

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 p.m., Monday, March 1, 1976

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the honourable member's attention to the gallery where we have 66 students of Grades 4, 5 and 6 standing of the Earl Grey School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Sim. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

We also have 27 students of Grade 11 standing of the Rossville School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Mussain. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, the Minister of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services.

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

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Annual Report of the Communities Economic Development Fund, the Annual Report of the Manitoba Development Corporation, the Annual Report of the Watershed Conservation District Boards, the Annual Report of the Resource Conservation Commission, the Annual Report of the Manitoba Mineral Resources Limited.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs,

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Report of the Inquiry into Livestock Marketing in Manitoba; a report compiled by the Manitoba Livestock and Meat Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Tourism, Recreation,

HON. RENE TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report for the Le Centre Culturel Franco Manitobain, including the Auditor's Report and Financial Statement for the year ended March 31, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table the Annual Report of the Department of Labour, also the 58th Annual Report of the Civil Service Commission, and also the First Report of the Pension's Commission of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Education. I wonder if he could tell the House if his Deputy Minister was stating government policy when he told a conference of Manitoba principals and vice-principals last week that politics in education was to become a more definite direction in the Department of Education. Was he stating the government's policy when he said that there was to be more politics in education in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, not knowing whether the Honourable Member for Brandon West defines the term politics in the same manner as my Deputy Minister may have, I therefore cannot answer his question.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, then I will put a supplementary question to the same

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. MCGILL cont'd) Minister. Is it the intention of the government to present a particular political point of view in their selection of the human resources and the literary requirements in the educational system? Is that what the Deputy Minister meant?

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCGILL: Then, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister what did his Deputy Minister mean?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if he can indicate whether he's in a position to report to the House the probable start of an income program as a result of the Social Security Review and the discussions that have taken place between the Federal Government and the provincial government, an income program would commence as an alteration to the present Social Service Program, and would commence within a period of about six months.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development) (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, there is continued discussion between the provincial governments across the nation and the Federal Government, and I'm sorry but there is no way that I could give the House a date when this would be started. It depends on the Federal Government.

MR. SPIVAK: By way of another question then to the Minister. Can he indicate whether the Federal Government has more or less set a target of about a six month period for the conclusion of an agreement with the provinces and the commencement of a new program?

MR. DESJARDINS: It's probably true to say that the Federal Government is hoping that the matter will be settled, that is, the approval of the different provinces about that time; but when the program will actually start, when will the tab be replaced, that's anybody's guess. It could be a number of years especially with the inflation and the control.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether the Provincial Government's Mini-Income Program or Min-Income Program, the results of the program wherever discussed, whether there are any results that have in fact been forwarded to the Federal Government for its consideration in the decision making with respect to the new income program that they're suggesting.

MR. DESJARDINS: As you know, Mr. Speaker, and as my honourable friend knows, this is a pilot project and the Federal Government is very much a part of this experience so they get the information as fast as we do.

MR. SPIVAK: Well I wonder if the Minister can indicate as to whether there's been discussions with the Federal Government for a termination of the program if the Federal Government's proposals are in fact adopted by the provinces.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. The Honourable Member for River Heights rephrase.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to know whether there have been discussions with the Federal Government about the termination of the program.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: That goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, because this is a pilot project and when the project as such is terminated, then the Federal Government and the provinces will see if then it will be reinstated as a regular program. That remains to be seen that's why we have a pilot project.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister who is responsible for Manitoba Hydro.

In reference to the activity of Manitoba Hydro in investigating potential sites for nuclear power developments, can the First Minister indicate whether hydro is also examining potential sites for the disposal of the wastes, nuclear wastes that are created by nuclear power plants that are being proposed?

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, presumably a consulting engineering firm would not be retained if its terms of reference were covering only a part of all that is directly necessary in nuclear energy, and presumably that includes matters having to do with disposal sites for any radioactive waste material. But all of that, Sir, is very much premature in the sense that we have indicated on a number of occasions this is something still a decade away and we are very much in the preliminary stages.

MR. AXWORTHY: As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the First Minister indicate whether in terms of the preliminary investigation, whether the government has instructed Manitoba Hydro to undertake any special investigations into the safety features that are dealing with the development of nuclear power plants in view or in light of the recent revelation in the United States about the safety dangers of such plants?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend I would invite him to somehow arrange to become a member of the Utilities and Natural Resources Committee of this House so that he can put his question directly to the operating Chairman of Manitoba Hydro. I would only tell him in the meantime that Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal agency, has worldwide competence in this field and perhaps my honourable friend would be well advised to make his enquiries directly of Mr. Foster, for example.

MR. AXWORTHY: I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Can the Minister indicate whether the government intends to provide any form of public hearing or investigation or enquiry into the safety aspects so that the private or citizen environmental groups are able to both determine what the proposals are as well as react to those proposals, and do so in the near future before commitments are made on this program?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that it goes without saying that when there is a period of a decade or more between the date of proposed commencement of a given program, and the announcement of intent, that the ten years is meant to be taken up with preliminary investigation, including an opportunity for public attitudes to be expressed, and perhaps the logical place to start would be with the good citizens of the Town of Pinawa who are citizens like everyone else, and most of whom also have some considerable awareness and competence in the field of nuclear energy.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I wonder if can the Minister advise the House if it is still the policy of the government to have the South African Wines and Brandies removed from the shelves of the government liquor stores.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Tourism and Recreation.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, it is the policy of the Liquor Control Commission now to not have on display South African products. They are not to be on the shelves, but available on demand. Meaning that they are delisted, but available on demand.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House then, what's the difference between having them not on the shelf, but if you ask at the counter then the counterman has to go to the back of the liquor store and bring the product to the counter. Is that boycotting, or is it not boycotting?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member posed and answered his own question.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, then, can I ask the Honourable Minister, does he intend to delist Russian Vodka?

MR. TOUPIN: Not at the moment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development in regard to Public Lotteries. Mr. Speaker, I wonder can I ask the Minister, in light of the many news items and editorials that are appearing across Western Canada re the present lottery system, if he's now prepared to propose a

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(MR. McKENZIE cont'd) public enquiry into the management of WesCan Lottery, the funds and the handling of it?

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Urban Affairs. In reference to the announcement he made concerning the lending of further funds for land banking of assembly and the provision of service lots, can the Minister indicate whether through Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, present publicly owned land will be available for development and building purposes in the city this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Urban Affairs.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister for Urban Affairs) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I cannot indicate a date because the land which MHRC has acquired is not easily accessible to underground services, such as sewer and water and drainage. If the lands do become serviceable, then certainly they'll be put on the market. The reference the member makes to land banking is the joint City-Province Land Banking Program undertaken at the request of the city.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate whether those lots that may be made available will be done so purely for social housing or public purposes, or would they be leased or sold for private housing purposes?

MR. MILLER: Anyone and everyone will be welcome.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Can the Minister indicate whether the proposed housing program that was announced from the Throne Speech, that there is presently available service lots sufficient to supply all that are necessary for that proposed housing program?

MR. MILLER: No, there isn't, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I should like to propose a substitution on one of the standing committees if I may. I'd like to move that the name of Mr. Banman be substituted for that of Mr. McKellar on the Standing Committee on the Industrial Relations.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? (Agreed) The Honourable First Minister.

ORAL QUESTIONS Cont'd

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, on Friday last, the Honourable the Member for Lakeside inquired as to the cost to the Crown of borrowing funds. He put it rather in the general vein and I undertook to give him a breakout as to the main categories of borrowing costs, and accordingly I can advise my honourable friend for the record that with respect to Treasury Bills the 1975 average, there's some oscillation on that but the average was 8.30, on Canada Pension Plan source it was 8.94, and the weighted average from all sources, including long term, was 9.1518.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. THOMAS BARROW (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, I would ask leave to substitute the Member from The Pas on the Industrial Relations Committee for the Member from Flin Flon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? (Agreed) Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - SECOND READINGS

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would want to proceed with the adjourned debates on Second Readings.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill No. 2, proposed by the Honourable Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): May I have this matter stand please, Mr. Speaker.

BILL NO. 3 - GARAGE KEEPERS ACT AMENDMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Stand. Bill No. 3, proposed by the Honourable Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, in taking a look at this bill we at this time have no objection to it going to Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we also perused this bill and are prepared to let it go to Committee.

QUESTION put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 4, proposed by the Honourable Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Stand, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 5, proposed by the Honourable Attorney-General. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Leader of the Official Opposition) (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that this matter stand.

BILL NO. 7 - FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AMENDMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 7 proposed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Yes, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Minister of Agriculture and his explanation on Bill No. 7, having perused it we are going to allow it to Committee, but I want to say to the Minister that I don't understand where his legal advice was concerned because in one section he wants to amend it, and that refers to, Mr. Speaker, the length of warranty on new machinery from two to three years, and goes back when the bill was first brought in, the government chose to establish three years and we on this side wanted to make an amendment to make it for two years, and finally when the government saw the light they decided to amend that from three to two years, but in this explanation the Minister made no mention of it - probably it was an oversight on his part - but there's a subsection there that is being deleted and it's being amended. So the fact I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is that we already now have a two year warranty, the three was changed a few years ago, and we now have a two year warranty so there's no need for making an amendment to delete subsection 15(1). And I say, Mr. Speaker, then this will entail some changes in the numbering from that time on in that section.

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I have consulted with some of the dealers and some of the members of the Farm Machinery Board who have no objection to the amendments that have been made, it's a matter of tidying up. I can understand where if a farmer goes to an auction sale and the auctioneer says that this tractor, or whatever machine he's buying, is of a certain age the amendment that is now being proposed does make it better for all concerned. And so, Mr. Speaker, with that one proviso that I have pointed out to the Minister here, we're prepared to let it go to Committee.

QUESTION put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 8, proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. CRAIK: Stand, Mr. Speaker.

BILL NO. 9 - THE SNOWMOBILE ACT AMENDMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 9, proposed by the Minister of Highways. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I've looked over this bill and I've been in touch with several people who sell snowmobiles, as well as an organization now which has 1,200 to 1,500 members in it that are studying the by-laws and regulations in connection with snowmobiles, and they're very happy that you've brought in these two clauses at present: the one where there's immunity of liability of the owner of land if there's any accidents caused, they're very happy about this; and about displaying the license plates, it's one of the things - there's numbers on the side - it's one of the things they've been very happy with.

However, I was talking to them this morning; Mr. Wayne Gerrard is at the head of their organization and he'd like some more time to consider some other things.

One resolution that they had passed at their last meeting is that these safety helmets become mandatory, and I told him I thought this was getting into something that we might get some more demonstrations around the yards, around the Legislature. However, he feels that you wouldn't have this happen because he said in most cases they all have to wear these heavy helmets anyway to keep their heads warm because it's so cold out there on the snowmobiles, and he feels that when there's snowmobiles out, when they go on these here safaris, and if one fellow ever fell off and another fellow's front runner ski was to hit his head or anything like this, that it would really cause serious damage and this is the way they feel. And he says that there's a letter drafted already to go to the Minister of Highways, and that they hope to appear at that time when it comes up for third reading and make a presentation on it.

And I also think there's another member that wants to speak on this bill before it's passed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Crescentwood, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, would you now proceed with the second reading of the three bills standing in the name of the Honourable the Attorney-General.

BILL NO. 11 - QUEEN'S BENCH ACT AMENDMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill No. 11, the Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk) presented Bill 11, an Act to Amend The Queen's Bench Act, for secondary reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, these amendments are mainly housekeeping. First, amendments to the Act reflect the fact that the Public Trustee is the official guardian for the Province of Manitoba. Trust companies and lawyers are no longer appointed as official guardians and thus the section has simply been rewritten to give a legal effect to the fact that the public trustee is the official guardian in the province.

Also there is a section in the amendments dealing with the statutory fee of \$30.00, which is no longer felt sufficient. It was enacted some 40 years ago and does not pay the actual costs of opening the file, writing the basic letters, and the responsibility of the public trustee in these cases is substantial, having regard to the fluctuating value of the dollar, we feel that it would be better in this instance if the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council had the responsibility of changing the fee from time to time in view of changing circumstances.

And--(Interjection)--Well, the public trustee has indicated to us that - and this is an item that had to be evaluated more closely - that a fee of \$100.00 would not be unfair or unreasonable in view of the expense that is encountered by the Public Trustee's office in dealing with the fees. Otherwise, the charge would be assessed, as it has been

BILL 11

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) for the last while, to the taxpayers.

Also, there is an amendment dealing with the fee intended to cover the costs of administration. It is not sufficient to pay the legal costs involved in defending a suit. There is no provision in the Act or the rules which would entitle the Public Trustee to recover his costs from the plaintiff. Since the Public Trustee gets involved at the instance of the plaintiff, the provisions will make the plaintiff responsible to pay the Public Trustee's costs if the estate concerned has no funds. This amendment is similar to Rule 622 of the Queen's Bench Rules, whereby the official guardian, the Public Trustee may recover his costs from a successful party. Here the Public Trustee is acting as the official administrator.

Also a further amendment deals with the recommendation of the Law Society and the Manitoba Bar Association, which is also reflected in amendments to the County Court Act, to increase the jurisdiction of the County Court and providing where the parties consent, the action may be transferred from the Court of Queen's Bench to the County Court.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 12 - THE COUNTY COURT AMENDMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 12. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY presented Bill No. 12, An Act to amend the County Court Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, these are also a number of amendments. There's one that is of a significant nature and is of some interest. But outside of that one amendment, the others are insignificant.

The first deals with supernumerary judges. The Federal Judges Act provides an option for judges of the County Court to elect for what is referred to as the supernumerary status where the judge is 65 years of age and has been in office for at least 15 years, or is 70 years of age and has been in office for at least ten years. Now the amendments here to the County Courts Act give effect to that insofar as our County Court judges are concerned giving them this type of option.

Another amendment deals with the Board of County Court Judges. The Board of County Court Judges recommended the creation of the position of Chief County Court Clerk with province-wide jurisdiction of authority. There are numerous reasons for establishing this position, and I think possibly it would be more fruitful at the . . . I would outline now, so that members would have them for Committee stage, the reasons given for the establishment of the Chief County Court Clerk:

First, to maintain a closer liaison between court clerks to advise in technical or practice procedure to maintain uniformity throughout the province.

To advise on changes in legislation and procedures involved.

To maintain uniformity of procedures and practice carried out by clerks presiding over Small Claims Courts.

Convenience to profession and public in signing of certain documents, eliminating the sending to and returning same from rural courts.

To provide a chain in administration in line with other court services, such as Prothonotary, Chief Court Reporter, Registrar.

To organize and convene periodical meetings of all clerks of courts in the province.

To organize visitations to rural courts as regulated by the Chief Judge.

To maintain a closer liaison between the Chief Judge and administration of all courts.

To assure that all courts are properly maintained and staffed.

BILL 12

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd)

Those are the reasons that have been advanced for the establishment of this position. I would think when we reach Committee stage we could delve further into that.

Also there are amendments here which I think are of a much more important nature than the other amendments, and that deals with the change in the jurisdiction of the County Courts Act, increasing the present limit of \$2,000, which was established many years ago under different times and circumstances, increasing that limit to \$10,000.00. And I think even at that point one might question whether or not the limit could even be increased beyond the \$10,000 that we have proposed in the bill, 10,000 in place of 2,000 which was the original limit, monetary limit for actions brought in the County Court.

Another provision which we've added, however, is that further actions may be brought in the County Court where the claim or any said offer counter claim exceeds 10,000, unless one of the parties applies under the legislation to have the action transferred to the Court of Queen's Bench. Any party has the right to require the action to be transferred to the Court of Queen's Bench in these circumstances any time before the action is set down for trial, so the action can be commenced in excess of \$10,000 in the County Court and can proceed all the way to the trial and a decision unless, unless there is a request by the defendant, or the plaintiff as far as that is concerned, to transfer the action to the Court of Queen's Bench. So there is the option provision in excess of the \$10,000.00.

Another amendment simply indicates that the Public Trustee is the official guardian.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 13 - SURROGATE COURTS ACT AMENDMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 13. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY presented Bill No. 13, An Act to Amend the Surrogate Courts Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, these amendments deal with the Surrogate Courts Act and they are of a minor nature but are important because of some other changes that have taken place.

First, in connection with the salaries of judges. The present Surrogate Court Act provides for an annual payment of \$3,500 to each County Court judge to act as a Surrogate Court judge.

On April 1, 1976 the Federal Judges Act restricts, as of April 1, 1976, restricts the additional remuneration paid to County Court judges to \$3,000 per annum so that our legislation has to be changed in order to reflect the federal legislation.

All the other amendments to the Surrogate Courts Act merely give effect to the fact that the Public Trustee is now the official guardian, the official administrator and the Administrator of the Estates of Mentally Disordered Persons.

Further, trust companies are no longer appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council as official administrators.

Also, there is an amendment dealing with the statutory fee again of \$30.00 which was again, as mentioned earlier in the earlier amendments, was enacted 40 years ago and relating back to the concerns expressed by the Public Trustee that we are not recouping the actual costs of the administration by that fee. It does leave the powers to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to enact such fee as may successfully recover the costs encountered by the Public Trustee in that work and according to the circumstances.

Those are the basic amendments, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member

BILL 13

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) for Morris, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Labour that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer honourable members to Page 5 of the Estimate Book. The Honourable . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister is on his way.

I would just like to remind the honourable members that tomorrow there is a meeting of the Industrial Relations Committee at 10, and I would like the members of that committee from the Conservative Progressive Party benches to consider whether they would want to meet on Saturday to hear briefs. I would just ask them to consider that. There are problems during the week and apparently there is a long list of members who want to consider briefs and we might find that it might move more expeditiously on that day. However, it's not something that we would want to push; it's something that we would want you to consider, maybe advise us tomorrow.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I note that the Deputy Minister of Agriculture is now present with us; the Minister I know will be here in a couple of minutes. I do not recall who was speaking at the time of the rising of the Committee the last time we met, and I'm wondering whether or not it may facilitate our proceedings, if any member of the Committee would be desirous of continuing any representation that was being made at that particular time, or additional comment. I say that the Minister will be here, I've had assurance, but there could conceivably have been an abbreviation of somebody's comments at that time, and I'm sure that the government would be prepared to listen on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and as I indicate we have in our presence the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Chairman, probably the Member for Radisson would take over for the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: I wouldn't suggest that possibly the Honourable Minister, the Member for Radisson - and he is competent to be a Minister, let's not discount that fact, my successor in the constituency of Radisson - but I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that in customary operations of the government, this government as the past government, we do have an alternate Minister of Agriculture who is present with us this afternoon, and for the time being he can listen or field any questions directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

One of the things that we are most fortunate in having in Manitoba today is the fact that while the First Minister has designated a minister precisely in charge of a department, we also have alternatives who are equally competent to conduct the affairs of any ministry in the Province of Manitoba, and so I would suggest that unlike previous governments, we have a competency in this government of not only having a Minister primarily charged with the responsibility of a Government Minister Jurisdiction, we also have alternates, but I note that the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture is present and that his alternate, equally competent, will not be required upon to answer any questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe that when the House adjourned on Friday, we were on the Milk Control Board. Item 8(c)(4), which deals with the Milk Control Board. Now the comments that were being made by the Minister of Labour, somehow appear to me to be not quite related to that particular subject. Although he was

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) attempting to do something, I doubt very much if it had anything to do with milk. However, I see that his problem has now disappeared, the Minister is here, and we can proceed from there. I must say that the Minister did a very good job of pinch-hitting and stalling until the Minister arrived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When we adjourned Friday we were on Resolution 8(c)(4), The Milk Control Board, \$63,000, item--pass. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I wasn't here on Friday. Unfortunately I was unable to be and I was just wondering whether the Minister had any comments to make, or if he had any answers to questions that were left on his desk Friday. I just wondered about that before we start.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Chairman, I first of all want to express a degree of regret that my return from Arborg was somewhat delayed this afternoon, but I hope that it didn't inconvenience members opposite too greatly. With respect to that particular question, Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of anything to do with the Milk Control Board that I took under advisement. If the member might be more specific, I might be able to respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: No, Mr. Chairman, it was just a matter of a general question that might have been put to the Minister on this particular subject, on the Milk Control Board. I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if there has been some changes in the Milk Control Board structure, that is the personnel, and according to his report now he has the Chairman of the Board Mr. B. H. Kristjanson. I'm wondering if he could fill us in on the changes that have been made insofar as the board is concerned at the present time. I know the report that he gave us is rather outdated, and I wonder if he could give us the names of those people who are on the board at the present time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I think that if the honourable member would look at Page 4, he would have all of that information, that is, Page 4 of the annual report. It gives you the make-up of the new board. Page 4 of the Annual Report of the Milk Control Board of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 8(c)(4)--passed; Resolution 8(d), Management and Operations Division: Item I; salaries, \$712,600--pass. Other expenditure \$348,800--pass. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Could the Minister give us some details as to the other expenditures in this section here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister for Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Yes this is the specific. Mr. Chairman, those items are broken into - I'm wondering if the honourable member would tell me whether he wants to know the other expenditures or . . . You're not questioning the salaries?

MR. EINARSON: Other Expenditures.

MR. USKIW: I see, the \$348,800. Communications is \$250,000; Personnel and Training is \$25,000; Computer Services are \$8,000; Financial Administration are \$4,000 - that must be Program Analysis - \$14,000; Accounting and Administration \$42,000; and the Divisional Administration \$4,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . the Minister could explain just what is meant by that \$250,000 item relating to Communications. What kind of communications; would be pigeons and the like?

MR. USKIW: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, for the distraction. Would the honourable member put that question forward.

MR. JORGENSEN: He indicated that there was an item of \$250,000 relating to Communications in that particular estimate, and I was wondering if he could elaborate somewhat on that, what he meant by communications.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is the staffing of the Communications Division of the department. As you know we have a fairly extensive communication facility

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) which develops all sorts of programs both in book form and in the form of visual aids, and which also is involved in radio, TV, and newspaper publications, that explains departmental programs, that is, the activity. I have a breakdown of their expenditures if the Member for Morris wishes me to give him that.

MR. JORGENSEN: It does appear to be a little bit intriguing, and I was wondering if the Minister would give us that breakdown.

MR. USKIW: The Advertising Section of that budget is \$25,000; the Information Centres are \$12,000; Publications are \$105,000; Television is \$20,000.00.

MR. JORGENSEN: I wonder if the Minister could just elaborate somewhat on what he means by publications. Just what kind of publications are put out? Who are they made available to, and how are they distributed?

MR. USKIW: Well, there are a whole series of them, Mr. Chairman. I suppose that if the Member for Morris wants me to list them, I can draw up a list and give it to him, or I can send him a whole sheet of publications just for his perusal if he wishes, but we have a whole host of them which, some of which are a general mailing; others are specifically related to projects: management courses, or field projects, or whatever. This is just one example, and this is a publication on the FRED Program, that is all prepared by the Communications Department. But there are many such publications explaining programs.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . the purpose of this particular branch then is to ensure that the farmers of the Province of Manitoba are aware of what the Government is doing, and I wonder if the Minister has ever considered the possibility of including on that list, if there is such a mailing list, the members of this Legislature who may also be interested in following the Minister in his . . . across the country, and in the field of policy.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the publications are not involved only in policy, but also in the technical aspects of certain activities of the department and agriculture itself. So that whatever is put out by the department it's used as an informational tool and an aid to educating the public as to what is being done; and in the technical field to facilitate the various workshops and training programs that we have under way. So, if my honourable friend wants a copy of each publication I can arrange to have that provided to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (d)(2)--pass; Resolution 8(e) Research: (1) Policy Studies, \$107,100. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could just detail the kinds of policy studies that have been taken by the department in the past year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, in the last fiscal year the bulk of that budget was taken up by the Meat Enquiry Commission. So that is an example of the kind of studies that are undertaken under that appropriation.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate more clearly, is that the only policy study that was undertaken and where does it now stand, or were there others that have been also undertaken in the past year.

MR. USKIW: Any consulting fees or anything that results in a report being presented to the department or made available comes out of that appropriation, but the bulk of the expenditures of the last year were in the area of the Meat Enquiry Commission.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate however, which consulting studies were undertaken, who in fact was commissioned, and for what purposes, and the amounts of money that were spent for consulting fees.

MR. USKIW: Well, specifically, I'm not able to do so at the present time, that's more in the nature of an Order for Return, but I could attempt to, in the course of the Estimates Review bring that information for my honourable friend. There are probably two or three items but I would have to dig them out.

MR. AXWORTHY: I've a more specific question for the Minister. Considering the interest that's been shown by the different farm and agricultural societies in the country about the availability of agricultural land and, in some cases, dangers of good agricultural land being taken out of production for purposes of development, can the

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) Minister indicate: First, has his department been examining that particular problem as it pertains to agricultural land, and particularly around urban areas, I would think specifically a thing like the Red River Valley which is a prime market gardening area, could he give us any indication of what trends there are presently in terms of the elimination of agricultural land for development purposes or expansion of residential or commercial purposes; or whether in fact that there is also any investigation going on in terms of the expansion of the availability of land in areas where there is presently an agricultural production taking place?

MR. USKIW: No, we don't have any particular studies in that regard, Mr. Chairman. I think what the Member for Fort Rouge is really suggesting is that someone undertake a comprehensive study, and it seems to me that he is getting more at the kind of studies that we've had undertaken under the Winnipeg Regions Study. We as a department haven't taken any particular study.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to, if I might, indicate to the Minister that during the fall when I was part of the Habitat Committee Hearings in Western Canada, and particularly in this province, several farm organizations appeared, including ones from this province or representatives of those, which indicated an increasing concern, not just in the Winnipeg region but further out in other municipalities, where there is a settlement of larger, increasing numbers of people from the urban areas who are moving out to farm areas and buying up acreage, which they turn into gentlemen farming, I guess of a kind, but not production farming, and that particularly in those areas where the soil was particularly suited to market gardening, vegetable gardening, which supply pretty necessary food stuffs for this city, that land is being taken out of production and is being used again, and this occurs around the Selkirk, Manitoba area, around the Winnipeg area, and some of the other areas.

I wonder if the department, while it may not have undertaken comprehensive studies, has any information that they could supply to this committee concerning those trends, whether in fact they are of some significance in the Province of Manitoba, or if there is any action or policies being contemplated to cope with this.

A second part of the presentation would be, with the demand for increasing supply of food, whether there are any plans afoot in the province for the development and the opening up of new agricultural areas in land which may have not been in production before but which could be improved through different means of productivity or development, be brought into production and therefore add to the available agricultural area for food production.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Fort Rouge I suppose should not be expected to know the goings on of the agricultural industry in this province - I don't fault him for that. Vegetable production essentially has shifted away from the Red River Valley per se, it's really more in the, to be specific, in the Portage-Winkler-Altona areas of this province where the soil conditions are much more suitable for that kind of intensive farming operation. The drainage factors, irrigation factors all enter into that consideration, so that really vegetable production as it was known on both sides of the Red River some 20-30 years ago, no longer exists, other than a very small percentage of the total production that now occurs in the province, and all of the technology and all of the trend is really to have the effect of completely moving that area of production into Portage-Altona-Winkler.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, can I take then from the Minister's response that in effect those areas in the Red River Valley that were formerly being used for market gardening purposes are now really being transferred into other forms of use, primarily urban use, residential construction use, is that what he's saying to this House?

MR. USKIW: Well anyone that has any knowledge of the history of the area immediately outside of Greater Winnipeg would appreciate and understand that over the last 30 years there's been a massive shift of use of land in the area and a large portion of it was shifted to urban uses. The municipalities in question have zoned it for that purpose and therefore it is a matter of zoning regulations that apply at the present time. I believe the area just north of Winnipeg on the west side of the river is zoned for as low as one

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) acre lots or one and a half acre lots, so that it's really zoned out of agriculture to begin with some years back, and we've gone a long way down the road in that direction, but that followed the moving away of the basic vegetable production that at that time was the main area for this province. The farm holdings are relatively small, the river lot system, and they are not practical units in terms of other forms of agriculture, so that their agriculture potential has been much reduced compared to 20 or 30 years ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering, the amount of money that's involved here in policy studies has not changed at all. I'm wondering because of the . . . I don't know I would assume that the Minister would consider a policy study in regard to his Beef Promotion Program because he's spent so much money on travelling around the country, and he gave us the figures on it, whether he feels that - he's not changed the dollar figure here - he feels that he has done his job insofar as policy studies is concerned because he's found some other method of getting about this. Would that be a fair comment?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, historically - by the way, \$107,000 is not a small figure. I believe not very long ago the figure for policy studies was less than 50,000. No, we take the position of allocating X number of dollars for policy research activities and we try to live within those budgetary limitations. There is no limit that one could place on policy and research activities if one were to undertake every study that is put forward or suggested. It's just a budgetary constraint that we have to function under. But it's an ongoing thing; the department does have to undertake certain studies, and they have to prioritize those on the basis of the needs of the department.

MR. EINARSON: Well, then, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that the figure here of \$107,000, \$107,100, the bulk of it is gone into the cost of this report, did I understand him to say that the bulk of that figure has been involved in the cost of providing support. Can he give us the exact figure now? Does he have that information as to just what his report of an inquiry costs?

MR. USKIW: I believe it's just marginally under 100,000, but I can get the specific figure for my honourable friend. It's very close to \$100,000, that is the cost of the Meat Inquiry Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 8(e)(1). The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister . . . There's a difference here this year from last year of about \$130,000 in Agricultural Research Grants to the University of Manitoba. Could the Minister indicate to us that 130,000, as to where it's going; is it spread across, or is it any particular item?

MR. USKIW: No, it's a general increase. Members might be aware that for two or three years we have held the figure constant at \$570,000, I believe it was, and this is the first adjustment upward for the Faculty of Agriculture in three or four years. It's just an adjustment in the total grant; nothing specific attached to it.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a few comments on this particular subject. When we look at the total budget for, that's the Estimates for the Department of Agriculture, and we deal with roughly \$40 million, and I look at the cost of research here - I don't know if there's any other item, I didn't . . . closely on research in other areas. But research to me, Mr. Chairman, in this department, I think, is very very important, and when we look at \$700,000 as being allocated for that purpose, I have concerns and wonder whether there isn't more demand, or more requests from farmers, from farm organizations, asking the Minister to get more involved in doing more research. Because, you know, Mr. Chairman, many farmers are able to run their own operations and it appears that the kind of directions they're getting is that the government seems to have the idea they know how to farm and how to run farms, and rather than get involved in doing some research work, which the farmer doesn't have the capabilities of doing, I think that the department could be of much greater service to the agricultural industry, if they were to embark upon further investigations and studies on many of the

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) problems that we have which pertain to the weather; we have problems in the way of rust spores and U.S. force coming into this province. I'm wondering how much involvement of all the different departments within his department are dealing with research and how many requests are they making of him insofar as the research is concerned, the whole program of research, and are they requesting more money than they're getting or are they all satisfied with what is going on in the whole field of research insofar as agriculture is concerned.

I think, Mr. Chairman, this is a very important subject and I would like to dwell on it for a few minutes, if the Minister could give me some idea of just what's going on in the area of research.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the budget, or the grant to the University of Manitoba back in 1970-71 was \$520,000, the same for the following year, and then it was adjusted to \$570,000, and continued at that level up until this moment where we are now proposing \$750,000. So financially speaking that is the way we have moved along with respect to the research item.

Now moneys expended for research in my opinion have no connection with the dollar spent by the department. I mean, that's not an analysis or an approach that I would want to undertake to tie research dollars to a percentage of a total departmental appropriation. You know, you've got \$15 million or \$14 million just in one stabilization program that has very little to do with research, so that we keep in mind the requests of the university people; they always come in higher than what we are prepared to allocate, and that's historically true. I don't think there's ever been a year where the request from the university has been . . . I don't think there's ever been a year where they haven't asked for more than what we have allocated to them. So that is the way we have to do things.

Now if the Member for Rock Lake wants a catalogue of specific research projects that they have undertaken in any given year, I can prepare a whole sheaf of them for him and he can go through them. It would certainly take hours and hours of discussion here to go through them all, but they're certainly available and we will get them for any member of the House who so wishes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 8(e)(1)--pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister some more specific questions but his last comments provide me with some concern. It seems to me that any department that is spending close to \$700,000 on research would have some sense of priority as to what it wants to achieve. It seems to me that what the Minister is describing is a responsive system where you kind of incrementally add to your budget year by year by some mathematical formula as opposed to some program or policy formula. So the first query I would have for the Minister is, can he indicate to us whether the department has a program of priorities in research that is related somehow to the improvement of the production or distribution or marketing of agricultural products in the province? And before I proceed I'd like the Minister perhaps to respond to that one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: The Member for Fort Rouge is quite right, there has to be a mechanism and we do have a review committee that sits down with the university people, to determine what are the sort of needs of the department itself and the government in this respect, and subsequently the university prepares a proposal or a program for the next year, and that program is approved by the department and we allocate moneys for it; that is the procedure and we have that review on an ongoing basis. It's a joint effort between the department and the university, the Faculty of Agriculture. It is a joint effort; we have a continuing liaison, that is, the department has with the university people.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister has described is the mechanism, what I was asking is, as the Minister can he tell us now what his priorities are in research for his department for which he is spending \$700,000.00? I don't mean that he has to give a detail of the last page on a research report, but can he indicate

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) how he relates the priorities in research to the improvement of agricultural production in the province?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to say, because I know the Member for Fort Rouge is questioning on the promise that I had with the Minister, and I rather gathered, and here he'll have an opportunity probably to reply again, that I was putting the position to him as to what priority does he put research in? I felt that more emphasis should be put on research in regard to the total responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture, and I got the feeling from the Minister in the answer he gave to me, that research is not nearly as important as probably I would consider it if I were in his position, and I think that this is the important thing we have to be concerned about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Well, I think, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Rock Lake is overstating the situation. There has to be budgetary control; there's no way you can have unlimited funds available for research, and you can research everything to death if you have the money to spend, but we're not able to do that; we have to work within our budgetary limitations.

But to give you an example of activities - you know, I didn't know that members wanted to belabour it, and I can give them a whole catalogue here if they wish, or I can give them a compilation of all the research studies that have been put together in book form, or whatever, and the requests that have come forward. But as examples here, we have Rapeseed Research, National Recognition for Development of Low Urucic Acid Varieties; that was a very important project in the rapeseed area. Development and release of New Barley Variety; Peguis is what they're talking about there. Introduction of Glenlea Wheat in Manitoba; it was a major project. Distribution of Improvement of Managra Breed of Swine; Superior Silage of Faba Beans; Pasture Studies for Stocker Feeder Cattle in the Interlake Region; Studies into the Variables Effecting Protein Content of Manitoba Cereal Grains; Studies into Relationship Between Climate and Productivity of Selected Crops to identify most suitable production areas in Manitoba; Animal Waste Management; Energy Recovery; Manure Handling Facilities, Pollution Control. These are a number of items that we've undertaken. Leaf cutter bees to increase Alfalfa seed production; Jerusalem artichokes is a potentially valuable new crop for Manitoba; Measurement of the Economic Impact of Agricultural Production in the Interlake; Relationship of Drainage Protection Cost to Farm Income in Various Types of Soils.

Now with respect to the budget before us, we have production of livestock feeds, feed grains, forage feeds, evaluation of feed grains and livestock and poultry rations, protein and nitrogen sources for livestock and poultry; feeding programs for beef and dairy cattle; genetic improvement of livestock and poultry; improving the reproductive performance of livestock and poultry; animal health related studies; management of livestock wastes; livestock profitability and marketing studies; processing livestock products; improvement of cereal grain production in Manitoba; adaptation and improvement of special crop for Manitoba conditions; improvement of potatoes, vegetables and cranberries; technical improvements for cash crop production; marketing studies on Manitoba cash crops; overcoming problems in commercially processing Manitoba crops into acceptable food products; studies in foods and nutrition; storage and handling of grain; soil protection, improvement and productivity; environmental protection from harmful pesticide residues; utilization and disposal of wastes; environmental pests and their ecologically safe control; other studies directed at enhancing environmental quality; studies concerning the well-being and viability of Manitoba's rural communities and regions; studies directed at strengthening the economic position of Manitoba farmers; Glenlea Research Station and so on. So these are the kinds of things that are happening.

Now I have here the annual submission from the University of Manitoba - that's their totality of requests for the coming year - to which we have responded and over which the Advisory Committee had deliberated. So that if members want to advise themselves of whatever is contained in this document I can make that available for them as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

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MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I just have one comment. I'm not so sure again that I am satisfied with the way in which the Minister has answered the question. What he did was ream off a list of research projects that I gather had been proposed by the University of Manitoba's Agricultural Faculty and which were reviewed and then agreed to and then they went on. At a time when we are asked to be careful stewards of budgets, it means that one of the ways of insuring that is that the government itself has some sense of what it wants to achieve by its expenditure of research dollars. In other words does it put its research into improving the production of agricultural products, their protection, their marketing, their distribution or whatever. There's a number of areas and I still have not received really from the Minister saying what is it that this department is trying to achieve through its expenditure of \$700,000 a year. Having done research and continuing to do it in other areas I realize that and as the Minister properly knows research can become an open pit unless someone says: this is what we want to do with it. These are the kinds of directions we want to achieve. I still haven't really heard from the Minister what he thinks he is gaining by the expenditure of \$700,000 related to the improvement of agriculture in the province. I make that as a comment, Mr. Chairman, and I think that in a time that in all these estimates when we have to be looking carefully at every dollar at how it's being spent that the system by which research is undertaken might have to be reviewed from a point of view and making sure that the maximum concentration goes into those areas which the public stewards of that money feel they're going to get maximum benefit.

Now in saying that, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to just explore with the Minister if I could one area which has been raised with me by constituents, who granted are not farmers, but who are consumers of farm products. That is the use of pesticides and chemicals in the production of farm products. There has been increasing evidence, I guess certainly through the mass media and I expect on other studies - I believe the Manitoba Environment Council has reported on this matter - which demonstrates that there has been a massive expansion in the use of different kinds of chemicals in the production of food and these things eventually in different ways get transferred into the end food product and could and have in some cases demonstrated impacts upon the health of people. I'm not suggesting that's necessarily the case just in Manitoba, I guess it's a common problem in agricultural production. But what I am interested in is whether the Department of Agriculture here either singly or in combination with the Federal Department of Agriculture have any, at this point in time, assessment of what in fact is being done in the province. Really, the food products that we are producing, what kind of chemical content do they have and what might the eventual health impacts of those be. I simply raise the question because it has been asked of me and I simply don't know the answer to that but it does strike me at a time when there has been increasing concern about the health hazards of different kinds of chemicals. I point to the Minister a study which he probably knows about demonstrating the connection between carcinogenic illnesses, cancer illnesses, and the use of chemicals in food products, whether this is something his department is beginning to look at; whether they have commissioned the University of Manitoba to examine it; whether they are using research being conducted by the Department of Agriculture on the Federal level so we can simply satisfy ourselves to what extent things are happening in Manitoba and then determine whether there are any health hazards associated with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the latter part of the comments of the Member for Fort Rouge really relate to Federal Food and Drug people who have an extensive involvement in that area. They are not the kind of thing that we would undertake as a provincial body, at least I wouldn't think so.

In essence though, to give my honourable friend the broad areas of research, they're broken down into four categories. Animal industry, cash crops, environment and rural areas. Those are the four categories. I don't know whether it would be helpful, I have here a copy of a letter from the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and I suppose I could read that into the record and that would give my friends the sort of bird's eye view of what is going on. If you wish me to do so I can do so although I'm also prepared

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) to make this document available to the members if they wish. So I have no problem in that respect.

This is a letter in response to a letter from myself and this is dated the 22nd of October. Perhaps maybe it would be good for me to read it, Mr. Chairman. This is a letter in response to a letter from myself. "With this letter I am submitting for your consideration our Faculty of Agriculture research proposal and budget for the 1966-67 fiscal year of the Government of Manitoba. You will be interested in some of the" - I'm sorry I should have said '76. "You will be interested in some of the factors that guided the preparation of this proposal in keeping with the suggestion in your letter to me of 13th December, 1974 that we establish a joint research review committee.

"Our department heads and I were pleased to meet with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Gordon Anderson and his branch directors on 14th of August, 1975. We spent the morning on a tour of some of the research under way and during the afternoon heard each of the branch directors present his views and research needs in Manitoba. Our department heads found this meeting very helpful in the preparation of the attached proposal.

"For next year we have agreed to begin our consultations and review much earlier and to conduct them in a more detailed and thorough manner. This will enable a more systematic input from your department in the preparation of future research proposals. The projects submitted in this proposal are closely related to the agriculture of Manitoba and are of fairly practical nature.

"Most of the more basic or fundamental research is funded by such agencies as the National Research Council. Major studies directed at addressing international agricultural problems such as our work in Triticale is heavily supported by such Federal agencies as SEDA and IDRC. The point I am making is that agencies outside of Manitoba are not inclined to support research directed primarily at solving agricultural problems in this province. Hence we are highly dependent on support from your department to work on these local topics. Since it is also our desire to maintain a strong research emphasis on the real problems facing Manitoba agriculture, we are very concerned that the funding that makes this work possible is maintained at a healthy level. An attempt has been made to be mindful of priorities. The priorities that the government outlined for agriculture in Guidelines for the '70s have been circulated among departments for serious consideration. I believe that this submission in general reflects these priorities.

"I was pleased to learn during the past year of your department's desire to organize a Manitoba Agricultural Services Co-ordinating Committee. Once the essential MASCC Sub Committees are established and get around to dealing with research needs and priorities our research program will doubtless be further strengthened by the advice and involvement of the broader agricultural community in this province."

I might add as an aside, Mr. Chairman, that the Deputy Minister is the Chairman of this Committee and the Dean is the Co-Chairman. "The plight of Canadian faculties of agriculture and veterinary medicine in Canada respecting their inadequate research support received wide public exposure and comment during the past year with the release of the faculty's national statement. The erosion of financial support through fixed dollar budgets during several years of double-digit inflation is taking a heavy toll on essential research and on the training of post-graduate agricultural specialists. Such specialty areas as plant breeders, plant pathologists and nutritionists are already in seriously short supply in this country. If allowed to continue this developing shortage of specialists could in the longer run be very costly for Canadian farmers and for agriculture in general.

"Agricultural research is of course of limited value apart from the dissemination and application of its useful results. I wish to assure you of the deep commitment of our staff to the translating of our technical findings into usable information for Manitoba farmers and other members of the agricultural community. The 5,000 copies of our Fourth Edition of "Principles and Practice of Commercial Farming" published just over a year ago have been sold and we have recently ordered an additional 2,000 from the printers.

"Our faculty works closely with your Assistant Deputy Ministers and regional staffs in presenting our research information at Ag Days in each of the five MDA regions and in conducting a series of specialty conference days in Winnipeg and Brandon every

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) winter. Our research findings are extended by many additional means including press, radio, press releases, radio field days and short courses. Attached you will find a few summary statements on achievements of your MDA supported research program during the past year which you may find helpful when answering questions in the Legislature."

Now again it has to be said that the research program of the university is very much tied to the current needs of the Department of Agriculture and of the agricultural community. I gather from the comments of the Member for Fort Rouge that he is more interested in a much broader form of research relating to aspects far beyond agriculture itself. I think I have to take the position that we have our plate full, so to speak, insofar as our budgetary limitations provide relating to those things that we have ongoing within the department which have to be prioritized. Now it may be valid to suggest that there should be a much larger research into many other specific areas that may relate to agriculture but are really broader in nature but that is not the essential function of these research funds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could advise the House just to what extent there is co-ordination between other provinces in the matter of research with the Federal Government and indeed insofar as the question of pesticide residues and the like is concerned with the United States. It seems to me that there has been a tremendous amount of research on that particular subject being done in the United States that could well be applicable here in Canada and it would seem to me to be a kind of a duplication, an unnecessary one, simply to repeat that kind of research. I wonder if the Minister could advise the House if the research people at the University and the Department of Agriculture were in close enough contact with the Federal Government and the United States government so that rather than duplicating the same kind of research that, if necessary, at the very most it could be complemented.

Also, I wonder if the Minister could advise the House to what extent there is co-operation between his department and the Department of Industry and Commerce. I understand from a news release issued just recently that the Department of Industry and Commerce through its Manitoba Research Council had recently given a grant of some \$40,000 to Ransom Enterprises at Boissevain to develop a sheep breeding process that to the best of my knowledge and my investigation has been carried on in other countries of the world, Australia and New Zealand in particular. Also that it had been carried on for a number of years in the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa and abandoned and has been also carried on to perhaps a lesser extent in the Department of Agriculture in the Province of Alberta. I would like to know, although I know that this particular grant was not given by his Department but rather by the Department of Industry and Commerce - I think there is a relationship to the kind of research that the Province of Manitoba would want to carry on in the Department of Agriculture and a grant that is given by the Manitoba Research Council for purposes relating to agriculture. It seems to me that if the Department of Agriculture had anything to say about that particular grant they might have suggested that it could well be placed elsewhere and far more usefully applied in an area that has not been so extensively researched as this particular one has been both federally and in other parts of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, if I might just follow on the helpful remarks of the previous speaker. My concern in raising the question has to do not just with the impact or effects that may be caused by the use of pesticides but also the economic factors that relate to the use of fertilizers and chemicals. I think we all recognize the changed economy that has occurred as a result of the embargoes on oil and the increasing shortage of fossil fuel products which many fertilizers find as their base product and it's becoming one of major factors in cost. I think the Minister himself mentioned this when he talked about the problem in the livestock trade.

It would seem to me that while he said it is not in the interest of his Department to undertake broad based research, it would seem to me that some of these issues are

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) pretty vital to the farming community in Manitoba in terms of the production of food. Certainly if there is going to be any real squeeze on the production of food in the province one of the major forces will come from that increasing price problem of fertilizer and chemical products that are derived from petroleum and we should know something about it. As a result if there has to be transitions or changes in the way in which farm productivity is achieved, they have to find replacements for example for the use of fertilizers or different kinds of fertilizer products, then how soon, in what way and by what means will these changes take place? It would strike me that when we consider the important place food production plays in the life of this province as well as this country and the increasing importance that food itself has as a product, these are not areas of peripheral concern but of pretty central concern. I think that the Member for Morris was suggesting properly that there probably are a number of other investigations going on that would be applicable. I guess my question is: you don't have to undertake a re-invention of the wheel or original research but I am wondering if other people are doing investigations that would be applied to Manitoba and the kinds of issues that I have raised is that information being acquired and how is it being disseminated and what is being done about it to respond to what could be considered a degree of mini crisis in the area based upon the heavy dependence and increasing dependence on food production for fertilizers and chemicals that come out of a petroleum base when in fact we're looking at perhaps a much higher economic cost of those petroleum based products. I would wonder again if that would be something that the Minister would concede as being an increasing priority in the research program of the Department of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the more the Member for Fort Rouge talks, the more I appreciate that he is totally unfamiliar with what is going on with respect to the University Research Program or the department. I again don't fault him for that, he is not perhaps expected to know and I can start reciting to him a number of areas again which deal with the questions that he has raised.

In terms of environmental protection from harmful pesticide residues: We have a number of items here assessing the environmental hazards of pesticides, there is an amount of \$11,000 set aside in the budget for that item alone. Determination of the fate of agricultural pesticides in the environment using a model echo (?) system \$3,000.00. Effective soil type on the degradation and by availability of soil applied herbicides \$15,000.00. Absorption and desorption, characteristics by Manitoba soils \$10,000.00.

And then we have a series here on insect control a Mosquito Larvacide Program, analysis and quantification of residues in a model aquatic echo system. Mosquitoes and black flies, quantification of residues in a model aquatic echo system, including rainbow trout. Pesticide transport in surface run-off water from Manitoba soils. Analysis of methane gas from animal waste, and so on. Pesticides for stored product protection. Analysis for stored grains for residues, and so on. Pest control in rape seed, assessment of residue levels in rape seed in the soil treated fields. And so there's a whole series of studies that are under way in the very area that my honourable friend is alluding to, Mr. Chairman.

Now with respect to the question of the Member for Morris, whether there is indeed duplication, and so on, there is a committee known as TASK. It's a national committee and it involves all the deputy ministers of the provinces of Canada and all of the deans of agriculture across Canada who meet to discuss that very point to make sure that we are not wasting money through duplication in research, and so on. So that we sort of have some means of knowing what each of the provinces are committed to in terms of their research program. And the hope there is that we make sure that our research dollars go as far as possible in terms of new research.

We are also the only department in Canada that makes any grant to the University Research Program. Other Departments of Agriculture in the other provinces do not. That may be of some interest to the Member for Fort Rouge.

We have one advisory member on the Board of the Manitoba Research Council and there is input, therefore, with respect to the approval or otherwise of projects for

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) research to the Research Council. And as I understand the one on lands, I think that was approved with consultation as between the two departments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could bring us up to date in one particular program that has been carried on in the university, and I believe that the University of Manitoba is the only one, or at least is the leading university that is carrying on this type of research, and that is in plastic coating of seed where you can coat your seed with plastic and seed your wheat or your rape, or whatever, in fall, and especially in those areas that are hit by flooding this would be very beneficial. I wonder if the Minister is familiar with this particular program and if he could give us a rundown of what is happening in this department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, perhaps there are others who have questions that they want to raise. In the meantime we'll try to dig out the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Since the Minister is extending an invitation, in the light of the so-called energy crisis, I have been extremely interested in the experiments and the research that has been going on at the university with respect to the production of methane gas. I wonder if the Minister could just give us an idea how far this program has developed, what its possibilities are, and to what extent will it be able to be used in agriculture as a means of providing energy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to get back to one subject here that the Member for Morris brought up in regard to the researching on sheep breeding. I recall last year it was dealt with the Minister of Industry and Commerce; I posed the question to the Minister on this very same project, and I believe the amount of moneys that were granted then at that time were about \$20,000.00. Now I'd like the Minister to confirm this so that I am sure that I am correct on this matter. And here we're talking about research priorities, where we put our research, that's my point. And I am wondering here, is it \$40,000 that this same enterprise is being granted in a way of grants towards researching this same project?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the last question if my memory serves me correctly I believe it's a two or three year project, the one with respect to research on land, and I would suspect it is the same ongoing program. I think it was a three-year program if I'm not mistaken.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister says it's a three-year program and is it approximately \$40,000 involved over the three year period?

MR. USKIW: Well again, Mr. Chairman, it's not an estimate in my department, and I can only go by my memory here. I think that's accurate; I'm not certain. I would have to find out from the Minister of Industry or from his staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . he asked of the Minister of Industry and Commerce. The Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: The question related to that particular subject, Mr. Chairman, is at my understanding, and this does fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, it's my understanding that the Federal Government carried out a similar type of program over a period of years and because the results were inconclusive, they abandoned it. And now we see that pretty close to \$60,000 has been provided through the Provincial Government here in Manitoba to continue on a program that had been fairly thoroughly researched in the Federal Department of Agriculture. And I wonder if that kind of a program is one that has that great a priority in the light of the paucity of lamb production in the Province of Manitoba. It seems to me that perhaps that entire grant is not much less than the total volume of production of sheep in this province. I don't know to what extent sheep are produced in this province, but it seems to me not to the extent that it warrants that kind of money on research that is already been carried out by another body.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I have to say here that I am not at all familiar with the definite research at the national level and its findings. I have no way of knowing that. But certainly if the point of my honourable friend is valid, then I think it should be checked into and there should not be duplication of research, if the findings are conclusive. You know, one of the problems with respect to research is that conclusions today are openings for new inventions tomorrow, and I think only of the corn trials in Manitoba, oh some many many years ago, decades ago, where it was sort of concluded that you could not grow corn in Manitoba on a commercial basis, and it was simply because of the frost kills, and so on. Now we find that, you know, you can have a touch of frost and you haven't lost your corn crop at all, that it does come back and that you end up with fairly significant tonnages of corn silage, or even grain corn for that matter. And this was revealed to me when I visited the Research Centre at Brandon where it simply was a case where the researchers have put the matter of corn research to rest after one or two failures some many many years ago; and now we are becoming a very significant corn producer in this province as a result of another sort of kick at the cat and perhaps at some changes in varieties and so on, that have been developed. But, you know, research is never concluded actually, truly speaking, and while the Member for Morris may have a valid point, there may be reasons why the research is continued. But I certainly would attempt to find out.

With respect to animal waste management research, I have a section here which I could read for the benefit of members opposite. It's item 9 of this document which is available if they want it.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . Minister to take out time of the House reading material, that if he says he's going to make it available to us, we can well read on our own. I am curious about the program and would be interested in reading about it. If the Minister has that information available I'd be just as happy to have it in that form.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I don't question what the Minister has just said insofar as the possibility of continuing research and the possibility that the research projects that were concluded five years ago cannot be continued with some variations, and my understanding is that that is exactly what is going on at Ransom Enterprises. But the question that I raise is whether or not in view of the limited potential of the lamb industry in this province, whether or not that amount of money, and it appears to be close to \$60,000 now over a two-year period, is worthwhile, if that kind of research could not be done in another area that would be more productive and more useful as far as the farmers of this province are concerned.

One other point that the Minister failed to mention in respect to corn, and I think I should draw to his attention, in the corn research project the Morden Experimental Farm had a great deal to do with the development of different varieties of corn; and he may already know, but I wanted to remind him that Seagrams contributed a great deal of money towards that kind of research as well. So here you had the kind of co-operation between private industry and the government that was beneficial not only to the people of this province, including the producers, but to the government as well. I wonder if the Minister in connection with the question that was posed earlier about co-operation between the Federal Government and the governments of other provinces could indicate to what extent there is now co-operation between the government and private industry, knowing the Minister's attitude and the government's attitude towards industry. It seems to me that we'd be the losers if that kind of co-operation and that kind of help by private industry was spurned. I hope that that is not the case because they have a great deal that they can contribute to research in this province and I hope that given the opportunity they continue to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what my friendly Member for Morris is suggesting when he says: knowing the attitude of the government with respect to the private sector and research activities. I didn't know there was any particular attitude displayed by anyone. I would be the last one to want to sort of reduce the role of the

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) private sector in research projects, because to the extent that you do that there is a demand for more public moneys and I would be pleased to receive many many more dollars from the private sector in the area of research in order to reduce the cost to the government at large. I'm not at all one that would want to deter that whatever, and I suppose the Member for Morris is drawing conclusions about research attitudes here which are not warranted.

My discussions with the Dean of the Faculty led me to believe that the input that the public provides, financial input that is, to the University Research Program usually amounts to about 25 percent of their research dollars, and so the bulk of their dollars are indeed from the private sector. And he tends to argue that public input is basically seed money which generates other people into the program and into participation. So I wouldn't want to kill that kind of incentive, Mr. Chairman. Certainly I can agree with the Member for Morris if he suggests that there's some reason why the government would want to down-play the importance of the private contributions to research in this province.

I haven't been able to locate the specific reference to research on the plastic coating of seed for the benefit of the Member for Rhineland. I know there has been research done in that connection but we can attempt to get him the information if he so wishes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would appreciate very much if we could get more information on that particular program. The way I understand it, not only will we be enabled to seed our wheat or our rape or sugar beets or whatever in fall but there also is going to be a substantial increase that could be realized on it, as much as 15 percent in wheat, 20 percent in rape, and to me this is one of the more exciting programs that's going on in the university and I would very much appreciate if we could hear more about this from the Minister.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I think that what perhaps would be a good idea is if we would undertake, or at least I could undertake to ask the department and the university to annually file their research activities and the results of their research so that members opposite could get a handy copy, and that would get us away from having to do that kind of research during the Estimates itself. It's not a very convenient way of trying to deal with it as we are doing it now, especially if you want to get into any depth on any particular research project. But if that would satisfy members opposite I think it would be useful to prepare a document on it for distribution to the members of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I could advise the Minister that this is something that has been experimented with several years ago, where seed grain was plastic coated and it was tried and it did not work successfully. But I would suggest and I would ask the Minister that probably he could talk to his people in the Extension Service, particularly in the field of where the Canadian Seed Growers Association would be involved - I don't know, there may be some further developments from those experiments that have already been conducted which I want to inform the Minister were not fruitful and where they found some problems with it. So whether some improvements have been made in the last few years I don't know, but I think it would be well worth finding out just how successful they are if anything at all.

One other question - I'd like to go back, Mr. Chairman. The Minister listed a whole lot of things that his department are involved in in a research. I'm aware of many of those things. But he mentioned one particular area - and I was interested, I thought I heard him correctly - and that is the protein in cereal grains. I think that's an interesting subject as well, and I'm wondering how far did he research when he talks about protein in cereal crops, such as wheat, barley, oats, rye, rapeseed, all grains that are grown. Did he research to the point where he was just making comparison of the protein content of those various cereals? Also I'm wondering, because there's been much talk about grading our wheat, for instance, at the elevator when the farmer delivers it, as to what is the protein content of that grain that that particular farmer has. There's some talk about that. I'm wondering, has he gone that far in his research

(MR. EINARSON cont'd) insofar as protein in the cereal grains are concerned? I wonder if he could elaborate on that, because this is the area which I think is important, that we know just to what extent have they researched on these very subjects they've listed, and this is one I am concerned about.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, my deputy advises me that there is a report on the research program of the university, and I think the best way to handle that would be to simply try and make it available to - if they're available in those numbers - to all the members of the House and they could read up on all of the research activities.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is saying that there are separate reports on all these subjects that he has listed then, is that what I understand?

MR. USKIW: Yes, I think, Mr. Chairman, the specific or separate reports we would have to ask for copies of from the university people, but there is a complete report on their research program and everything that they have carried on in the last year would be contained there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 8(e)(2) -- passed; Resolution (f) Canada-Manitoba ARDA Agreement \$5,500 -- passed; Resolution . . . The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: It says "Recoverable from Canada \$2,700", but it shows the same amount on either side. Would he explain that? Where does that \$2,700 come in then?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, wherever you have cost-sharing arrangements, 50/50, 75/25, 60/40, you will see that shown. We've never done it before, we're doing it now for the first time. So that represents a recovery of \$2,700 out of an expenditure of \$5,500, that's administration. I'm sorry, that's for publications.

MR. EINARSON: Well, is the Minister saying then it still costs the Provincial Government \$5,500 plus the \$2,700 they received from the Federal Government?

MR. USKIW: We recovered the 2,700 against the 5,500.

MR. EINARSON: Then, Mr. Chairman, where would that show up? I mean to say it has to be put somewhere, it has to balance out.

MR. USKIW: Again, Mr. Chairman, these are estimates of expenditures, the estimates of revenues are not shown in the estimates of expenditures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (g)(1) \$26,100 -- passed; (2) Other expenditures \$43,300 -- passed.

I refer honourable members to Resolution 9, Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation - Administration, \$1,381,300 --. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: I wonder if the Minister could indicate what is the state of affairs with the Crop Insurance Program this year, how much money was collected on premiums and how much would have to be paid out for the damages in the past year?

MR. USKIW: In 1975-76, Mr. Chairman, we had 14,212 crop insurance contracts, which represents 69.8 percent of eligible farmers insured in the all risk program. We've had 8,237 hail spot loss contracts, 4,400 Part 2 hail insurance contracts, for a total coverage in acreage of the all risk contract, 3.6 million acres. Acres covered under the hail spot loss option is 2.1 million acres, acres covered under hail insurance under Part 2, 1.2 million acres.

The premiums paid by farmers was \$4,039,061 for a coverage of - that's under all risk - coverage of \$126,618,244. We paid out \$7.1 million under all risk. Under the hail spot loss option, within the all risk contract, we had 2.121 million acres insured; the premiums were \$747,328, for a coverage of \$78,312,427, and we paid out \$2 million. So that the totality is: insured acreage 3,641,443, premium paid by the insured \$4,786,389, for a total coverage of 126,618,244 and for a total indemnity payout of 9.1 million.

Now under Part 2 of the hail insurance contract, premiums were \$902,700, indemnities were \$1,240,000, so we have a net loss position. Yes, we have a deficit of \$76,114 in Part 2 of the crop insurance contract.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, under the Part 2 of the Crop Insurance Act and cost for a pilot project for hay in the test area, could the Minister indicate just what part of the province this test area was conducted or where it applied?

MR. USKIW: I can't. We don't have that information handy, Mr. Chairman, but we can get it for the Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, could we call it 4:30, because we'd like to hold the next item if it's possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 4:30, 4:30 being Private Members' Hour, I'm interrupting the proceedings of the Committee for Private Members' Hour and shall return to the Chair at 8 p.m. this evening.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR - RESOLUTION 3

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Hour. First item is Resolution 3. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Fort Rouge,

WHEREAS this House recognizes that people living in northern or remote areas face a higher cost of living than those citizens living in the Urban and Southern areas, and that such cost of living increase is not presently taken into account in the tax and wage structure laws in Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government give consideration to amending the minimum wage regulations in Manitoba to provide that in Northern and remote areas the minimum wage shall always and automatically be not less than 15 percent higher than the minimum wage in general use throughout the province.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I believe a similar resolution was presented by myself last year and after some debate I think the government members spoke against the resolution. But in any case it never came to a vote. I propose a similar resolution again this year because I feel that the problem has intensified in the past 12 months. For example the cost of living by a combination of factors, mainly higher cost of oil products and general inflation, has struck all of the country, but in particular it has been more hard on the northern residents than it has on the residents of central or southern Canada or Manitoba.

For example, in the past year the food index cost increase in Churchill has been 27 percent increase, Flin Flon a 16 percent increase, Lynn Lake a 25 percent increase, The Pas 14 percent higher increase. These increases are that percentage figure higher than the cost of living in Winnipeg so that there is a real difference in living costs vis-a-vis a northern resident and a southern resident.

It's unfortunate that our income tax laws do not recognize that Canada as a nation has much development still to do, to carry out in the north. Although it is proceeding apace there is still many many years of development to take place in northern Canada. I believe in the future that the Federal Government is going to have to recognize the fact that it costs more for a person to live and to bring up a family in the north than it does in the south and this fact should be recognized through our income tax laws as well.

However, I'm speaking now about the minimum wage which the provinces have control over and Manitoba can act in this area because it is a responsibility of theirs. The province already pays some form of lip service to the fact that there is an increased cost of living in the north because they pay remote area allowances or northern allowances to provincial civil servants the same as the Federal Civil Service does, the RCMP do and the Armed Forces do.

I'm sure that - although I have not examined this - our welfare costs that are paid for northern residents, that there is a difference also. I give the example of the cost of heating fuel, that when welfare pay a cost for a family that they will take into account and pay the higher cost of the heating fuel which is a fact of life in northern Manitoba versus the same heating fuel costs in the south.

Again I say when I talk about the north the Government can establish what the north is but it's generally been recognized that the 53rd parallel is where northern Manitoba begins and south of 53 is considered the central or southern part of the province. I look forward to some of the comments from some of the northern members. The Member for Thompson for example represents an urbanized constituency mainly and he also has large numbers of union members in his constituency and also I believe he is a union member himself. So I would ask him to take a look at this because as has been said by the House Leader when he just spoke to me a moment ago, he said, "Very few union members work for the minimum wage." I doubt if any of them do, I doubt if any of them do in the north.

So that I would seek his assistance and also the Member for Flin Flon's assistance in looking outside their union affiliation to look at the problems of the people near the

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd)reserves or in the remote communities and the people who have not the good fortune to belong to a union whose members are employed by very large profit-making organizations such as the mining companies of the north. I look forward to members from the north, Members for Flin Flon and Members for Thompson, for Churchill to see if they could not find the method and the means to speak to their colleagues in Government to help the people who are outside of the scope of the power of unions. I'm talking now about sometimes a second wage earner in the family, a housewife, or someone who works for a small industry or works for another individual. These are the people that need that sort of help and I'm sure that the union people who live in the north have said many times that they would like to help others who may not belong to their unions. I now ask some of the members for the north to indicate whether or not they can find it in their heart to support this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the Member from Assiniboia and the Member from Portage la Prairie take turns tossing this around; raise the minimum wage in the north. As a northerner I should support this concept and I admire both people for trying to help us northerners out. But you're a little late. You're a little late with your help.

Raising the minimum is like feeding the starving elephant a peanut in the north, you know in comparison. I'll tell you why. You know we have minimum wage concept and we have people on the minimum wage who - housewives without families who for diversion they work for the minimum wage. Or a part time, a man that works in the mine who'll work two or three hours as a waiter or whatever, or carpentry work and he will accept a minimum rate as a part time.

You know I don't know of any place in Flin Flon that pays the minimum wage except the Royal Hotel. Now the Royal Hotel is run by one man named Steve Novak, he just hates to pay money. Now, what happens to him? You take the daily paper, "Waitress Wanted," "Waiter Wanted," "Night Clerk Wanted." He's lost more customers because he won't pay over the minimum wage - you know he saves a penny and loses a pound I think they say. He's the only one that I know that follows that philosophy.

You know there's no lack of employment in Flin Flon or Thompson if you want to work. And when you talk about the minimum wage our company HBM&S with all its faults pay good wages. They need miners; they need plumbers; they need bricklayers, carpenters' helpers. They're crying for people to work. They go from the west coast to the east coast, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, bringing people in to work at a high rate. Now where is the minimum wage figured in this concept?

We have students that graduated from school at Frontier Collegiate who took a job with the Churchill Forest Industry people. They go through a period of training and they're making between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a month, on the four-man crew putting up from 10 to 15 cord per day and some of them are doing it in six hours. Now if they were ambitious they can buy, through the government, a tree farm and machinery to help them and boost their total more. They don't all do this but anyone that wants to work can make \$2,000 a month without too much trouble with mechanized chain saws and so on.

I made a point of asking, what do you pay your low paid people? Well the cookee that helps the cook makes \$12,000 a year and that's in the bush. I'd say that 98 percent of businesses in Flin Flon pay more than the minimum wage. I know a babysitter makes more than the minimum wage. If you want a babysitter in Flin Flon today you can't get away with the minimum wage. It's part of our life up there.

What the north needs my honourable friends, and what we're doing - I could go on for hours on this subject if I would have leave - I said in 1969 what the north needs is roads and power. The roads are going in slowly but surely, they're getting in there. The power is there now. We had 200 cabin owners with no power till we came in with Manitoba Hydro. Every one of them are putting power in their cabins now. Second industry was out. The power was so feeble, it was taken from Island Falls, that when they were hoisting, when they were hoisting full blast from the day shift you couldn't fry an egg; your wife couldn't curl her hair, you know. Now the power's unlimited and the people I don't think appreciate that because the rates went up. So everyone wanted

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(MR. BARROW cont'd)power till we got it and then when we got it they raised it up \$2.00 a month, "That Barrow see what he did to our rates," you said. So this is the way people think on that kind of thing. Our TV service, we have it now, we've got two channels and there's a third one coming in, a French channel, which I'm not fussy about by the way.

Another thing is communication, telephones. My area right now is fully equipped with phones, dial phones. Before they had 20-30 on one line and you can imagine trying to call someone up with 30 people trying to listen to you. But now it's dialing and we're getting direct dialing. We have it in The Pas now, next step is Flin Flon but last but not least of course is Churchill.

But we do need a better deal for northern fishermen, Mr. Speaker. Now there's something you should help me with. It's ironic, your lakes here, big bodies of water close to the market and very very small fish and very scarce. We're way up north; we've got plenty of fish, big heavy fish, jumbo white, big jacks and big pickerel and the transportation costs wouldn't allow us to put it on the market. Now what is the answer? Maybe subsidize canneries, whatever. There's one way you could go.

Another thing, you know, that you should help us with too is the doctor situation in the north, the dentist situation. You know, . . .

MR. ENNS: Are they on the minimum wage?

MR. BARROW: Pardon?

MR. ENNS: Are they on the minimum wage?

MR. BARROW: Well one thing that does keep them there is the wages are good. But to get a good doctor in there and to keep him is next to impossible. It's understandable that if they're going ahead in the profession they're not going to be stuck in the northern areas, they're going to go ahead.

Another thing you could help me with is a different type of education, the Minister of Education is not here. We are not educating our Metis kids the way we should, not all. There's the odd one, a small percent, want our education, but 90 percent don't. They're not interested in our way of education. Let's have an education system geared to their needs. If he can read and write - What's the other R? Oh yes, arithmetic. I think you can make it in our society. I would much rather have a happy bricklayer in my family than a very unhappy cow farmer.

Well, Mr. Speaker, these are just a few thoughts I had and I commend both my honourable friends for trying to help us out. In principle I can support it but it isn't the answer. A minimum wage raise in the north, like I said, is very infinitesimal. That means small. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, to a very large extent it's a case of gilding the lily to try to speak on a subject of this kind after the eloquent firsthand experience and commentary of a northern member like the Member for Flin Flon. But I wouldn't want the resolution to pass without at least having the opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie for persistence, Sir, because one thing is certain, that legislators come and go and representations in this House come and go and mathematics change but this resolution from the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie seems to go on forever. It makes for an interesting initial exchange of opinions, albeit somewhat repetitive, at this stage of the session every year it seems to me, Sir. I do just want to put on the record the basic criticisms and faults that I find with the resolution once again while commending him for bringing it forward, commending him for his persistence and acknowledging that I can't do it with the eloquence of the Member for Flin Flon who spoke firsthand.

But if a city slicker may be permitted, Mr. Speaker, may I just say that it seems to me that little has changed in terms of the basics of the argument from where we all stood on this thing last year. Certainly my opinion hasn't changed on the basic value of boosting the minimum wage in situations such as this, and indeed, in many many situations. I think that all too often increases in the minimum wage are self-defeating. All too often they touch off a cycle of increases from operators and operatives in various sectors of the economy who are anxious to get their pound of flesh out of such increases

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)as are effected and in the end the recipient of the increase in the minimum wage is no further ahead than he or she was when the measure was introduced. All that has happened is that some entrepreneurs, some business people, some operators have been forced to lay off staff, forced to reduce or cut back in hiring practices and perhaps in some drastic cases even forced to curtail or close their businesses. So I must confess that I start from a position of scepticism when it comes to increases in the minimum wage. I don't believe that it's the panacea that perhaps some other members, perhaps the Member for Portage la Prairie, believes it is in solving economic problems of this kind.

The minimum wage in Manitoba as of October 1st has been \$2.60 an hour and it's certainly competitive with jurisdictions across the country. Now I know that the resolution of the honourable member is not referring to Manitoba generally but is specifically concerned with the north. I think that others in this Chamber have stood in debates of this kind in the past and suggested that this is not, from our admittedly meagre knowledge of the situation, we've suggested that this is not the answer to the problems in the north. Now we have had a very effective and substantial endorsement of that view, very effective evidence, that that view is correct from a northern member himself. I think that the Member for Portage la Prairie, while properly motivated in terms of sentiment where this proposal, this resolution is concerned, is seeking something that would be ineffective and ineffectual and unworkable. I think it's also impractical when one considers the fact that to get people to go into the north and work, any one of us who was in the capacity of an employer is going to obviously have to offer something substantially more than the minimum wage. As the Member for Flin Flon has pointed out most people north of 53 are working for much better wages than the minimum wage in any event. But, notwithstanding that, say you or I, Sir, or anyone in this Chamber were to engage in the launching of an enterprise in the north, it's absolutely inconceivable that we could attract persons, attract workers to go in and work with us or alongside us or for us - whatever the term - for anything less than a pretty attractive wage incentive. So I don't think we're dealing with the subject where the minimum wage is an urgent or even an important part of the picture at all.

Mr. Speaker, I think that some enterprises, some employers would be discouraged and would be inhibited if the resolution that the Member for Portage has brought forward were adopted by this House and in this province. I suggest to you that it would have the effect, despite the motives and the best intentions of the proposer, it would have the effect of injuring and curtailing the development of entrepreneurial activities in the north.

There are many things that can be done I'm sure to enhance the living style and standards of the people north of 53 and we have four or five highly qualified members of this House from that great part of our province who can tell us, if we'll listen to them, what we might do to take advantage of that vast and rich part of this province. I don't think we should be telling them or proposing to them what the solutions are for the problems related to development, social, economic and otherwise in the north. I think that we should be asking them and we should be acting insofar as it's economically and socially possible on their advice. I'm pleased that the Member for Flin Flon said what he did but I would have made these comments anyway, Sir. As a matter of fact I think if you care to look back in Hansard I've probably made them before in the same debate, probably the same speech, because I do believe that we can learn by asking the people of the north and the members of the north what would best suit the requirements and the pace of the kinds of developments they're trying to introduce up there. Not going about seeking elusory measures and elusory goals of this kind which would only cost the taxpayer more, inhibit business development in that part of the province as it now exists and fail to come to grips with the basic problems that the northerner knows about and can best advise us on.

So for that reason, Sir, while admiring the persistence and the principle and the sentiment of the Member for Portage, I say the resolution this year as last year is misguided and has not a chance in the world of being practical or being workable or being effective in solving the north's problems. I suggest that the best resolution we could put

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) forward, --(Interjection)--Other than that it's a perfectly good resolution. I suggest the best resolution that we could put forward is "that the members of this House ask their colleagues from the northern constituencies what we all should be doing to bring the great northern part of the province into proper perspective and develop the benefits that would accrue to the south from that kind of development, and seeking the answers from them. But as I say, Sir, aside from that it's an excellent resolution. I intend however to vote against it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This seems to be a perennial resolution from members of the Liberal Party and this is the first opportunity that I've ever taken in the two or three years that it's been presented, to take part in the debate. I want to commend the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie for, as the Honourable Member for Fort Garry has said, for his persistence.

However, Mr. Speaker, one of the dangers that we run into when we start partitioning our province and saying that by legislation we will mandatorily make one wage - in this case we're dealing with the minimum wage - higher in one part of the province than it will be in another part of the province.

I personally think the minimum wage in Manitoba across the board is too low. I really want to be speaking on behalf of my constituents in my constituency in an urban, city riding who I think are suffering too under the present minimum wage. I think it should be much higher than it is. It's all very well and good to talk about the Provincial Civil Service, the RCMP and armed services and other groups that are in northern Manitoba recognizing the fact that there is isolation pay, hardship pay and other things like that. But we are not dealing with these people. These people are not in the main, I would say. I would doubt there would be very many people that would be working in the Provincial Civil Service, in the RCMP or in the Armed Services that would be at the minimum wage level in Manitoba of \$2.60 per hour.

Just how many people are we speaking about in northern Manitoba would be covered by the minimum wage? You know it's very interesting, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the figures, especially when you look in the national scale, when the Federal Government sets a minimum wage for employees covered under the federal jurisdiction. You know really when we look at that field there are very few people that are covered by the minimum wage in the federal field as far as the federal minimum wage is concerned and I think ours comes up fairly close to that. It may be a bit less or maybe even at the present time a bit more, I'm not too sure.--(Interjection)--Ours is less? Well then it's unfortunate. I do take issue with the Minister, the setup of how we determine the minimum wage in Manitoba. The Minister has already I think said at some time or another - I believe in the Throne Speech Debate or somewhere - that he is considering other methods of determining the minimum wage than what we have at the present time. But I think that the Honourable Member for Flin Flon who is not here right now but he made some very good points, he said that there are very few people that would work for the minimum wage in northern Manitoba.--(Interjection)--Well, this may be in Flin Flon. I don't know about what other industries there are in some of the remote areas. I'm not an expert on the North and I don't pretend to be but I feel that once you start saying that in Northern Manitoba they're entitled to 15 percent more, I'm sure that the Honourable Member for Emerson, who has people in his area that he would feel - and there are some remote areas in his constituency too - that he would feel that his people in his constituency that their minimum wage should also be increased, perhaps 15 - maybe he feels 20 percent would be more in line. But once we start that then I would say too - and I'm sure that other members in the urban ridings and members in some of the rural ridings would say that they feel that people who are their constituents who are unfortunately in the position to have to work for the minimum wage, and really you know, if I had my way, and I could think out some other method, I would do away with the minimum wage, period. I would do away with the minimum wage period. I think really the only answer to that for the minimum wage, and we have made it a lot easier for people to become organized, to become members of a collective bargaining unit; I'm sorry that more people haven't taken advantage of it, but unfortunately when you set a minimum wage

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd)and some industry where people have been working at the minimum wage or very close to the minimum wage - when they do become the bargaining agent that becomes in many cases the maximum offer of the employer, and the union is fighting to get it up. So the minimum wage being low at a relative scale to what employees receive in other industries where they are organized, this makes it very difficult. Very, very difficult, indeed.

If there were some method and perhaps the Minister of Labour will be able to devise some method whereby the minimum wage and how it will be determined in Manitoba will be more relative say to an average industrial wage in the Province of Manitoba. Something on that line. A certain percentage. The Minister and I will argue over what the percentage will be. But I think this is a far better method. And then the people in the North's average wage will also come into effect because, let's face it, there are wage agreements and hourly rates of pay that are much higher in Northern Manitoba than they are in Southern Manitoba, and these are organized workers, the same as they are in Southern Manitoba. So if we take that industrial index average, we will find that all people in the unfortunate position that I say, Mr. Speaker, again, who are forced to work under the minimum wage laws, because in some cases they don't seem to have the expertise or whatnot to organize themselves, or to become organized. But until that comes about - and I'm sure that the Minister is thinking very seriously about it - I think that we'd be very unwise to start tinkering with minimum wages at the present time, to Balkanize our minimum wage law because the people in the North will say they want 15 percent; the people in Emerson Constituency will say well we want 20 percent; and perhaps people in the Riding Mountain area where some of my honourable friends of the Conservative Party are representing ridings there, will say they want 25 percent. We then come into a deal where we have really destroyed the whole concept of the minimum wage which I don't hold in too high a respect in the first place. But until such time, Mr. Speaker, I think that we are really not going to serve any purpose by saying to the people in Northern Manitoba, you're entitled to 15 percent more than the people in my constituency or in the Constituency of the Honourable for Fort Rouge. I'm sure that he has people working for the minimum wage, the same as I do and until we have had this review I'm afraid that I'm going to have to vote against this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like at this time to say a few things on this resolution because I have taken part before and I probably will sound repetitious again. But I think that perhaps repetition is a good thing and it helps at times. I'm sure that the Member for Fort Garry will remember it was myself in this House that had repeatedly presented resolutions in many areas as far as labour legislation is concerned. Such things as a forty-hour work week, three weeks holiday pay, statutory holidays to be paid for and many others. Industrial safety and so on. It seemed the government never had accepted the idea or brought in legislation, only after one has presented the same thing over and over and over again and eventually the government would break in or would for some reason, you know, but never, never . . . even the Minister, the present Minister of Labour in some areas, in many areas - when he was on this side, he used to say, only let me on that side and I'll bring all this legislation in right away. But when he got on that side it took him as long as four and five years before he did move in many areas. So I think that, Mr. Speaker, we need repetition in this House to you know put pressure on the government, to at least try to convince the Ministers to bring such legislation.

Now I think that the Member for Logan really got off base when he talked, well what about the Member for Portage, and the Member for Fort Rouge and Assiniboia, and all these members would be all asking for a separate minimum wage. Well he knows better than that, and that's a silly statement that he said. That's not true. We were talking strictly about one area, north of the 53rd parallel in Northern Manitoba. And when I hear the northern members in this House say, who does it affect? It doesn't affect anybody. What a silly statement that is. Because, Mr. Speaker, it affects many people. All the people in the service industry are not unionized in northern Manitoba. Who are they? They are the working poor who do work but have extreme difficulty in

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd)maintaining a standard of living and an income that they should have. These are the facts. You know, how many people are unionized in Manitoba? Thirty percent. Okay, 30 percent and I know when you talk about big, big, places, Inco and the mining corporations, that's not the people I'm talking about.

Mr. Chairman, that's not what the Member for Portage - and I compliment the Member because for the simple reason, I know when he spent with some of the other members many days in northern Manitoba, Northern Committee Task Force, and in fact that was one of the recommendations in the Northern Committee Task Force. And since that time he's had a pretty strong opinion on that thing. Well at least that was one area that was debated and discussed, I believe at that time. So you know when you say that there is nobody getting a minimum wage, well that's incorrect.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, I - as the Minister of Labour and some of the members, the Member for Logan - I wouldn't take such great satisfaction as far as the Labour picture is concerned. Because in the last six, seven years the City of Winnipeg it had a per capita income of somewhere in the neighbourhood of 51st or 52nd place in Canada. You know where it is today? It's past 60. So you have been slipping pretty quickly, very quickly, as far as per capita income is concerned in large centres in Canada. I'm not saying again that perhaps maybe you couldn't have helped. Maybe there was nothing that could have been done. Because at one time, in the twenties, we all know that Winnipeg enjoyed the highest per capita income of any city in Canada. That was in the early times. Maybe because it was that time when the West was developed and there were reasons for it. So I'm not using the argument that the government can do something about it. But what I'm saying to you, what I'm saying to the Minister that, you know, Winnipeg has slipped from 50th position to 62nd or 63rd in a per capita income in the last six or seven years that the government has been in power.

I would like to make another point. The Member for Fort Garry says, well, it would destroy some industries, and some businesses, and you know, it would put them out of business. I don't believe it would put anybody out of business up north if you would pay somebody 15¢ an hour more. In fact from every study that has been conducted in Canada industry is never attracted to an area where you have low sweat shop wages. It never is. It's only attracted to an area where you have technical workers and technical help and technical people that would be attracted to that industry moving in. But the low wages never attract any industry. Sure I agree that in a small town in any part of rural Manitoba it may, it may - somebody may lay off a person because he can't afford to pay \$2.85. But I don't think that would be the condition in northern Manitoba where many people have a problem, where they have a problem of maintaining themselves and their families on the minimum wage, and to tell us in this House, it's incorrect for anyone from Northern Manitoba to tell me that there is nobody in Northern Manitoba working on the minimum wage. That's not true.

The second point, that everybody is unionized. They're not. We know that. Let's face it. Thirty percent in Manitoba, and sure it's higher in Northern Manitoba, but there are many, many people who are working on a low wage, on a minimum wage, and that's the ones that we're talking about. That's the ones. I call them the working poor. I think that if they can have some assistance and I feel the same way about people in this city that have families and are trying to work on a minimum wage, if they would have some assistance. Some allowance, some assistance. I think that you would have these people continue to work and you would keep them employed, and it would cost as much, much less. But if they can get much, if they can get more on welfare why should they work a minimum wage? And this is where I agree that the people right here in Winnipeg should have, you know, some assistance.

My point is, Mr. Speaker, that the low wages do not attract industry, and we're not talking for any part of Manitoba; we're not talking different constituencies; we're talking strictly about way up North which I know it does affect many people. I know the Minister himself must know that people just don't go North because the wage is the same even as the city. You had how many teachers unemployed in the City of Winnipeg? Over a hundred and some were looking for jobs, and there was a great shortage at the same time up North and out in the country. The only way that you're going to attract

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd)people to go north is if you do give them a higher wage.

In fact I had an opportunity to talk to a class of about a hundred students and teachers and this is what I asked them? Why don't you go North? They will tell you the cost of living is more; that the amenities are not the same. They'll tell you straight, if you give us more salary, then we'll go. They'll go north.--(Interjection)--Sure.

MR. CHERNIACK: I appreciate the honourable member replying to my inquiry as to whether these trained people, these teachers and the others who he says will not go up north whether they believe they will go up north if the minimum wage is 15 percent higher in the north.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: It is a very extremely silly question from the Member of Seven Oaks. He knows so much better. Because I'm not talking of . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: In all deference to the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks he should not be put in the category of asking stupid questions.

MR. PATRICK: I'm sorry, St. Johns. I'm drawing a parallel: when you have somebody that doesn't want to go and work up north for \$12,000 when he can get it in Winnipeg, you have the same thing happening, somebody working for \$2.60 being stuck here or stuck up there. They'd sooner be stuck here instead of up north. So, you know, I know you're trying to draw a parallel but it's a different thing. I'm saying you can't get teachers and nurses to go out there for the same wage, you have the same difficulty.

The other point I would like to draw to the Minister: there are many people at fixed wages, and minimum wage. You have secretaries; you have carpenters; you have clerks; you have cleaning people; you have janitors; you have many people really and it does affect. So you know nobody can say to me--(Interjection)--You're saying it is only a small percentage. The point I am trying to make, it's not a small percentage because only a small percentage of the people are in any bargaining units. So the other point I would like to point out to the Minister, another problem . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, the other point I wanted to bring to the attention of the Minister of Labour and I know that he will not be too happy but his own report, his own Labour Report, the growth in the labour force this year was 3,000 people. That's pretty hard to believe. At the same time you have 20 people unemployed, 3,000 people growth in the labour force. What happened to the 25,000 students that left the colleges and universities and high schools? Where are they? Surely not that many people left the labour force in Manitoba. They must have found employment somewhere else so they probably went to some other province. So the Minister cannot just take satisfaction to say, look, we've got three percent unemployment--(Interjection)--Well I give you credit, I give the Minister credit for that. I'm not saying that the system would work; I'm not saying that it's a total solution for northern Manitoba but I'm sure that the Minister and the government has already accepted that you have living allowance; you have bonuses for your civil servants in the Federal Government, in the Provincial Government, in many other areas. What you are saying as far as the person that's trying to struggle, the working poor who is keeping his family, he has got a very difficult time to maintain himself and his family, you're saying he needs nothing and the members from the north - I just heard the Member from Flin Flon say there is nobody working at minimum wage anywhere in the north. I'll bet him any money that there is in Flin Flon. Most people in service industries are working on minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, if the members would argue with me that it isn't a solution and it can't be implemented because it's impractical I would sooner listen to that and accept it. But to tell me or to tell this House that there are no women working in northern Manitoba or nobody working on minimum wages, that is not correct. It's just not true, Mr. Speaker. --(Interjection)--Nobody said that? I hope that you'll have an opportunity to read Hansard. We heard a speech - except one hotel the Royal Hotel, everybody else was getting above minimum wage. Even babysitters we were told are making so much money.

So the people that we are concerned about and the people that we are talking about are strictly not the ones that in the bargaining units, are the ones that are not organized and who are working on minimum wage and there are many. Because I did have an

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd)opportunity to meet with them, and this is the proposal I discussed and I said, is it practical? They thought it was a great idea. These are people that were involved in labour matters in northern Manitoba and they think it had validity as far as to practicality and how it would work. I don't know, but that's what they felt. So I had some communication with the people from northern Manitoba who are involved in these matters and they told me that there are people, many people who are working on minimum wage, so I think the argument here should be that there are people on minimum wage, are working on salaries that are having a difficult time maintaining themselves and maintaining his family and that's our whole argument. We have accepted a principle already, that we give bonuses to people that are making pretty high incomes. We're giving them living allowances that are making pretty high incomes so the people we are talking about, you cannot say that everybody in there is working on much higher wages than the minimum wage because only a small percentage or 35 to 40 percent of the people are in any unionized shops or with any bargaining power. That's all.

So I think that if the resolution has validity and I know that the member for Flin Flon also said that all we need is roads and hydro. Well we have hydro and roads in southern Manitoba and Winnipeg and we still have a lot of people working at minimum wage right here. So to say just if you put roads and streets and hydro that you'll eliminate people working at the low level of the minimum wage is not correct. It just doesn't happen. It just doesn't happen.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, before I speak, may I address a question to the honourable member? I'd like to ask him if and when it can be shown and will be shown that there are differences of cost of living in various towns within Manitoba like Portage la Prairie as compared with Winnipeg or Emerson or Roblin would he now be prepared to recommend variations of the minimum wage as between these municipal or economic jurisdictions in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Member for St. Johns will agree that there's going to be always differences between regions. There are differences right now in living costs and in wages and so on. But when you take northern Manitoba, the area that we're talking about or I'm talking about, in the remote areas when we had tabled in this House last session the differential costs, living costs, as much as 100 percent in some places, 125 percent in very remote areas and other areas as high as 40 to 35 percent higher even in not remote areas. So this is very extreme what we have between the rest of the province and remote areas in northern Manitoba. So I will agree with the member that--(Interjection)--As far as regions, that's true. But I'm sure that there must be some other countries that are recognizing this factor and they're doing something about it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I rose to speak mainly because my friend the former speaker reiterated that the question I asked was a stupid question.--(Interjection)--Silly. All right, a silly question. So I started to reflect just how silly it is. And when he started giving us his pitch about the people in the service industry I began to wonder the extent to which people will move from Winnipeg to - did he say Flin Flon I think, or to any of the northern cities in order to get a 15 percent higher minimum wage. I think, Mr. Speaker, that I won't categorize his speech I'll just suggest that people do not move on the basis of minimum wage. People move because of job opportunities. I can suggest to the honourable member that there are people in Winnipeg who will not move to Portage la Prairie where there may be greater job opportunity and where the cost of living may be less and that the fact that the minimum wage may be a little bit lower which maybe it ought to be if the cost of living is less, that will not create movement for people out of work here to go to work in Portage la Prairie because there will be jobs opening up on that basis.

In other words the whole concept of the honourable member reminds me of how the great Liberal Party is great on economic incentives, especially in the income tax field. Why they're always greater, if there's something different about economic endeavour in any geographic area, zip in some kind of tax incentives. As between municipalities. If there's

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) a difference give them the right to create incentives. It is that kind of thing which I believe is really harmful to a proper development. For the honourable member and his colleagues to suggest that the minimum wage - of course they say it's not the only answer, or it's not the whole answer. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is out of perspective and out of proportion in relation to the problems up there. My seat mate here tells me that, is it Shamattawa?

A MEMBER: Shamattawa.

MR. CHERNIACK: Shamattawa has the highest cost for gasoline, the highest cost for bread, the same minimum wage but they have no jobs. So you could raise the minimum wage, there are still no jobs. It still will not make them better able to pay for the gasoline, to pay for the bread. And to come out and say well - and I suppose if the honourable members of the Liberal Party want to go up north and say to them, see how we've tried to do something for you. Mr. Speaker, it's meaningless to suggest and to use that analogy that teachers won't go up for \$12,000, so let's raise the minimum wage when we know very well that most people in the minimum wage area, not alone in the north and much less in the north than elsewhere, are people who are the secondary income producer for a family.

They don't move from one geographic location to another because of the minimum wage or the wages paid in that second income group. They move where the spouse is able to earn the largest money and that's why I would guess that if you go north or if you go south of Winnipeg, you will find that the reason people are located where they are is where the "family" earns the best income, not where the minimum wage earners earn their part of it and the service industries. We know very well that usually that it's the wife of a unionized employee in the north, it is the wife of a person who is earning a salary well above the minimum wage who then is able to go temporarily into the labour market.

So I suppose I rose at the thought that I didn't think that my question was silly, that made me suggest to the honourable member that the question was a valid question. Don't use as an argument that because you have proof that people will not move to the north, such as teachers, such as I suppose you would say carpenters, plumbers and the rest, all organized trades, because they don't move is proof that the minimum wage is too low in the north. It just doesn't wash, Mr. Speaker, and therefore I think that the question should be posed again.

The Honourable Member from Fort Garry I think presented what is the same argument of saying: if we have things to say about improving the position of the north let's talk about that. But let's not pretend that the minimum wage is indeed that big difference between the development of the north and otherwise. So I'm quite sure that the House recognizes that people living in northern or remote areas face a higher cost of living. I think that part is true and the statement that says that such cost of living increase is not presently taken into account in the tax and wage structure laws in Manitoba. Now they're talking about not the economics of wages paid, not of the fact that the marketplace, of which Liberal members are the great exponents, in itself determines the wages that are paid or demanded in the north but rather that there be some tinkering in the minimum wage structure or I suppose the word tax structure will suggest that pretty soon there'll be a resolution saying that there should be a differential in income tax payable by people in the north as compared to the south. I hear one of the northern members saying, hear, hear and I'm suggesting that he may be thinking of his own income tax because he's in a higher bracket where it makes a difference.

But frankly I'm not too worried about the higher income people in the income tax bracket. I think that they live in the north for many reasons and most northerners I meet are so happy about life in the north, the quality of life in the north, the clean air they breathe, the fact that they mix with people who are of a purer mind and a greater body and spirit than those of us--(Interjection)--You can see that I'm influenced by the company I keep in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. Well even the mosquitoes there may be larger and healthier and stronger but so are the people who cope with them.

But, Mr. Speaker, the introduction, the preamble to this resolution just does

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd)not invite what follows it by saying: therefore be it resolved. You know if they had the statement that the House recognizes that there's a higher cost of living in the north, okay that's fine. But therefore, therefore, and then we come to the great tremendous anti climax because what is the resolve portion that follows the preamble? That the government give consideration to amending the minimum wage to be not less than 15 percent. So now we know that all the people in the north who are working, who are living, who are faced with a high cost of living - and we recognize that - so what do we do about it? The Liberal Party will go to the minimum wage level and will increase that minimum wage by at least 15 percent.--(Interjection)-- Is that what it involves? Again my seatmate who is of great assistance to me in this debate, he points out that the difference will be a cheese sandwich at a dance--(Interjection)-- at a banquet. That's what it amounts to.

But, Mr. Speaker, I now want to only remind the House that the Northern Task Force, of which I was not a member and whose report I don't recall reading in great detail. I don't think they said that the way to solve the problems of a difference in cost of living in the north is by raising the minimum wage by at least 15 percent or 20 percent or 25 percent. I think they suggested a number of important methods by which it could be dealt with.

I believe that this government with I believe probably a great deal of support on all sides of the House has through the years made substantial steps forward in recognizing the needs of the northern people and in making their quality of life a lot better than it was before. That I think is a much more positive thing than coming with a wishy washy resolution and then making a to-do about the fact that people are not going north to occupy jobs as teachers and otherwise because the minimum wage is low.

Now the fact is that jobs there and for teachers - I say that fact and I can't prove it at the moment. I'm sure it's a provable fact - that the salaries offered in the north are substantially better in the main for equal training as exists in the south. Yet you will find people who don't go north not because of the money but because they are urban dwellers, because they like the weather better down here, because they like the cultural aspects of life, because they like city living or whatever. And all those reasons and there are many, and they are all valid from the standpoint of the person involved, do not relate to an increase in the cost of the minimum wage. It seems to me that if we were asked to vote in favour of the resolution as it now reads it would make us all rather hypocritical if we walked out and said, well, we accomplished something today. We recognize the difference of cost of living, therefore we recommended that the minimum wage be increased. That in effect is what we're being asked to do. And that in effect - I call it hypocritical, I think it's justified because that ain't no answer, gentlemen of the Liberal Party. It is certainly not what it pretends to be, a solution to what is a real problem.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall recognize the honourable member the next time around. The supper hour having been arrived at I shall now leave the Chair and the House will resume in Committee of Supply at 8:00 p.m.