped our production didn't alter things very much and I say that the fact that we increase our production isn't going to, simply because it's a North American market and simply because we don't set the pace, we don't set the price patterns. We are totally insignificant - that is insignificant in the total picture, Mr. Chairman - so that I'm not at all at this point concerned.

I think one of the ills -- (Interjection) -- If you want to talk about hog production, Mr. Chairman, I think you have to recognize one important distinction, one important distinction. There is no incentive, there is no incentive built into our program to encourage hog production, and this is the point I'm trying to make, Mr. Chairman, when I talk about using a very directional approach in trying to develop agriculture in Manitoba. It was recognized by this government that the problems were in the beef industry, a shortage of feeder cattle in the province, under-supply of calves and that the sickness in the industry was in the cow-calf industry, and this is where we find the incentives and this is where we find the subsidies to help expand that particular area. If we expand that particular area, Mr. Chairman, we have to appreciate that perhaps we will feed a lot more of our beef in Manitoba as opposed to exporting the unfinished product either to the United States or to eastern Canada. And if we do this, Mr. Chairman, I think one recognizes the benefit that that will have to the grain industry as well, that it's much more important to the economy of Manitoba to feed as much as possible right here at home. The multiplier effect in the livestock industry is much more attractive than straight grain

(MR. USKIW cont'd.).... farming, but we will in fact help the grain farmer by increasing the numbers of poultry, the numbers of hogs and the numbers of livestock. There is no doubt in my mind about that.

My distinction as between hog production and livestock or cattle, Mr. Chairman, is that we haven't provided the incentive for obvious reasons. Obvious reasons are that there is sufficient activity in the hog industry right now without any push on the part of the government. We have very high prices in that particular industry; we have very low feed grain prices at the same time, and if there ever was an incentive to get into hog production, that is it in itself without any further government measures. And I have to predict, Mr. Chairman, that it wouldn't surprise me at all that some time in the latter part of this year that hog prices are going to tumble quite substantially. It wouldn't surprise me because there is a substantial increase taking place in that particular sector. It's predicted in Manitoba that we will have well over a million hogs by next fall. That's up from some 760,000 last year. -- (Interjection) -- That's right, we'll have one hog per capita just about.

Now I think that members opposite ought to appreciate the directional way in which we are using or applying credit. The fact is that we realize that we can't be irresponsible, and as a matter of fact when a question was put to me some time ago at a meeting as to why I don't provide the same grant or the same incentive into the hog industry, my answer to that particular individual was, Mr. Chairman, that I don't think that I could sell the Minister of Finance on the idea that the hog industry needs a subsidy, that they were doing very well as it was for all these reasons, and also that I didn't think it was time for the province to tamper in the industry because there is going to be a sufficient increase in production without provincial initiative. And I think that is the most responsible way of dealing with the situation, Mr. Chairman.

We have had a tremendous expansion here. There is something like - I think I have the figure before me - since January 8th, which is the date on which we received our first application for credit, we have applications totalling \$9,600,890 to date or -- well this is last week -- no, March 24th. As I understand it, I think that none of this has been paid out. As my honourable friend knows opposite, the process of application takes a couple of months and that this is what has been taking place since January 8th and that it's just a matter of a short period of time until this money is disbursed. It does take time to process applications. Of this amount almost \$2 million is involved in loans or applications for loans to feedlots, of which one was approved, or one application amounting to \$400,000 but not yet disbursed. So this is your total picture to date, Mr. Chairman. I believe it answers perhaps to some degree the Order for Return, although that Order will be answered as well.

So there has been a tremendous interest in the industry and in the cow-calf end of it, Mr. Chairman. I believe the figure runs somewhere in the neighbourhood of a million dollars, so that we have been more than successful in the promotion of that industry to date and have used up, if these applications are all approved, we would have used up more money than was allocated for the fiscal year ending March 31st. I simply want to point out that all I'm trying to indicate here is that there has been a tremendous response to the program, much more than was originally anticipated. But we're happy with that response and we think that this is a step, a major step in the right direction.

I think that one of the things that we were criticized for last fall in this particular area was the fact that the interest rate was high - and it is, it's some 9 1/4 percent. But with respect to loans approved for the purchase of breeding stock in cattle and sheep, I have to tell my honourable friends opposite that their statement was very misleading in that there is a 20 percent rebate on the fifth year. Twenty percent based on a maximum loan of \$15,000 gives you a rebate, at interest rates of 9 1/4 percent, Mr. Chairman, a rebate of some \$4,400 on a \$15,000 loan on the fifth year of operation, and I think this is a substantial incentive and a substantial reduction. Now it may not be considered to be a waiving of the interest rate....

MR. WATT: ..... a question at this point? Is he talking about simple interest or compound interest when he's talking about interest rates?

MR. USKIW: I'm not quite sure that I can answer it at this point but I'll check it out for my honourable friend.

The total amounts to, nevertheless, no matter what the calculation is, Mr. Chairman, the total amounts to a \$3,000 grant on the capital plus the interest thereon, which is something like \$1,400. So this is a very handy incentive and it could be said that this is really a reduction

(MR. USKIW cont'd.).... or waiving of interest rates for a period of time. The reason that this approach is used, Mr. Chairman, is that we want people to move into this industry and to stay in it. We don't want people to speculate with cheap money for a couple of years and get back into the grain business when wheat starts to sell again. We want to make sure that people that are moving in this direction are moving in there for a long term and that's why the five-year provision is there and that's why we don't make the grant until the fifth year. This is to provide a very sound base for the development of the industry. We're not interested in just handing out some cheap money to people who want to speculate for a year or two.

One of the areas that we are going ahead with, and this is a program that was started by my friends opposite, and this has to be in the area of farm management, farm accounting. I just want to indicate that we are proceeding with CANFARM as it is known and there is a substantial budgetary item which you will notice. It's something that if it's fully utilized will be of some benefit to our most sophisticated group of farmers. I have to say that it will take some selling to get a lot of people involved in it, but I think it's worthwhile attempting it. I don't know that we can predict that we are going to be overly successful in the first year, but hopefully with the kind of incentives that we have provided in this program that we will at least get a substantial number of farmers involved in it this year.

There is a charge on the part of the Federal Government for the first year of operation amounting to some \$15.00 per farm. That is a very minimal charge and the province has decided not to charge anything in the first year. However, we will be in the second year. There will be a revenue showing next year. I think it's a service that if it's developed will be worth something and I'm sure that once the farmers learn the value that they are getting they will be prepared to sustain the program without any subsidy at some point. But it is important to initiate it and to, shall we say, promote it to get people interested in it so that eventually we have a most sophisticated Farm Accounting System, a system which is based on our modern technology through electronics, a system that I think is geared to modern farming.

One of the pieces of legislation, Mr. Chairman, that you will be hearing about will have to do with resource conservation, and again I have to say that this is something that had been started by the previous administration although the legislation wasn't tabled. We are looking at it and we are prepared to proceed with it; we think it has a lot of merit. There is no extra moneys allocated for it for this fiscal year. It's a matter of re-allocating existing resources, financial resources, and that we will be developing this very gradually and perhaps if we enter into a new Federal Provincial agreement, ARDA type agreement, that this is the area to which it will apply, although we appreciate the fact that we ought to be looking very carefully at land use, resource use throughout the province.

The Vet Complex at the university is proceeding. I think we will be starting the building some time this spring. I can't give you the specific time. We are still involved in negotiations for a site with the Federal Government but things are moving along as rapidly as they can. -- (Interjection) -- I did tell you last fall it was going to be at the University Complex in Winnipeg. My note tells me that we hope to have construction commence some time in July or August so this is the indication of our timing.

One of the things that I think is important to mention is that we have been undergoing a study and reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, and at this point I am not able to reveal to you just what structure is going to be developed but at some point during the session I would hope to be in a position to make that announcement. It's an evaluation process of on-going activities and perhaps efficiency studies, if you like, and at some point I hope to give you more full information on just how we are going to restructure the department.

I think there is one important area that you may have noticed and that is we have changed the whole concept of the FRED program, or the budgeting system and the program, to reflect an item in all departments involving FRED funds as opposed to showing the total figure in the Department of Agriculture, so you will see a substantial shift in funds. You will find FRED funds allocated throughout a number of departments as a result. Those allocated to my department will have to do only with matters pertaining to Agriculture. The co-ordination of ARDA and FRED has been placed under the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet and when I deal with questions relative to the FRED program, Mr. Chairman, I will really be talking to you not as Minister of Agriculture so much as I will be Minister of Planning and Priorities having to deal with the Interlake.

That, Mr. Chairman, pretty well sums up my remarks. I am sure that I could go on and



(MR. USKIW cont'd.).... mention a lot of things. I could prolong my comments for another hour or so if you like, but I think I have given you sufficient material with which to engage in debate and I'm sure that you will raise other questions to which I might respond to at some future time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to take the last few minutes we have left this afternoon to make a few comments on agriculture and particularly along the lines or on what the Minister has just spoken. First, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture in presenting his first own set of estimates, and to say to him that I wish him well in his office as I believe I did so at the session last fall, but again I wish him well in his presentation and carrying through of his estimates in the House. I'm sure that the Minister of Agriculture will do his best as Minister, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure that his best will be good enough for members on this side of the House, and particularly for the farmers of the Province of Manitoba. That will remain to be seen of course in the days to come as we study and discuss his estimates and will remain to be seen as the weeks go by, the acceptance of the farmers of the Province of Manitoba.

I would like to take a moment, Mr. Chairman, to say a few words about the department, that is the civil service personnel of his department, and I want to say through you, Mr. Chairman, and to them, how much I appreciated the assistance and the co-operation that I got from that department, from the Directors, from my Deputy Minister, his assistant and all down through the line. I'm sure that the present Honourable Minister will agree with me that new Ministers coming into that department, and as far as I'm concerned anyway, knowing very little about the intricate inside works of that particular group of people, I want to say that I do appreciate the assistance they gave me, not only in the office and in our work but during the presentation of my estimates which I presented to the House one year ago. I recall when they sat up above and behind me, where I believe they likely are today, I sometimes think of them as a sort of a beacon or lighthouse, sitting up there doing what they can from that distance away to see that the Minister does not go on the rocks. And I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that insofar as the personnel of the department are concerned, that the Minister, if he should land on the rocks, it will be because of his own faults and his own inability to handle his department estimates.

I might say that this group of people are a dedicated and hardworking group of people. In the approximately 11 months that I had the honour of serving this province as Minister of Agriculture, a great many of those people worked many hours of overtime, Saturdays, and I have to confess for them, sometimes even on Sundays, and we did work, at least some of us, towards the day when we might get caught up and probably go up into the constituency of the Honourable Member from St. George and go fishing. But we never did get quite caught up enough to take that fishing trip and so I want to say to them to not hurry on their fishing trip because it may not be long before I may be back on that side of the House and we will have the opportunity to work towards that end.

MR. USKIW: Want to go now?

MR. WATT: I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I was somewhat disappointed in the program presented to us this afternoon by the Honourable Minister, because after listening to him for the past three years -- and I want to assure the Minister, Mr. Chairman, at this point that he is not likely to get away quite as easily in Agriculture as the Minister that just finished his estimates an hour or so ago. But I was looking forward, Mr. Chairman, as we had been told to expect in this Legislative Chamber through the last session and through the days that we have sat in this session, that we would get the answers to the questions that we have been presenting to them insofar as the change in the direction of agriculture in the Province of Manitoba as it is related to the Socialism, the policies that have been expounded, that we really haven't heard from that side of the House. And today I have listened to a half hour from the Minister when he really has proposed nothing further than what this party on this side of the House were doing when they were on that side of the House.

I listened today, Mr. Chairman, to a further plea from this side of the House to please keep politics out of agriculture, and I want to say to you, Mr. Chairman, that if ever there was a political animal -- and I don't use the term "animal" in any derogatory sense, Mr. Chairman -- but I say if ever there was a political animal ever entered into this Legislative Chamber, it's the present Minister of Agriculture, because I believe, Mr. Chairman, that he never did get

(MR. WATT cont'd.)... up and speak in the House through his years in opposition that he was not speaking directly to our friends up in the gallery or to those out in his constituency and not in the interests of agriculture, and when I listened to him today, which I did I believe the day before yesterday, saying "Please keep politics out of agriculture," I thought to myself, there is a vast change in my honourable friend from Brokenhead from those days when he sat on this side of the House. And I couldn't help thinking, as he spoke today, back to his speech when he pleaded with this side of the House with the Tories and with the Grits and with the Social Credit and with the Independent and with the non-dependent, "Please don't make our wheat problem a political football."

As he had been told in Ottawa, and which he related to us, where he was asked to come back from Ottawa, after being shown the plan or the policy of the Federal Government on our wheat crisis now he was told to go back to Manitoba and please crusade in the various parties here and with the people not to make a political football out of what I consider to be a billion bushel blunder. And I say it again, Mr. Speaker. We have been asked not to make a political football out of a billion bushel blunder, and if getting up to speak in this Legislative Committee, and speaking on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba, and stating my position insofar as the federal policy is concerned, is politics, then I am a political animal and continue to politick in this Legislative Assembly.

I want to make this clear to my honourable friends that when I speak I speak on behalf of the farmers of my constituency and throughout the province, when I say that we as farmers are not satisfied, and I think the Minister has indicated that the change in direction insofar as agriculture is concerned in the Province of Manitoba has gone far beyond that of other provinces and that we may not avail to ourselves the incentives, the cash incentives that will be available to those areas that have not gone as far in diverting into other crops and into livestock as we have in the Province of Manitoba, and I say to the Minister that if it's politics that it takes to bring to bear on the Federal Government our position in the Province of Manitoba insofar as their policies are concerned as they relate to the farmers in this province, that he should be on his feet politicking. And I say to him now that when he goes to Ottawa next week that he should make it clear to the Federal Government that we are not satisfied here. As I said before, when I spoke, that I do not know a farmer in the Province of Manitoba nor a farm group, who have come out and said that they were satisfied with the federal policy. The only people that I know that are satisfied with this policy are the policymakers in Ottawa and the Government of the United States of America, and you can well understand the position of the United States of America.

I do not intend to dwell, Mr. Chairman, at this time with any particular items in the program or in the estimates that are laid before us. I must say that to myself, and I would say to others on this side of the House, that it's a little difficult to relate appropriations with those of the estimates that we had presented in 1969. It may be that this presentation of the estimates will be easier to understand than to follow after we have had a chance to start and to go through item by item. But I do notice here, Sir, that there is very considerable amount of money here referred to as "Other Expenses." Some of my colleagues have asked me what do "Other Expenses" mean and I have taken a look at the estimates and I said we'll have to wait and see what the Minister has to say.

There are many areas that I could discuss at the moment but really, again, I would have to ask the Minister simply direct questions of how they will relate insofar as the practical application is concerned. I want to congratulate the Minister on his move to go forward, the Agricultural Service Centre, and we will be discussing with him more fully the plans and the location and so forth as we proceed through the different items.

The Minister has referred to the establishing of a government provincial -- I presume hail insurance rider to be attached to the present crop insurance plan - I would assume that this was the intention - and it has been indicated to us today that the Federal Government will not be participating in this program but the province will be going alone on this program. It will remain to be seen. These will be questions that I will be asking, to what extent it will be necessary to subsidize; if to any extent. Is there going to be a compulsory plan or is it going to be on a voluntary basis simply as a voluntary rider to the crop insurance program? These are questions, Mr. Speaker, that we will be bringing forth as we proceed through the items.

There are other areas that I could discuss this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, but I think that with these few words that I'll wait until the items come up, and I have to say again, Mr. Speaker,

(MR. WATT cont'd.)... that I am having a little difficulty in finding under the new form, or procedure here in grouping the different areas of agriculture, that there may be some difficulty in finding where we will be asking questions on specific items, but I'm sure the Minister will be prepared to provide us with this information.

I note by the Minister's remarks that I believe he said in the area of \$9 million in applications had been made to the Manitoba Credit Corporation, and I am interested to know in how he relates this to the announcement in the Throne Speech where the Throne Speech indicates that the program had been fully utilized. But today the Minister says that no money has been loaned or no applications have been approved, and I'm rather curious to hear from him how he relates the statement in the Throne Speech that the program has been fully utilized when in effect today he has told us that no applications have been approved.

I think with these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I'll wait 'til we proceed with the estimates point by point and I'll have further remarks and questions. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, there is a report to be filed and we're coming very close to 5:30. I wonder if this wouldn't be an appropriate time to stop.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for LaVerendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could have about two minutes and I won't try to complete my speech or anything like that, if that would be agreeable? Mr. Chairman, because of the Minister more than likely going to Ottawa perhaps Monday or Tuesday, or whenever it is, I would just like to say a few words concerning this brief. First of all, I'm happy that I received a copy of this brief but I for one cannot go along with some of the items in the brief but I do hope.....

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege. I don't know what brief the honourable member is referring to because we haven't yet prepared it. He must be confused.

MR. BARKMAN: I thought the Minister was perhaps suggesting of a brief that is going to take place in Ottawa on pricing of non-quota feed grains. Oh. Then I think, as far as I'm concerned, I don't have to bring up the item at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, just before you close, can we not have a definite agreement as to whether the Minister will be here on Monday or not, because then we will be dealing with a different department and if that is the case I would like to know, because then I'd like to prepare on the Educational Estimates rather.

MR. USKIW: I think, Mr. Chairman, I likely will be here Monday. I'm not sure about Tuesday. It's a matter of when I can arrange for an appointment with Ministers opposite in Ottawa. Monday I'll be here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, at this stage can the Government House Leader give us some indication as to the following order in which the Departmental Estimates will be considered?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, following the Minister of Agriculture there will be either the Minister of Health or the Minister of Youth and Education, one of those two, and I'll let you know on Monday which one it will be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Is it possible that one of those two could be up on Monday?

MR. GREEN: No, I would expect that the Minister of Agriculture will be -- I think he's giving a commitment now that he will be here on Monday so that the Minister of Agriculture will be here on Monday and we'll continue, unless he is interrupted by being away, in which case one of the other Minister that I've named, and I'll be more definite on Monday as to which one it will be.

MR. CRAIK: Of course the Agricultural Estimates may be finished early.

MR. GREEN: My honourable friend says the Agricultural Estimates may be finished early but I don't even entertain that possibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Such optimism. Can the House Leader indicate what is now going to transpire?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I would move that Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, your Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon, that the report of the Committee be received.

**MR. SPEAKER** presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

**MR. PETURSSON:** Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn may I submit the Report of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation which includes also the Report of the Centennial Centre, to be tabled.

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

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that the House do now adjourn.

**MR. SPEAKER** presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon.